

Sinai Temple

BULLETIN



*Sinai Temple's 75th Anniversary
Scholar-in-Residence Weekend
Friday, April 28 to Sunday, April 30*

Dr. Mark Washofsky

*Asking Questions for the 21st Century:
What Can We Say about Stem Cell Research, the Right to Die, or
the Changing Nature of our Jewish Families?*

Questions about ethics, science, and the essence of what it means to be a Jew bombard us every day.

During our anniversary scholar weekend, Dr. Mark Washofsky will invite us into the world of Jewish decision-making. He will do this from his perspective as Professor of Rabbini- at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, where he was ordained and earned a Ph.D. Dr. Washofsky specializes in the literature of the Talmud with a focus on applying Jewish law to the contemporary world.



◇ Friday, April 28

◇ 8:00 p.m.

◇ Service & Oneg

◇ ***The Enduring Connection: How the Talmud's ancient words lead us to decisions in the modern world***

◇ Saturday, April 29

◇ 9:00-10:30 a.m.

◇ Shabbat Morning Study Session

◇ ***Do We Ever Have a Right to Die? End of Life, Assisted Suicide, and Jewish Law***

◇ Saturday, April 29

◇ 4:00-5:30 p.m.

◇ Shabbat Afternoon**

◇ (At the home of Brad and Jodie Foster, 21 Memory Lane, Longmeadow)

◇ ***Jewish Perspectives on Stem Cell Research and Cloning***

◇ Sunday, April 30

◇ 9:00 a.m.

◇ Brotherhood Breakfast and Learning

◇ ***The Emerging Jewish Family: How does intermarriage affect our lives as Reform Jews?***

** Please RSVP to the Temple (736-3619 or c/o ngladstone@sinai-temple.org) for the afternoon program so that we can be prepared for the right number of people.

A heartfelt thank you to Daryl and Lynn Schwartz for underwriting this program.
For more information, please call Joel Bertuzzi (567-3524) or Reva Kleppel (567-8116).

PASSOVER BEGINS WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 12.
PASSOVER ENDS AT SUNDOWN WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19.

COME PRAY...COME FILL
THE SANCTUARY PASSOVER MORNING

Thursday, April 13 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

Wednesday, April 19 at 10:30 a.m.

We dedicate new plaques on our yarzeit board and bid farewell to Passover.
A luncheon follows the service.

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.**

SHOULD MY CHILD MISS SCHOOL ON THE FIRST MORNING OF PASSOVER?

*Dear Parents: I know attending the Passover Morning Service on **Thursday, April 13** means having your child miss school, but having your child miss school for the sake of this positive Jewish experience can make a difference in his/her life. I offer you the following letter for expressing your commitments to your child's teacher. Rabbi Shapiro.*

Dear Teacher:

Please excuse my child from school for tomorrow morning, Thursday, April 13. He/She will be attending services at Sinai Temple.

As you know, tomorrow marks the first full day of Passover, and it is customary for the Jewish community to assemble together. Passover's morning service is not unlike the Rosh Hashanah morning service for which my child was also absent. I hope there will be no extra work assigned on April 13. Since my child enjoys our Temple services so much, I know he/she anticipates a wonderful learning experience on Passover morning.

Yours truly,

A concerned parent

For Your Consideration

Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro

Fair Trade Coffee (and Chocolate too!)

Who would have thought that drinking a cup of coffee involved making an ethical decision? Who would have imagined that coffee had anything to do with justice?

Suddenly, in the last several months, it seems as if Dunkin' Donuts, Starbucks, and other purveyors of coffee have woken up to "smell the coffee."

DD and StarB are both advertising that they sell "fair trade coffee," and they want us to know all about it.

It means so much to them and it should mean something to us because "fair trade coffee" is a special kind of coffee that is more "just" than regular coffee.

Here's the story: Most of the coffee we drink is grown on small farms in Latin America by farmers who sell their coffee to middlemen who in turn pass the coffee on through a long chain of hands until it reaches our kitchens. During the process, the price is inflated substantially even though the farmer himself may see little or no profit.

"Fair trade" coffee is different. It is a term that describes coffee grown on small farmer cooperatives which sell their coffee to a single organization in the USA that then processes the coffee for sale here. Middlemen are removed. The "fair trade" organization guarantees a fair price to the farmer and often helps nurture the coffee cooperative so that the farming community can be stronger and healthier.

"Fair trade" coffee is therefore honest, fair, "ethical" coffee.

And how does this matter to you and me as the month of April arrives? First, there is no time like the present to do the right thing. If you're interested in learning more about "fair trade" coffee, check out the following website - www.equalexchange.com. Secondly, read an article (go to our Sinai website) about the way in which some companies (including Dunkin' Donuts & Starbucks) are not as involved in "fair trade" as they may claim to be.

Finally, Passover is coming. It's a perfect time to clear out your old foodstuff and buy fresh packages. It's a perfect time to go "fair." At your Seder, don't just talk about justice and slavery. Buy "fair trade" coffee. Serve "fair trade" coffee. (AND, guess what? Equal Exchange even sells "fair trade" chocolate. Why not send everyone home from your Seder with a "fair trade" chocolate bar as the perfect complement to matza and maror.)

Saturday Services

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

April 8 - John Narmontas
Son of Steven & Joan Narmontas

April 22 - Simon Sherman
Son of Scott & Rebecca

April 29 - Anthony Barbieri
Son of Laura Barbieri

Passover

PASSOVER BEGINS WEDNESDAY
EVENING, APRIL 12.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19.

First Morning Service

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

Yizkor and Concluding Service

Wednesday, April 19 at 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday April 18 at noon there will be a senior Sinai members lunch.

Scholar-in-Residence

Stem Cell Research, the Right to Die, &
the Changing Nature of our Jewish
Families

Scholar-in-Residence Weekend

Friday, April 28 to Sunday, April 30

With Dr. Mark Washofsky

Saturday Torah Study

Saturday Mornings

Torah Study At 9 a.m.

Every Week

FRIDAY EVENING SERVICES - NOTE THE NEW TIMES - 76-88

FAMILY SERVICE at 7:00 p.m.

April 7

Songs, prayers, and a terrific story.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE at 8:00 p.m.

April 21

Music with a special style.

KABBALAT SHABBAT at 6:00 p.m.

April 14

Veggies and snacks at 5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY NIGHT CLASSIC at 8:00 p.m.

April 28

With Guest Scholar, Dr. Mark Washofsky

**Stem Cell Research, Same Sex Marriage:
Judaism's responds to our very modern world**
Mondays, April 3, April 10, & April 17
7:30 to 9 p.m.
Taught by Rabbi Shapiro at the JCC

As the world changes ever more swiftly, all of us confront unprecedented questions about right, wrong, and proper behavior. This brief course will look into the world of Reform Jewish opinion to see how traditional texts might help us respond to the most difficult questions of today.

The questions to be addressed will be chosen from the work of Rabbi Mark Washofsky, Professor of Rabbinics, Hebrew Union College. Rabbi Washofsky will be Scholar in Residence at Sinai Temple from Friday, April 30 to Sunday, May 1.

Rabbi Shapiro will teach this course at the Jewish Community Center building.

Monthly Morning Service
Wednesday, April 5
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, May 3 and June 7.

**First Thursdays:
Lunch and Learn**
Thursday, April 6
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 4 and June 1.

THE SINAI TEMPLE COOKBOOK

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

**Exploring Jewish Culture:
An Afternoon for TEEN GIRLS and WOMEN**

Sunday, April 30
12:30 – 5:15 pm
Springfield JCC

- With Artist Workshops, Movement,
- Middle Eastern food,
- Klezmer Music,
- Film & more!

OPEN TO ALL WOMEN

Teens (\$5.00), Women (\$18.00),

Annual Hadassah Membership with admission (\$36.00)

Lunch included in admission price.

Sponsors

Greater Springfield Chapter of Hadassah

Harold Grinspoon Foundation - Arts & Culture Initiative

**Jewish Self-Sacrifice:
Would you do it?**
Saturday, May 7
9 a.m. at Torah Study

Visiting teachers from Israel will spice up Torah Study on May 7 with a provocative presentation on self-sacrifice as a Jewish value. What is our obligation as Jews to other Jews of the past, present, and future? Come be part of this discussion with a special Israel focus.

Sinai's Trip to Israel
July 16 - 28, 2006

The daily itinerary with details on registration is available on the Sinai Website (www.sinai-temple.org). You can register with Ayelet Tours, 19 Aviation Rd. Albany, NY 12205 or call (800) 237-1517 * (518) 783-6001 * FAX (518) 783-6003 * E-mail: ayelet@ayelet.com

JUDAICA SHOP CORNER

Passover is coming! Your shop is filled with everything you need for your own table as well as hostess gifts, toys, games, books and more. Please see our inserted flyer and note our expanded hours.

Thais Fischel, 786-9577
Bobbie Cossin, 565-9970

Adult Opportunities

*This summer, spend time repairing the world
Two opportunities from the Union for Reform
Judaism:*

Family Mitzvah Corps URJ Kutz Camp—Warwick, NY August 9-13, 2006

A Family Vacation with an Impact! Throughout the extended weekend enjoy social justice work, a meaningful Shabbat experience, learning, great food and special family time for just being together. Counselors and staff offer separate specialized activities for parents and kids. For information, call 202 387-2800 or e-mail seminar@rac.org.

Tzevet Mitzvot: Adult Mitzvah Corps URJ Jacobs Camp—Utica, MS July 2-8, 2006

Spend the 4th of July week volunteering in one of the poorest areas of the country impacted by recent hurricanes. In addition to working, studying and worshipping together, the program will include fireworks and a day trip to New Orleans. For information, call 212 650-4160 or e-mail csarj@urj.org.

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Alcoholism, Substance Abuse, and Domestic Abuse A Response from the Rabbi

Dear Congregants - Back in January I wrote an article about the reality of our imperfect families. If you've misplaced the article, you can locate it on our Temple website at the link for "Rabbi." Many of my past articles are printed there. www.sinai-temple.org.
Be that as it may, one congregant did respond to my article with a very genuine and anonymous letter. The congregant wrote, "We need more information, more meetings, less shame, more sharing, and more community involvement. Why doesn't our Temple become involved?" If you feel the same way, if you think the Temple ought to be more involved, please let me know.

Got Dough!

The Sinai Temple Religious School will be having their annual Cookie Dough Sale through April 9th.

Pick-up of the cookie dough will be on Thursday, April 27th (after Passover) between 3:00-6:30. We have enclosed an order form for any congregant who wishes to order but might not have the opportunity from a student. Any questions, please call Connie in the Religious School Office at 736-3619 ext. 15.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Is Turning Green Right For You??

On Sunday, May 21, 2006 (the last day of Sunday School), Sinai Temple is initiating a new social action project. A concern for our environment is a Jewish issue. We hope to have speakers inform us about HYBRID CARS and environmentally sound LAWN CARE. Several model cars will be HERE in our parking lot for you to see. If you are interested in getting involved in our efforts to "turn green", please contact the Temple or Ronnie Leavitt, social action chair. Look for more details in the May Bulletin.

Mazal Tov To:

David Miller, son of Rina Miller and Joe Hershon, on becoming an Eagle Scout.



SAVE THE DATE!!!!
as the
Western MA State of Israel Bonds
pays tribute to our own
Marlene & Jim Gordon
at a
Cocktail Buffet
with guest speaker **Professor Stephen Berk**
Thursday, June 8, 2006 at 6:00 pm
at **Chez Josef in Agawam**

Invitation to follow
For information call the Israel Bonds office at 800-916-1918

Washington School Playground Project

As our 75th anniversary year is in full swing, we wanted to update you on a most exciting social action project. Sinai temple is helping to fund and build a playground at our neighborhood Washington School. Those of you with students in religious school know that this is where their tzedakah has been going. This project started with the the idea of funding the purchase of 2 pieces of playground equipment and has grown to take on an energy all its own. The school, so excited about our idea began their own fundraising and have now more than doubled our original donation. Then the parks and recreation department stepped in an offered to fund the installation and upkeep of the project, thus allowing all monies generated so far to be used entirely for the purchase of equipment. What started as 2 small play structures, has grown to become a full playground for a school that literally had nothing but an empty lot.

Now we come to the exciting part of the project. We are planning to have the playground ready for the excited kids sometime in May. Here's where you come in. We need some volunteers to help on our "beautification day", doing things like painting picnic tables, planting/gardening etc. Then we need as many of our sunday school kids to come to the grand opening and share this experience with the students of Washington School. The dates for both of these events are still TBA. For more information or to volunteer please contact Jackie Neiman 567-7978 or Saul Finestone 567-3451

Sinai's BIG SPLASH

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, May 7th**. Rabbi Shapiro is challenging all Sinai members, from 75 weeks old to over 75 years old! Swim against the Dead Sea Divers: *Rabbi Shapiro, Andy Chaet, Harry Kalodner and Shaina Gootzit*. You won't want to miss the fun of this sensational celebration of swimming, tzedakah and silliness. This is an ALL SINAI event sponsored by the 75th anniversary social action committee. The focus is on FUN as well as swimming, with lunch, wacky relay races, and even a Super-Soaker Battle with the Rabbi! Swimmers will get pledges to sponsor their participation, with all monies raised going to fund swim lessons at Springfield pools. ***Every donation of just 75 quarters (\$18.75) will provide (1) child with (2) weeks of swim lessons.***

Sinai Religious School will have all grades early session that day, so that everyone will be able to participate. Hosting the festivities will be our own Channel 40 Sports Director, Scott Coen. All activities will take place at the JCC, where we'll start off at 11:30 with lunch, then teams of 4 will race and splash in the pool, while "little ones" will be creating pool crafts and having kiddie pool fun. The day will culminate at 2:00 with a trophy presentation to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams as well as the largest trophy going to the team that's raised the most dollars for Springfield pools. All this will be capped off with a 75th anniversary cake for Sinai. Spectators are welcome to join us for lunch and to watch the fun for the nominal donation of \$7.50. Individuals may register and will be placed on a team, or teams of 4 (2 high school age or older; 2 middle school age or younger) may sign up. Hurry and register NOW by mailing in the form on the enclosed flyer or going online to www.sinai-temple.org/bigsplash.html. Don't miss out!

Sinai Temple to be Featured on Synagogue Council Website

Did you know that our congregation is a member of the Synagogue Council of Massachusetts? The Synagogue Council, the only organization of its kind in all of North America, has a unique mission: to bring together congregational leaders from across the spectrum of Judaism (Reform, Orthodox, Conservative, Reconstructionist) to both strengthen the synagogue and promote dialogue and mutual understanding.

We are pleased to announce that Sinai Temple has been selected to appear on the Synagogue Council's website – in celebration of our 75th anniversary – as the featured congregation for April. So be sure to visit www.synagoguecouncil.org and demonstrate your pride in our Temple!

Update from the Ritual Committee

Throughout the year, the Ritual Committee meets to discuss issues relevant to our congregation, to plan programs to educate our members, and to inspire each of us to continue our own search for meaning within Reform Judaism.

We were pleased at your response to our first ever, Showcase Shabbat, and promise to plan another in the coming year. We asked for your input about the Friday Night Live service, and are making a few changes to update the format and experience.

As spring approached, we planned a special Passover University in March. We hope the participants learned some new recipes for the seder foods, or learned a new way to engage guests at your seders. This idea came from one of our congregants last year, and the Ritual Committee was pleased to respond with this program.

Our congregation is filled with people who know little and wish to learn even more, and others who know a great deal but want to deepen their understanding still. The Ritual Committee is happy to offer new opportunities for learning and participating in our Judaism. We will be offering such an opportunity during the months of April and May, when trained congregants take part in the Shabbat morning Torah service. These people will be called as "Hagba", to lift the Torah scroll, show the congregation the portion that has just been read, and to hold the Torah while it is dressed and then returned to the Ark.

As we pilot new initiatives, we will continue to evaluate and decide how to move forward – for that is what Reform Judaism is all about. We feel blessed to be part of a congregation that is open to finding better avenues for prayer and community. We hope you will feel as excited as we are for the potential that these changes hold.

L'Shalom,

Rickie Leiter, Chair
Ritual Committee

Prospective New Members

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 twenty years. He has the information they need and can answer their questions. He can be reached at 413-786-0319.

www.sinai-temple.org

A Home Ceremony for Remembering the Holocaust

Dear Friends:

When Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial Day) starts on the 27th of Nisan, the evening of Monday, April 24, 2006, there is something simple and beautiful which you can do to commemorate the Holocaust. You can purchase and light a Yahrzeit/Memorial Candle in your home.

At that time, you might want to have a moment of silence, use the prayer that follows, or create something of your own. My family and I have used a yahrzeit candle for this purpose and found it to be a very moving experience. I hope you will allow the yahrzeit candle to become a new tradition for your household as well.

A limited number of candles will be available at the Temple office if you wish to pick one up there. You can also purchase a candle at a grocery store.

A Prayer for Lighting the "Holocaust Candle"

I/we light this memorial candle in order not to forget the lives of the Jewish men, women, and children who are symbolized by its flame. They were brutalized for no reason; their lives were taken in cruelty. May we be inspired to learn about our six million brothers and sisters as individuals and as communities; and may we recall not only the terror of their deaths, but the splendor of so many of their lives. May the memory of their lives inspire us to hallow our own lives, and to live meaningful Jewish lives so that we may help to ensure that part of who they were always endures.

Do You Like Teenagers? Would You Like to Work with Some Wonderful Teenagers?

Sinai is looking for a youth group advisor to our high school and middle school youth groups. The person chosen will need to be someone who likes working with teenagers and has resources of enthusiasm, organizational ability, and leadership training ability.

The Sinai youth group advisor will, of course, be privileged to work with our two youth groups: SPFTY (Grades 9 to 12) and JOY (Grades 7 - 8).

If you are interested OR if you know someone who might be suitable for this position, PLEASE contact Bonnie Thomas (732-6206) or Rabbi Shapiro. This is a great job.



The Caring Community of Sinai Temple cordially invites you to attend

A Passover Luncheon for Sinai Senior Members

Tuesday, April 18, 2006

12:00 noon

Our Special Guest will be Douglas Bilodeau of Douglas Auctioneers.

Mr. Bilodeau has conducted auctions and appraisals for the past 40 years.

Please bring one antique item to be appraised.

There is no charge for this wonderful program
Please RSVP to the Temple Office at 736-3619 no later than April 11th

Please let us know if you need transportation

Please Help Our Somali Family Go To JCC Camp

As you may remember, Sinai Temple has been involved with the resettlement of the Sheknoor Juma refugee family from Somalia. We are well into our second year of commitment and continue to enjoy our relationship. Sheknoor has a job, and the children are doing fairly well in White Street school.

There are many ways in which you can help our committee. At this time, our most urgent need is to gain financial support for 'our' Somali children go to JCC camp for part of the summer. Last summer 5 of the children went to camp for the last 4 weeks (after going to summer school in July). They loved it!!! (Swimming was the favorite activity.) The JCC loved them!! - although admittedly there were many challenging moments. This summer we would like Shumsa (4 years old with some special needs) to be able to join her older brothers. The JCC was very generous with their scholarship money. Nevertheless, we need to pay something. Won't you please consider a contribution to our Somali Fund to help us meet this goal.

We are also always anxious for the family to have more interaction with the Springfield community. Any play dates (the oldest child is 12) or outings are especially appreciated. Thank you.

Ronnie Leavitt, Jennell Sorrell

Message from Brotherhood

Well, folks, the year is winding down. Spring is upon us, and there doesn't seem to be too much left on our calendar except... the highly anticipated, the magnificent, the splendid, the entertaining, thrilling, and always exciting

Great Brotherhood Raffle!!!

That's right, ladies and gentlemen, the one and only Brotherhood raffle is upon us once again. Many of you may remember that for the last couple of years we had moved our raffle to the winter months of the year, but this year we decided against that due to the tragedy wreaked by hurricane Katrina. Your own Sinai Temple Brotherhood chose, instead, to make a very substantial donation to a Synagogue in New Orleans.

Your Brotherhood still needs to hold its one fundraiser of the year. In fact, we need it more than usual due to the donation that we made. Tickets are available in the Temple office or from just about any board member, and the accumulation of prizes this year is quite amazing, if I do say so. So far we have gift certificates from Bertucci's, Competitive Edge, Coughlin's, FL Roberts, Mohegan Sun, Panera, Pizzaria Uno, Student Prince, Starbucks Coffee, Shoenique....Wait! I have to stop. I'm running out of room. There's more! Much more! Buy raffle tickets!!!

Buy dozens of them!!!!

And, as always, you do not have to be at the drawing on May 20th to win prizes, but if you don't come you're missing a great evening of fun and entertainment. Hey, it's Brotherhood. We'll have food, too.

Dan Cohn
Sinai Brotherhood President

Come Join Other Teens as a Part of the SPFTY Youth Group

Upcoming Events:

- Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival (Teen Edition)
- Sunday, April 9th
- Laser Tag and Rollerskating - Saturday April 29th
- BBQ and Bonfire - TBA

As always, SPFTY meetings are scheduled for the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 8 pm at Sinai Temple. All are welcome to attend the meetings, members and non-members alike. Also, keep an eye on the SPFTY web site (<http://www.spfty.com>) for updates. If you'd like more information about becoming a member of SPFTY or have any other questions, please e-mail info@spfty.com

Message from President Steve Weiss

The beginning of spring signals not only the arrival of Pesach; for the Temple Board it is also the time of year when we start to prepare our budget for the fiscal year that starts on June 1, 2006. We thought that it would be helpful to take some of the mystery out of the process and provide some basic information about the congregation's finances, and how we hope to address the future in a financially responsible manner.

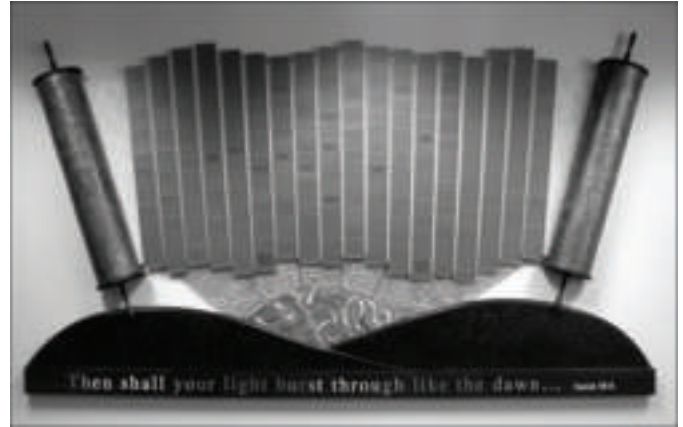
First, our budget for this year is \$663,000. The primary operating funds come from the following sources: "base" dues, 81 percent; sustaining membership dues, 8.1 percent; income from the gift shop and other fundraising efforts, 3.8 percent; and miscellaneous items, 7.1 percent. While we try to have a completely balanced budget, to the extent that there is any shortfall, funds from the Sinai Endowment Trust, the Sinai Charitable Foundation, and the Sinai/Federation Charitable Foundation can be used to make up the deficit. During this current year, we expect to use approximately \$22,000 of income from the endowment funds to supplement the operating budget. The Religious School has historically been entirely self-sustaining; however, because of a decline in enrollment, this is no longer the case.

On the expense side of the ledger, there is no mortgage on Sinai Temple, and we've been diligent about keeping various operating expenses, such as utilities and insurance, in line, although they continue to increase. Not surprisingly, the dominant element of our budget (approximately 68 percent) consists of personnel expenses.

Our full "base dues" for the current fiscal year for a family between 30 and 70 years old are \$1,575.00. Our research indicates this is in line with other similarly situated congregations locally and nationally. However, the Board and the Executive Committee are sensitive to the "cost of being Jewish", and that congregants have many other important financial concerns. Moreover, only approximately 55 percent of our members pay full dues, based upon their personal situations. Thus, when we raise the base dues rate, we don't see all of the increase in increased revenue. For example, this year's dues represent a five percent increase from the previous year; however, the actual "real" increase in revenue realized will be slightly over 2 percent. We are also very much aware that the congregation has declined somewhat in size over the past few years, with the potential result that fewer members could bear a proportionately larger share of the financial burden for the synagogue.

So what are we doing to keep Sinai financially sound? There's no "magic wand" or single solution to these chal-

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.

lenges; thus, we're doing many things. We've reestablished the Membership and Retention Committee (ably chaired by Jeff Cossin) to explore ways of retaining and enhancing Temple membership. We're looking at ways of increasing sustainable fundraising on an annual basis. And, of course, we're trying to continue to keep costs in line; several members of the congregation as well as our office manager, Karen Sprenkle, have achieved significant savings for us. Hopefully, these efforts will enable us to keep any dues increase to an absolute minimum while continuing to serve Sinai and the Springfield community in the way to which we are accustomed.

I'm writing this not to solicit funds, but rather to let you know that the Board is being both prudent and imaginative in managing our Temple's finances. (Of course, if you have any ideas, please do not hesitate to let me know!)

A Message from Sheila Shear, Director of Education

Shalom Chaverim

March was such a fun filled month at Religious School, beginning with our K-2 Shabbat dinner, the Sofer visits, and finally the special school wide art projects planned and implemented by our own Cindy Lutz Kornett. This month is another, packed with exciting experiences for everyone, as the children in the religious school continue to raise money for a playscape at Washington School in Springfield.

The Sobibor project completed by the 7th grade classes is now on display upstairs in the religious school, Model Seders, for grades K-2 will be on Sunday, April 9th, and for grades 3-6 on Tuesday, April 4th and Thursday, April 6th. If you would like to volunteer to help with any of the Seders please call me at the temple office. The annual 6th Grade Retreat is also coming up on April 28-30. If you have a 6th grade child please make every effort to have them attend. Last but not least, remember this month's Family Service is on April 7th at 7:00 p.m. and Kabbalat Shabbat on April 14th Oneg at 5:30 service at 6:00 p.m. Hope to see you all there.

Below: Pam and Zachary Kalman enjoy a Game of "Kerplunk" during Sinai Temple's Family Game Night on February 11th. Many families joined in on the evening of games and pizza followed by a Havdalah Service.



Just a Few Words From Karen Mernoff

Did you know that over 800 hamantaschen were baked at Sinai during March 1st and March 2nd? Over 275 of these hamantaschen were packed in Shalach Manot boxes and mailed out to alumni, new members and many of our empty nesters. The rest were distributed to our Religious School students and were given out during Purim. This enormous job of making the hamantaschen was coordinated by a wonderful Caring Community member, Kim Black. She rounded up the volunteers, bought the supplies, made dough and baked and baked.

Thank you, Kim.

And thank you to our dough-making volunteers: Linda Berger, Candee Stillerman, Neva Frumkin, Barbara Winer, Harriet Flier, Melanie Stone, Tricia Freedman and Sue Chanin.

Once we had the dough, the baking began.

Thank you to Diane Friedberg (who showed us how to make the hamantaschen,) Karen Sprenkle, Cheryl Richards, Nancy Gladstone, Robin Dunn-McDonagh, Judy Aronson, Zel Lavin, Harriet Flier, Pam Kalman , Tricia Freedman and Rachel Freedman.

Thank you to Andy Chaet and our confirmation class who labeled the boxes and our fifth graders who packed the boxes.

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Sinai Temple

BULLETIN



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On Friday evening, May 17, 1974, a single line of mourners, all wearing black arm bands, marched in silence from Sinai Temple in memorial to Israeli children slain by Arab terrorists in Israel. Twenty-two children carried candles, each in memory of one of the slain children.