

Sinai Temple

BULLETIN



Celebrating Israel @ 60

For Your Consideration

Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro

Did it ever occur to you that, for most of us, every day of the year is like Chanukah? I don't mean to spoil the upcoming season, but I can't escape the feeling that the gift giving of Chanukah is misplaced.

Most of us don't need that new sweater or those new CD's as gifts. We can just as well purchase them on one of our many trips to the Mall in October, March, or April. In fact, if there is one place on the map our youngsters know by memory, it probably is the Holyoke Mall. The Mall (or others like it) is the place where consuming is etched into their hearts and ours as a very natural way to spend free time.

But after a year in which they and we have been to the Mall so many times I do find myself wondering what makes Chanukah different. When we can treat ourselves to "gifts" all year round, Chanukah gifts seem unnecessary.

I know that's why I find myself so impressed with the initiative generated by the Union for Reform Judaism a few years ago. "Ner shel tzedakah" means "the light of giving," and it's the title for a program that suggests we begin to rethink Chanukah. The idea is that, on at least one evening of the holiday, we ought to make a gift of tzedakah somewhere in the world. Donate the value of the gifts you might ordinarily exchange (or the gifts themselves) to local or national organizations that try to light up the world in some significant way.

The choices for your tzedakah recipients are as broad as your own concerns for politics, culture, the environment, the animal world, family life, housing, education, hunger, health care, and Israel.

Like everyone, I do love Chanukah. I love the beauty of the candles as they grow brighter through the holiday, and I love the notion that there is more to this holiday than fun. There is something holy to be done. It's called "ner shel tzedakah." I hope the idea becomes part of your December holiday.

Saturday Torah Study

Saturday Mornings
Torah Study
At 9 a.m. Every Week

Saturday Morning Services

Services at 10:30 a.m.
Mazal Tov to our Bnai Mitzvah

December 1 – Aaron Neiman
Son of Jackie and Michael Neiman

December 8 – Kelsey Regan
Daughter of Lori and Jim

December 15 – Taylor Gordenstein
Daughter of Marcia and Ron
Gordenstein

Chanukah at Sinai

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2
9 a.m. to noon

A total student/parent program during Religious School.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7
7 p.m.

Bring your chanukiah with candles from home.

Tot Shabbat

Friday, December 21 at 6 p.m.

A service led by the Rabbi for little people who can sit still for 15 minutes. (Pre-schoolers are welcome.)

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

CHANUKAH FAMILY SERVICE at 7:00 p.m.
December 7

Candles, latkes, and stories. Bring your chanukiah from home with 5 candles.

KABBALAT SHABBAT at 6:00 p.m.
December 14

Veggies and snacks at 5:30 before the service. PLUS we are testing the new Reform prayer book.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE at 8:00 p.m.
December 21

Special music and a special spirit. PLUS we are testing the new Reform prayer book.

FRIDAY NIGHT CLASSIC at 8:00 p.m.
December 28

Gates of Prayer with a champagne spirit.

Blessings for Chanukah

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

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

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

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

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

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

ברוך אתה. יי אלהינו.
מלך העולם. שהחיינו וקימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this moment.

Ba-ruch a-ta A-do-Nai e-lo-hei-nu me-lech ha-o-lam, she-he-che-ya-nu ve-ki-ye-ma-nu ve-hi-gi-a-nu laz-man ha-zeh.

Thank you to:

Barry Snyder for a gift to upgrade our Temple office. The gift was made in honor of Barry's "very special" Uncle Lou Snyder.

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Mark Dov Shapiro Rabbi
Emily Sleeper Mekler Cantor, Music Director
Sheila Shear Director of Education
Stacey Osowski Community Coordinator
Andy Chaet SPFTY Advisor

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Visit our website: www.sinai-temple.org

Chanukah Questions and Answers

When is Chanukah?

Chanukah begins Tuesday, December 4. The last candle is lit Tuesday, December 11.

How do we observe Chanukah today?

Chanukah is almost entirely a time for celebration, although it can be more than that. This year, for example, how about implementing the new "tradition" of Ner Shel Tzedakah, which means dedicating one "ner/candle/night" to tzedakah. Make Sunday, December 9 different by giving gifts of tzedakah.

How do we prepare the candles when Chanukah arrives?

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

How many candles are used?

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

Where does the chanukiah go?

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

How do we light the candles?

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

Do we do anything different on Shabbat (Friday evening, December 7)?

Yes. On that night we light the chanukiah first and after that Shabbat candles. For a really good time, don't do your candles at home. Bring yourself and your candles to Temple for a service, good food, and fun.

Mission Statement

Sinai Temple is a welcoming and inclusive Reform Congregation where our members pursue a continuing journey of Jewish growth. We are guided by the history and traditions of the Jewish people as we encounter the challenges of the modern world. We encourage participation in prayer, life-long Jewish learning, and social justice within a joyful, creative, and compassionate community.



Chanukah 2006 Photograph by Michael Gordon

CHANUKAH!! CHANUKAH!!

The Green Menorah: A Commitment to “green” Chanukah

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

Paper and Plastic Bags Contribute to Global Warming

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

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

How about reusable bags?

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

Chanukah Service: Friday, December 7 at 7 p.m.

It’s the fourth night of Chanukah. Bring your chanukiah (menorah) and candles. There will be a service with candle lighting for everyone. Songs. Latkes. And games for Chanukah.

Chanukah Tzedakah: Ner Shel Tzedakah, Sunday, December 9

The latkes are wonderful. The candles look beautiful. Chanukah is a joyous time of the year for us Jews. **THIS YEAR** our Social Action Committee suggests something **NEW**. On the sixth night of Chanukah, December 9, we encourage families to donate the value of the gifts they would ordinarily exchange (or the gifts themselves) to local or national organizations assisting the poor. Let this be an evening for **NER SHEL TZEDAKAH - THE LIGHT OF TZEDAKAH**

**Testing a New Prayer Book
Fridays, December 14 & 21**

Sinai may be adopting a new prayer book, but we won't do so until the congregation uses the book and responds. We truly, truly want as many congregants as possible to use the new book and let the Ritual Committee, Rabbi, or Cantor know how you feel. Please be at Sinai on these "experimental" evenings.

**Cinema Sinai Continues
Focus on Israel
Sunday, December 2**

7:00 p.m.

OR

**Tuesday, December 4
1:00 p.m.**

As Israel's 60th anniversary approaches, Sinai invites you into the world of Israeli cinema. Bring your popcorn and see what's to be seen.

**December 2/December 4
THE ASHKENAZIM**

This very unconventional documentary asks an incredible question: Do Jews of Ashkenazic (East European) descent still fit in Israel. Ashkenazic Jews founded the modern State of Israel, but they are now outnumbered by Sephardic Jews from the Mediterranean world. So whose identity is the real Israeli identity? Is Israel destined to be more "Arab" than it is European? Will belly dancing replace classical ballet? Come to be entertained and intrigued.

The Movies Continue -

January 27/January 29

AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED

This award winning drama focuses on a Tel Aviv family waiting to hear news of their son who may be involved in a terrorist incident. This very intense short film depicts every Israeli parent's nightmare in a powerful, subtle way. After a short break, we'll continue with...

WEST BANK STORY

This film will make you smile. Winner of the 2006 Academy Award for "Best Live Action Short Film," the subject is Israel/Palestinian relationships. The presentation is music. Unexpected. Not your usual presentation of Israel's border/cultural dilemmas.

**Does God Care What We Eat:
"Kosher" for a 21st Century Reform
Jew?**

Continuing Saturdays at 9 a.m.

Ham and cheese. Fruit sprayed with pesticides. Coffee grown by poverty-stricken peasants. Ice cream for dessert after a chicken dinner at Temple.

What's kosher? What's not?

What's an appropriate way to consume food on planet earth in 2007?

Come join Torah Study for an exploration into the meaning of kashrut in Jewish tradition. Is it time to think differently about kashrut? What should Sinai Temple's kashrut policy be?

**Monthly Morning Service
Wednesday, December 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. Those who need to leave for the rest of the day are free no later than 8:15 a.m.

Future "morning minyan" services will take place on Wednesdays, January 2, February 6, March 5, April 2, May 7, and June 4.

**First Thursdays (mostly):
Lunch and Learn
Thursday, December 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 January 3, February 7, March 6, April 3, May 1, and June 5.

**RIDING4REFORM
A Five-Day Fundraiser
In Israel for the Israeli Reform
Movement
MARCH 23-27, 2008**

If you like your bicycle AND if you want to do an organized bike fundraiser in Israel, this is for you.

Speak to Rabbi Shapiro for details.

Or speak to our Temple Member, Andy Moskovitz, who did the ride successfully and happily last year.

Let's Get On Board!!

Do you have any children's board games or puzzles that could be given away to needy children in the community. Bring your gifts to the Temple any time before Monday, December 17. We need your games and puzzles. Someone in the community will love them dearly!!!

Quilting, knitting, crocheting.....you choose!

Alden Baptist Church and Sinai Temple will be working again this year on baby quilts for Project Linus. All of the blankets will be donated to Baystate, Shriners or other local organizations for sick children. Last year we made 25 quilts! We will meet at Sinai on January 8, 2008 at 6:00 and alternate between Alden and Sinai once a month. Join us as we work on blankets and continue our long time collaboration with our friends at Alden. Thank you to our Sinai group; Ann Jacobs, Helene Segool, Beth Green, Carolyn Mernoff, Carol Tivoli, Laurie Weinberg and Sandy Suib-Dutcher. For more information please contact Sandy Suib-Dutcher at 567-3283 or e-mail at h.dutcher@comcast.net.

SUPER TZEDAKAH SUNDAY— DECEMBER 2, 2007

It's Your Jewish Community. Be Part of It.

On Super Tzedakah Sunday, more than 100 volunteers come together to build a community based on compassion and justice. It's the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts' annual phone-a-thon, and the impact is enormous. With only our voices and a vision we all share, we will reach out to thousands of donors and raise more than \$150,000 to support the programs and services that are making a difference in the lives of Jews locally, nationally, in Israel and around the world.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Debbie Peskin at the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts, 737-4313 x121. If you are unable to volunteer, you can still make a difference. When a volunteer phones to ask you for a contribution, please answer the call and give generously.

SAVE THE DATE!

Family Fun Nite is coming! Get ready for a carnival. Saturday, January 26th. More information to follow. If anyone would like to help with this fun event, contact Stacey Osowski at 736-3619x13 or e-mail perlski@verizon.net.

SPFTY Advisor Andy Chaet

Shalom

Here we are at the beginning of December planning for the cold months ahead.

Want to keep warm? Want to be with friends and be part of a great group of people? JOIN SPFTY !

Our Teen group is growing ,however we always want more.

If you would like to participate in an event that will truly make your Mitzvah heart sing, join us for a Bake Sale on Sunday December 9 at Sinai during Religious school at 9:00 a.m.

We need bakers and sellers! We want great attitudes and big smiles.

We want as many as we can get.

Call the Temple for more info.

Thanks

Shalom

Andy Chaet, SPFTY Advisor

spftyadvisor@sinai-temple.org

Available in the Temple Office

• NEW • NEW • NEW •

Macy's Gift Cards

Just come in and purchase as many Macy's gift cards as you want, no ordering necessary! Macy's donates 10% of each dollar to Sinai.

Big Y gift cards

Don't forget SCRIP orders!

Thank you for those of you who participated in the Scrip and Big Y fundraisers. In October, we sold 301 gift cards that valued \$7,583.00, with a profit of \$671.00. Look for a new order form with more vendors and higher percentages. We also sold \$4,500.00 of Big Y cards, with a profit of \$240.00. We will be continuing to sell the Big Y cards in the temple office. In addition to the Big Y cards, we will be offering Macy's gift cards. Stop in the Office and buy some today!!



Professor Stephen Berk wows the crowd!

Sinai's 2007 Scholar in Residence speaker was a huge success over the weekend of October 19 -21. Stephen Berk spoke about the history of Zionism and the role of Israel in the future of Diaspora Jewry. Berk is pictured here with members of our Adult Education Committee. From left to right: Michael Freedman, Joel Bertuzzi, Stephen Berk, Tina de Meza.



Chanukah is Coming

Bobbi Cossin and Thais Fischel are getting ready for Chanukah. Chanukah menorahs and much, much more are available for the congregation and for the community.



Celebrating Israel 60

Sunday, October 28 was a day dedicated to learning about Israel. All grades from Kindergarten through to Seventh Grade spent the morning in a round robin event that involved Israel art, history, games, and videos. Temple members were the key volunteers as the students “traveled” through the building and from place to place in Israel.



Representatives from Eisner Camp and Crane Lake Camp Will be at Sunday School On Sunday, December 2 Parents are Invited!!!!

If you want to learn more about Jewish summer camping, please join us on December 2 for a presentation on the Reform Jewish camps of the Berkshires. A DVD will be shown; brochures will be available. Camp Day will be part of a larger Family Program at school from 9 a.m. to noon.

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

Our Reform movement runs two remarkable summer camps in the Berkshires. One is called Eisner; the other is called Crane Lake. Last year several Sinai students attended each of the camps. Your child would love either camp. Scholarships are available for sessions in July or August. Please speak to Rabbi Shapiro as soon as possible.

Scholarships for Free

If your son or daughter is planning to attend any kind of Jewish program this summer, please take advantage of the Temple scholarship program. Thanks to the Joseph Emanuel, Rabbi Herman Eliot and Adele Biederman Snyder Memorial Fund, scholarships are available in small and larger amounts. We are also thankful to the family of Edna Simon and Judy and Michael Cohen who support summer scholarships as well.

Your confidential request should go to Rabbi Shapiro no later than March 1.

Director of Education Sheila Shear

Shalom Chaverim.

As we begin the Festival of Lights the Religious School has been blessed with its own special lights. Thanks to the generosity of Leah Gottlieb we were able to have the students participate in a very special art project that enhanced the experience of the Israel Art Show for them. I hope you were able to see their works displayed on bulletin boards during the show. I would also like to once again thank Daryl and Lynn Schwartz for their generosity in making the Rosh Hodesh: It's A Girl Thing program possible, Joel Cohen for purchasing book carts for the Hebrew School and Irving and William Horowitz for their donation to purchase new work tables for the art room.

Though we got a late start to our Hebrew program students are once again thriving and we are seeing a high level of success with the Mid-kadem Hebrew program. Volunteers are always welcome. Along with our student aides, our adult volunteers, Judy Aronson and Leah Gottlieb are a tremendous help. If you would like to join Judy and Leah please call me. We are especially in need of help on Thursday afternoons. The Sunday programs are working well and it is thrilling to be able to accommodate special interests for our students, offer more Hebrew instruction, integrate our social clubs and have special programming like the one coming up in just a few days on December 2nd. I hope all parents of Kindergarten through 7th grade students will join us for a special family program.

Chag Sameach!

The Susan Broh Tikkun Olam Scholarship: An opportunity for young people to build a better world

The family and friends of the late Susan Broh are so very pleased to report on the success of this past summer's award in memory of Susan.

Sinai Temple was able to offer THREE students, Casey Markenson, Matthew Berg, and Adam Levy, generous stipends that enabled each of them to pursue a summer of volunteer work in an area that made the world a better place.

Donations to the Susan Broh Tikkun Olam Scholarship are welcome so that we can plan for 2008. Your donations are used to allow us to "pay" a young person for summer volunteer work. Young people apply for the stipend during the winter. Awards are made in Spring for the coming summer. Thank you for supporting the Broh Scholarship.

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Coffee, Schmooze and News....
We encourage parents of religious school students to **Drop In** after you have **Dropped Off** your student for you guessed it "Coffee, Schmooze and News. What a great opportunity for parents to meet and chat. We will be gathering on December 9th in the main lobby near the Judaica Shop. Big Y gift cards will be available for purchase while the supplies last.

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Sunday Morning Running: Stretch your legs in the great out- doors!

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.

CELEBRATE ISRAEL'S 60th BIRTHDAY IN ISRAEL!

**Yom Ha'atzmaut Community Mission to Israel
May 4 – 15, 2008**

**Jerusalem • Tel Aviv • Masada • The Dead Sea •
Afula-Gilboa • Golan Heights • Tzfat • and more!**

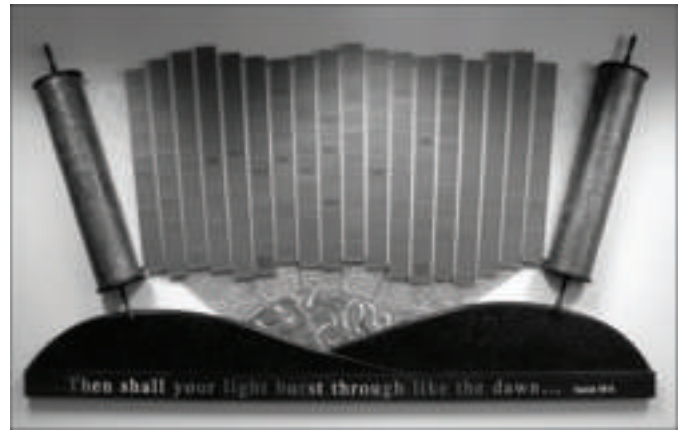
Join Mission Chair Sue Polansky and friends from the community for the trip of a lifetime! Explore the land and learn about its history from noted scholars. Whether you're a repeat visitor or a first-timer, you'll find something to love around every corner!

Space is limited & reservations will be taken in the order received! For more information, contact Harold Berman, Executive Director, Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts, at (413) 737-4313 x139 or email hberman@jewishwesternmass.org.

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.

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 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 since September 4, 2007 and up until November 14, 2007:

Claire Finestone, wife of Saul Finestone.
Sylvia Stein, mother of Barbara Winer.
Merrilee Possner, niece of Renine Gold.
Ted Levine, husband of Sylvia Levine.
Harriet Flier, mother of Richard Flier.
Edith Posen, mother of Nancy Nathan.
Yitzchak Kadour, brother of Rachel Sampson.
Eve Levine, aunt of Gail Kushner.
Dr. Leon Kruger, cousin of Kitty Berger.
Sam Levy, father of Hermine Weston.
Francine Hochman, wife of Irving Hochman.
Albert Brunell, father of Thomas Brunell.

Donations

From time to time, we review the history of some of the Sinai Temple Funds:

The Arline and Arthur Rogers Program Fund was established to honor the memories of this very active Sinai couple.

Both Arline and Arthur were active at Sinai from the 1950s until the 1980s. Arthur was head of the Brotherhood and was involved in many volunteer efforts at the Temple. In addition, he donated his time to a variety of religious and community endeavors including Junior Achievement, and the Lions Club. Arline was very active in the sisterhood including as president, and she was a driving force for the rummage sales which continue to be fundraisers for the religious school.

This fund is used annually to enrich one or more aspects of Sinai's programming. In this way Arline and Arthur's memory is kept alive and their many good deeds continue to be fostered. The third generation of the Rogers family at Sinai carries on this legacy.

Arline died in 1994, and Arthur in 1995.

Mazal Tov to:

Matt Bertuzzi and Stacey Osowski on being nominated to receive the Award for Excellence in Jewish Education from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

Happy 99th Birthday to Donald Gilman.

Charlene and Mark Cutler on the engagement of Becky Cutler and Brian Munday.

Linda and Dana Goldman on the birth of their grandson Nathaniel Lewis.

Fragrance Free Please

Please refrain from excessive use of perfume and colognes when attending services and events at Temple. Those with allergies can be adversely affected and become uncomfortable when exposed to strong scents. When purchasing bimah flowers for special occasions, please be considerate too and order only non-scented arrangements. Thank you!

Judaica Shop Corner
Chanukah is here! There is still
a lovely selection of last minute
gifts and candles.

Children's Shopping Day will be
held on Sunday, December 2 from
8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
in the front lobby.

For those end-of-Chanukah parties
we have paper goods, children's
toys, candy and some mark-down
and closeouts.

Thais Fischel 786-9577
Bobbie Cossin 565-9970

Sinai Temple

BULLETIN



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May we offer you a \$5 gift certificate?

If you have a child between the ages of 18 and 30, we're pleased to offer your child a \$5 gift certificate to Starbuck's or Dunkin' Donuts. We'll gladly send your young person the gift certificate as soon as we receive your youngster's mailing address (both "smaill" mail and e-mail). This offer is good for Sinai Alumni (ages 18 to 30) who are not yet on our mailing list. Email Stacey Osowski at perlski@verizon.net or call 736-3619, ext. 13. Stacey will add your child's name to our Alumni list and send that gift immediately.