



# Sinai Temple Bulletin

*Take Back Your Time:  
Rediscover Shabbat*

*January/February 2015  
Tevet / Shvat 5775*

## **For Your Consideration –**

*Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro*

### **It's an election year!**

As preparations are made for elections to the Israeli Knesset, we here at Sinai are preparing for our own election. We are being asked to vote for the American delegation that will be going to the World Zionist Congress in Jerusalem this coming October.

I am asking you specifically if you will vote for the ARZA slate that seeks to form as large a portion as possible of the American delegation. During the last election (2005), ARZA secured 39% or 56 out of the 145 seats on the American delegation. This year's goal is to secure 50% seats on the American delegation.

### **Why does this matter? What does ARZA mean?**

It matters a great deal because ARZA stands for the Association of Reform Zionists of America. Placing Reform delegates on the American delegation to the Zionist Congress means that the voice of liberal Judaism will be heard more forcefully in Israel.

### **That means several things.**

1. More dollars become available for the creation of Reform synagogues in Israel.
2. More dollars support Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem, which teaches the modern Judaism that we value so much.
3. More influence in Israel means that the emissaries coming to the Diaspora aren't always Orthodox. Israeli Reform Jews can be sent to teach in the Diaspora.
4. Policies can be changed. For example, stronger Reform influence last year led to initiatives calling on the Israeli government to establish egalitarian prayer at the Wall, to pass a marriage and civil divorce law and to prosecute Israelis who incite racism.

The American elections begin January 15. Elsewhere in the Bulletin you'll see requests to pledge to vote ARZA. Don't worry about that now. Watch for announcements about VOTING for ARZA. We'll be in touch via e-vents. This truly is election season. Vote. It really matters for our future as Jews.

## **Friday Evenings in January**

***All January services begin at 6 p.m.***

### **January 2**

Welcome to 2014 with melody and midrash.

### **January 9**

Family friendly. SHORT SHABBAT. See Page 3 for the details in brief.

### **January 16**

Leading up to Martin Luther King Day on Monday, some music from the Civil Rights movement.

### **January 23**

Foreign Food and Film Festival. Dinner and movie after the 6 p.m. service. See Page 5.

### **January 30**

A congregational service guaranteed to fight the winter cold. Young or old. Sinai can always be your home.

## **Friday Evenings in February**

***All February service begin at 6 p.m.***

### **February 6**

Congregational Shabbat Service

### **February 13**

Take the chill off the winter with Shabbat candles and worship.

### **February 20**

Foreign Food and Fiddler Festival. Dinner and speaker follow the 6 p.m. service. See Page 5.

### **February 27**

Congregational Shabbat Service

## **Saturday Mornings**

***January 3 and February 7 – See Page 3 & 4 for special schedule.***

***Otherwise - Torah Study at 9:00 a.m. and Service at 10:15 a.m.***

**Please note – This bulletin is an eight-week bulletin – covering January AND February 2015.**

## From the Executive Committee...

Six years ago our former Temple President, Mark Stone, imagined and created Try A Synagogue, a collaboration of B’Nai Torah, our Orthodox neighbor, and Temple Beth El, our Conservative neighbor. It has become a model of how all of the branches of Judaism can work together for the common good of our Jewish community. On December 13, 2014, at our weekly Torah Study, Rabbi Shapiro introduced us to our teacher for that day, Rabbi Lavy Kosofsky, son of Rabbi Noach Kosofsky principal of the Lubavitcher Yeshiva Academy of Longmeadow. Rabbi Kosofsky said, “ This is the first time I have been in this Temple but it seems that I know many of you. ” Later in the hour he said that he hoped that he had taught us some Torah and that he had in turn learned from us also. We all welcomed him and made him feel comfortable. He was a delightful young man, humble, very knowledgeable and very engaging. I must say that we are lucky to have him in our community and I hope that there will be further opportunities to interact with him. In the long run it is in the best interest of the entire Jewish community for us to work together. Thank you Rabbi Shapiro for creating this opportunity for Sinai Temple to reach out to yet another branch of our diverse Jewish Community.

It is time for our Nominating Committee to deliberate and present to us a slate of congregants who will form our leadership for the next two years. This is a crucial job and I thank Susanne Simon for chairing this effort. If you are interested or know of someone who may be interested in helping to create the Sinai Temple of the future by serving in a leadership role please email me as soon as possible at Jeffrey.Cossin@gmail.com ( this is a new email address ).

And finally, you will see in the bulletin plenty of new opportunities to celebrate Shabbat with all of us. There are many reasons why people come to services but in fact one of the more important is to be with friends, face to face, in a way not possible through social media. The newest “buzz” term is “relational Judaism” Come, relate, and be with us! Call a friend and come together. It will be an hour well spent and an experience not possible any other time of the week!

Please come and join Karen and me.

Jeff Cossin, *President*

The Sinai Temple Bulletin is published every other month by Sinai Temple, Springfield, Massachusetts. This is Issue Number 5 for the year 2014-2015.

Mark Dov Shapiro .....Rabbi  
 Martin Levson .....Cantor  
 Heather Sullivan .....Director of Education  
 Matt Bertuzzi .....Youth Director  
 Jeff Cossin .....President  
 Bruce Leshine.....First Vice President  
 Steve Kessler .....Vice President  
 Laurie Weinberg.....Vice President  
 Alan Goldsmith .....Treasurer  
 Susanne Simon .....Financial Secretary  
 Buff Maniscalco.....Recording Secretary  
 Jack Henrie.....President, Men/Women of Sinai  
 Ron Weiss .....Cemetery Chair  
 Karen Mendelsohn.....Membership Committee Chair

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

## FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Starring and featuring many Sinai Temple members!



CELEBRATE THE  
 50TH  
 ANNIVERSARY  
 OF THE  
 BROADWAY  
 PREMIER!

Thursday, March 25 7:00  
 Friday, March 26\*\* 7:30  
 Saturday, March 27 7:00  
 Sunday, March 28 2:00

\$15.00 - general admission  
 \$20.00 - reserved seating

\*\*All Friday tickets are \$20.00, include intermission treats & must be purchased in advance.

Tickets can be purchased online after February 15

- [www.sinai-temple.org](http://www.sinai-temple.org),
- calling the Sinai Temple office (413-736-3619) or
- in person at the temple office.

## Link to Libraries

Dear Sinai Congregation Members:

We thank you for the books you so generously donated to Link to Libraries during the High Holidays.

The boys and girls throughout our area in western MA will greatly benefit by your most generous donation.

Our sincere thank you. Susan Jaye- Kaplan

## Never Too Early for Passover

The Ritual Committee wants to offer local college students who are away from home the opportunity for a home seder on Friday evening, April 3. If you would be willing to host a student (or two) from Springfield College, Baypath, or Western New England, please call the Temple office. We'll be in touch when March arrives 736-3619

## Flags for Veterans

We've got volunteers who want to be sure flags are on every veteran's grave when Memorial Day comes around Please let the Temple office know if your loved one was a veteran and hasn't had a flag on his or her grave.

**Short Shabbat - Really, A Shabbat that is Short!  
Designed for All Ages – Family Friendly  
Friday, January 9 at 6 p.m.**

How short can a service be?

Something new for those who are young and not so young.

6 p.m. the briefest but most enjoyable of services followed by a short dinner.

Hors d'oeuvres and baby (short) carrots! Perhaps a game for the kids.

Guaranteed fun and Shabbat as you've never briefly experienced it.

**Short Shabbat – Part Two Saturday, January 10 – Starting at 9 a.m.  
We Continue Small and Brief for Grown Ups**

This morning everything gets “shortened.”

Torah Study as you've never seen it – shortened to 45 minutes followed by  
a service – shortened to 30 minutes.

Followed at 10:15 by two short learning opportunities. Cantor Levson teaching meditation  
for 35 short minutes; Rabbi Shapiro introducing the shortest book in the Bible for 35 short minutes.

At 11 a.m., a delicious Kiddush. Smile and take back your time on Saturday, January 10.

**VOTE ARZA**

(The Association of Reform Zionists of America)

**Representing Reform Judaism  
In the 2015 World Zionist Organization Elections**

Voting for ARZA means voting for a liberal approach towards Jewish life in Israel.

It means millions of dollars being directed toward the kind of Jewish expression  
we take for granted in our community. Voting ARZA means modern  
Jewish opportunities for all Israelis.

Voting occurs from January 15th through April 30th, 2015.

The processing fee is \$10.00 USD (\$5.00 USD for anyone under 30) and  
offsets the cost of conducting the election.

***Requirements to register to vote:***

- 1.** You must be Jewish,
- 2.** You must be 18 years or older by June 30, 2015,
- 3.** You must be a resident of the United States.

**Climate Change: Taking Care of Mother Earth  
How to Take the First Steps in your own Home  
Sunday, February 1  
9 to 11 a.m.**



A morning of discussion and hands-on workshops including: home energy audits, solar energy possibilities for your home, composting, and the possibility of moving from animal consumption (yuk, methane!!) towards a more vegetarian diet.

With a keynote introduction by Rabbi Saul Perlmutter (U Mass Hillel) on ***The Environment, Jewish Values, and their Real Life Applications.***

Breakfast to be served at 9 a.m.

Sponsored by Men and Women of Sinai and the Temple Social Action Committee.

**Conductor Kevin Rhodes at Sinai Temple  
Saturday, February 7  
9 to 11:30 a.m.  
A Conversation and More about  
Leonard Bernstein**



The Springfield Symphony Orchestra will be performing Bernstein's Symphony No. 2 on March 14. Several years ago the orchestra performed Bernstein's first symphony, which is known as the Jeremiah Symphony.

On February 1, Kevin Rhodes will be at Sinai as part of an expanded Torah Study. Maestro Rhodes will dialogue with Rabbi Shapiro about Bernstein and his work. Since the Rabbi also has a particular interest in the biblical Jeremiah, the conversation will stretch from the Bible to musical history, composition, and creativity.

The morning will conclude with Kiddush and a light lunch.

**Tales from Judaism's Mystical Tradition  
Saturdays, January 24 and 31 from  
9 to 10 a.m.**

**Rabbi Devorah Jacobson**

You've heard of the Kabbalah? Perhaps you've heard about the Zohar? On two Shabbat mornings at Torah Study, Rabbi Jacobson will present stories from mystical and Chasidic tradition inviting us to dig in and discover new ways to understand Judaism. Rabbi Jacobson's teaching is made possible by a gift from the family of the late Ruth Webber who loved adult learning. Thank you.

**Book Club**

**Wednesday, January 21 at 7 p.m.**

The Book Club continues its journey through Jewish literature. In January, our book is *Songs for the Butcher's Daughter* by Peter Manseau. In February, we will be reading *Teve, The Dairyman* by Sholem Aleichem. For information, call the Temple office today. Newcomers are always welcome.

Friday, January 23

# Food and Film Festival

The Sturgeon Queens: A Story of Pickled Herring, Lox and the Best Bagels In New York

6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service • 7 p.m. Dinner "The Way it Used to Be"

Followed by the Sturgeon Queens: The Movie of Russ & Daughters, the Most Famous Deli on the Lower East Side

Featuring such celebrities as Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and actress Maggie Gyllenhaal, this film tells the tale of the little deli that could. From humble beginnings in 1914, Russ and Daughters has grown into an institution for delicious food. People line up for hours to get the perfect slice of smoked fish. Morley Safer loves the place and you'll love the movie too.



\$10/person  
Reservations Required  
[www.sinai-temple.org](http://www.sinai-temple.org)

Friday, February 20

## Food and FIDDLER Festival

6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service  
7 p.m. Dinner a la Shtetl (Enjoy! Enjoy!)

Reservations Required | \$10/person  
[www.sinai-temple.org](http://www.sinai-temple.org)

Followed by our guest teacher  
Rachel Rubenstein, Associate  
Professor of American Literature &  
Jewish Studies, Hampshire College.



As the world celebrates the 50th anniversary of Fiddler on the Roof, Professor, Rubenstein will take us on a journey back to the authentic world of Sholom Aleichem and Tevye. What was Jewish life really like in the Shtetl? As the 19th century was ending, what were Jews reading, creating, and planning?

## Adult Opportunities

### Once Upon an Heirloom: Have You Got Something Special in your Home?

Do you have a cherished heirloom that makes an appearance in your household once or twice or maybe even several times a year? It may be a Kiddush cup used at family weddings, a prayerbook carried through the Holocaust, or a bracelet passed from grandmother to mother to daughter on the day of a Bat Mitzvah. Heirlooms tell the story of our families. Heirlooms tell the Jewish story in art, print, and handiwork.

As we anticipate Passover and rejoice in tradition, would you be willing to share your heirloom with the congregation?

On **Friday, March 13**, we invite you to bring your Jewish heirloom to services and share the story of your family treasure. Rabbi and Cantor will shape the service so that everyone will have an opportunity to learn about your heirloom.

Don't be shy. Heirlooms do not need to be fancy or expensive. Their value lies in their story.

**Just in case we run out of space, visit the Temple website ([www.sinai-temple.org](http://www.sinai-temple.org)) as soon as possible to let us know what you've got.** Sign up by February 26 so that we may prepare the appropriate setting for your special item.

*You can also contact Maggie Cohn at 565-2424 [magmag40@telecomguru.org](mailto:magmag40@telecomguru.org) OR Laura Jackson at 617-447-3537 [laura.a.jackson@gmail.com](mailto:laura.a.jackson@gmail.com).*

### Monthly Morning Service

**Wednesdays, January 7 and February 7 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. 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, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3.

### Trigger: The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence

**You are Invited to A Special Movie Viewing  
Tuesday, January 20 at 7:30 p.m.**

The Social Action Committee invites you to view and discuss a new film on gun violence.

The film itself is not violent. It rather examines the ripple effect that one shooting has on a survivor, family, community, and society. The film's story is told from the perspective of those who have been directly impacted and those who are called daily to respond to this ongoing tragedy.

### A Summer Family Trip to Israel... A Trip for First Timers

We are on our way to Israel...July 5 to 17, 2015. To learn more, contact the Rabbi today.



### The MICAH Award Dinner Honoring Richard Segool

**Saturday, February 7 at 6 p.m. At Sinai Temple**

Sinai Temple is pleased to join forces with the Pioneer Valley Project for a community dinner honoring Springfield citizens who exemplify the words of the Prophet Micah: What does the Lord require of you: to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God. Sinai is also honored to be the HOST CONGREGATION. The dinner will take place in our own building.

Our 2015 honoree will be RICHARD SEGOOL.

To attend the dinner in honor of Richard, please send a check for \$35.00 per person to Sinai at 1100 Dickinson Street, Springfield, MA 01108. Make the check payable to PVP – Pioneer Valley Project.

To make a donation in honor of Richard, please send a check for any amount payable to Sinai Temple to 1100 Dickinson Street, Springfield, MA, 01108. Richard's donations will go to Sinai's fund helping with our Somali and Iraqi family connections.

Richard is a practicing pediatrician at Pioneer Valley Pediatrics in Enfield and Longmeadow. He has been an active participant with a number of Social Action Committee projects, especially Habitat for Humanity, Mitzvah Day, the Gray House, and the Washington Street elementary school. He is currently very involved with a refugee family from Iraq. For the past 2 years he has been chairperson of the Sinai Social Action Committee.

Professionally, he is involved with many committees at Baystate Health System and Health New England HMO and strives to improve local access to high quality medical care. In the past year, he has gotten involved with Agape Global Health which is a volunteer organization providing free medical care to the people on a coastal island off Haiti. He spent ten days there in 2014 and will be returning again this Spring.

## Why I Invite Your Support of the Pioneer Valley Project

Laraine Shore-Suslowitz

Dear Sinai Temple Members:

I am writing this letter to convey my passion for the Pioneer Valley Project (PVP) and the tireless work they have done and continue to do in our community! Sinai Temple has been a paying member for the entire 18 years PVP has existed and for that I am proud and truly grateful!

Sinai has supported PVP by allowing PVP to host our annual MICAHA award dinner! My sadness is that Sinai hasn't become more involved in the work of PVP. I hope some of you reading this message will consider more active support of PVP.

I myself have been a Board member for 15 years and have passion and dedication to the work in the community through PVP. The work has included developing a job access and placement program in construction for women and communities of color, increasing home ownership through housing development in the Old Hill and Lower Liberty heights neighborhoods, improving public safety by passing an ordinance that guarantees that residents have equal language access to police and fire departments, improving parent involvement in education by implementing parent/teacher home visits in partnership with Springfield public schools!

And these projects are only the most recent of an 18 year history!

I go to Board meetings and attend actions and listening campaigns, and I am always encouraged by the diverse membership of PVP. We are the community and we come from every corner of the community. That is why I am involved! It's tough to be the solo Sinai voice and physical presence at many gatherings. I will continue to go and keep my drive for social change in our community. Please join me!!

To learn more, call me at 567-0171.

### Family Purim Arrives Early March

Wednesday, March 4 at 6 p.m.

Laughs, History, and Dinner Included

### Esther Goes Mardi Gras!!!! For Adults Only

Please Join us for an Evening of Winter Merriment with a taste of the Big Easy.

Come enjoy Jazz, Cajun cocktails, and Creole cuisine!

Saturday, March 7

7-9:30 pm at Sinai Temple

\$36.00 per person/Non Members Welcome

Checks made payable to Sinai Temple or register online

Proceeds to benefit Sinai Temple Religious School

## For a Great Summer....Eisner, Crane Lake, Six Points, & Israel!

Young people entering grades 2-12, from Reform synagogues throughout the Northeast, are now being enrolled for the coming summer programs at our regional URJ camps (Eisner Camp, Crane Lake Camp, and 6 Points Sports Academy) as well as the "NFTY in Israel" summer travel experience Eisner and Crane Lake are located in the Berkshire mountains (Eisner in Great Barrington, MA and Crane Lake in West Stockbridge, MA), and 6 Points is in Greensboro, NC. Include your child (or grandchild!) in the excitement and friendship of a Reform Jewish summer camp Give your teen the Israel experience of a lifetime!

Contact the Eisner/Crane Lake office (212-650-4130, [necamps.urjcamp.org](http://necamps.urjcamp.org)), or 6 Points Sports Academy (561-208-1650, [6points.urjcamp.org](http://6points.urjcamp.org)) to find out more about this wonderfully enjoyable summer opportunity for your child or grandchild Contact Rabbi Shapiro, Cantor Levson or Heather Sullivan for additional information.

## Science and Technology Jewish Summer Camp

### Starting its Second Summer in 2015

Registration is now open for the Reform Movement's 14th summer camp It's called

URJ 6 Points Sci-Tech Academy It will take place this July on the campus of The Governor's Academy near Boston.

URJ 6 Points Sci-Tech Academy is for campers seeking high-level science and technology experiential and fun learning in the summer. Campers will work alongside experienced instructors to design projects in activities such as robotics, video game design, environmental science, and digital media production.

"What will make our camp unique," says Greg Kellner, camp director, "is the combination of outstanding science and tech programming with Jewish learning and living in an intentional, fun and dynamic Jewish community In addition to hands-on, immersive learning in science and technology, campers will also explore their Jewish identities and their connections to the Jewish community."

There will be two-week sessions The Governor's Academy is 30 minutes north of Boston.

For more information about URJ 6 Points Sci-Tech Academy, please visit <http://www.urj6points.org/scitech> Call Annette Powers, 212-650-4154.

## 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.

## The Men and Women of Sinai

Our major announcement is above...our name. It is great to recognize what we have known all along, that our programs benefit both the men and women of Sinai Temple and, indeed, our entire community. With thanks to the Maniscalco family and the Sinai Temple office, it is hoped that you received a dues notice and letter. I sincerely appreciate all who have already responded. Meanwhile, my apologies to Richard Alpert whom I inadvertently omitted from the MWOS Board. I also want to clarify that, when I stated membership dues are \$50 per couple, adult individuals are most welcome (also for \$50, the same as last year).

On Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, we paused to reflect upon the 2,400 whose lives were lost, that Sunday, December 7th 73 years ago, which initiated the U.S. entrance into WWII. We honored our veterans at the MWOS breakfast and again through Sy Shotland's presentation, which encompassed many of his WWII experiences and the honoring of CT's WWII veterans through their chartered trip to Washington's War Memorials. Our thanks to Sy on his presentation, to Buff in handling the electronics, to Joe Berger and Nelson Stone for their cooking, and to all the others who helped to make the morning a success. We look forward to preparing the chicken, glazed carrots, and the salads for our Hanukkah celebration on December 19th.

This will be the first of a number of notices of the change in time of our February 1st breakfast. It will begin at 9:00, not 9:30, because it will kick off Sinai Temple's Green Day celebration sponsored jointly by our Temple's Social Action Committee and MWOS. Rabbi Saul Perlmutter of UMass Hillel will be our keynote speaker (~9:30 to 10:30) on the Environment, Jewish Values, and Real Life Applications. Elsewhere in this bulletin, the booths and other events of the Day will be more extensively described.

Many thanks again to all who have joined the Men and Women of Sinai and to all who have pitched in to help us in any way. If you have not joined, we would love to have you do so and assist in our support of the Sinai community. Jack Henrie

*President, MWOS*

## Message from Heather Sullivan

*Director of Education*

I would have to say that my favorite activity at Sinai Temple Religious School is the welcoming back of students each first day of school. There is so much excitement, catching up and there is a real thrill in the air (not to mention it is usually a beautiful day for school photos!). Second, only to that magical day, is the SPARK: HeartAction program that I facilitate for our 8th grade students and a few fantastic senior members of our congregation. The program runs for 8 weeks each fall semester. Students and adult read from Judaic texts and learn from, and about, each other with their weekly Tuesday night meetings. This program really helps to bridge the generational gap that plagues these two very diverse age groups. I would like to share with you the feedback that I recently got from one student about the SPARK experience:

*I really enjoyed getting to know all of the adults. Before the program started, I thought it was going to be boring and that I would have nothing in common with these older people. I was wrong. From the very first night, I felt comfortable and couldn't believe how much I felt the same way about so many topics as the adults did. Each week, I not only felt like I was talking to my grandma/pa but I began to feel like I was meeting with a friend.*

*One of the topics that we focused on was wisdom. I felt like I was offered a lot of wisdom when I met with the adults. I think wisdom is something that comes with time. We talked about how I might have some experience with things but wisdom grows from many experiences and a gained knowledge from those experiences.*

*I was happy to be a part of such a neat and worthwhile experience and I will never forget the kind and funny adults, who made us kids feel so comfortable. They really listened to us, as much as we listened to them.*

A big thank you to: Adele Citron, Edith Rubin, George Dickstein, Joan Rosenbaum, Phyllis Goldblatt, Saul Finestone, Rich Alpert, Ruth Brenner, & Zel Lavin. You make this program such a sweet success and it would not be what it is without you!

L'Shalom,  
Heather

---

## For High School and College students A Summer Program Making Money; The Susan M. Broh Tikkun Olam Award

This summer Sinai Temple invites students to get involved with tikkun olam – repairing the world. We would like to underwrite students who choose to spend their summer in a project that enriches the world. Interested students can get involved by thinking of a project or an area of interest related to tikkun olam/fixing the world. Applications should be in the mail soon. Call the office if you haven't received one. Those who are selected will be

paid a salary of approximately \$7.50 an hour (College students living outside the Pioneer Valley are welcome to find a project wherever they'll be spending the summer.)

Why is the Temple offering this program? We began this program to honor the memory of Susan M. Broh, a Temple member who died in September 2001. Susan began her career of "tikkun olam" by dedicating two years of her life to the Peace Corps. After that, Susan devoted her professional and volunteer life to making this world a better place. She believed passionately in the Jewish obligation of pursuing justice. Susan's friends and family have created this program to honor her memory and to encourage other Jews to strive for holiness as Jews must always do.

# Feeling Community: Being Part of Sinai Temple

**At its November meeting, members of the Board of Trustees responded to the question – What being part of Sinai means to me. Here are their thoughts and feelings about the meaning of Sinai.**

*Being a part of Sinai means that I have a large number of friends, a community, and a place where I share a part of my life. My family is very active at Sinai so it is almost seamless – my family, my friends, my Judaism. I am thankful for Sinai Temple. **Jeff Cossin***

*This is the place where I can be Jewishly at home, to explore my Jewish roots, hear words of wisdom from our rich heritage, have time set aside for reflection and appreciation, to join with members of my extended Jewish family in times of sorrow and joy and everydayness – and make the opportunity for each of those moments to be better, and to be present to others in their family in (hopefully) positive ways.*

**Steve Kessler**

*Participating in the Sinai community is my opportunity to actively participate in Am Yisrael, to nurture myself and to be a link in the chain of the Jewish people from Sinai into the future. In the words of the early Zionist settlers, to build and to be built or developed. On an immediate profound level, Sinai also offers the opportunity to know a community of friends who share this most valued aspect of my identity, being a Jew.*

**Laurie Weinberg**

*SIX WORDS - Jewish Identity, community, family, prayer, God.*

**Alan Goldsmith**

*Public expression of the importance in my life of being Jewish.*

**Rich Alpert**

*First, a sense of connection to Reform Judaism. Second, that I am doing my part to ensure Reform Judaism lives on and has an important place within Judaism. Third, a place where I can go to be with friends and often people whom I don't necessarily know well, but I know they would be there for me and I for them. Connection to people. Fourth, being part of a legacy of Jewish life. A sense of continuity grandparents to parents to me and hopefully future generations. Fifth, Sinai is a place that facilitates my ability to do acts of kindness – tikkun olam.*

**Ronnie Leavitt**

*It's my Jewish identity! A place where I don't have to explain my identity, which is the Jewish part of me. I am accepted without qualification or without questions where I can express my Jewishness. The vehicles of my expression that exist here are through prayer at services and Torah Study - Saturday mornings. It's also here that I support Reform Judaism in Israel.*

**Carol Tivoli**

*It means being a part of something I haven't been a part of before. That something is many things: Community of peers and friends, post military, Friendship with people I didn't work with, Sharing of knowledge both self taught and experienced, A sense of social belonging. **Jody Maple***

*Having a connection to tradition and antiquity. Being part of a unique community that is not found in other aspects of my life. The opportunity to serve on committees of interest – “to give back”. Opportunities to learn. Refuge, if needed. A place to celebrate or commemorate life cycle events. A stable place in a frenzied world ... a constant. **Esta Sobey***

*Being part of Sinai is important to me because I am part of something larger than myself and my family. It is a way to involve myself with other Jewish families who, like mine, come from different Jewish (or non-Jewish) backgrounds and experiences. In sharing our commonalities and differences, Sinai provides a setting for me to grow in my personal and spiritual life. Sinai is an anchor and a safe space in which I can explore my relationship to Judaism. **Bernie Cohen***

*Sinai is the place where I explore who I am, my strength and weakness. Torah Study challenges me intellectually. Men and Women of Sinai connects me socially and services support me spiritually. I come here to learn and grow, not only as a Jew, but as a person trying to find my way through life.*

**Buff Maniscalco**

*A sense of being a part of a joyful, caring and compassionate community. Friendships. Ability to be a part of our musical harmony and traditions. Ability to participate in acts of social justice, to have a sense of Tikkun Olam, healing the world starting with those around us. **Jack Henrie***

*A place to feel spiritual. A place to feel connected to Judaism. A place to learn about myself. Sharing services, Holidays with people I have a connection with. A place to learn about Torah. Continuing and strengthening my legacy as a Jew.*

**Sarah Shtrax**

*My parents were part of Sinai when the Temple was built. Some of the blackboards in the classes upstairs were built by my dad. I have fond memories of kid's services and services as a teen. I want to ensure that the energy that got Sinai going thrives and persists. **Larry Bernstein***

*Being a part of Sinai means being part of a community in which I can take comfort and be comfortable. It means being able to expose myself and my family to Jewish life that is not constraining or rigid. It means being a part of a larger community that is welcoming and friendly and makes me want to be the same way. **Robin Fein-Krevolin***

*Being a part of Sinai is like being home. It is a warm, enveloping feeling, being with others who share a history, culture and tradition. It is knowledge, learning and life cycles. It is caring, friendships and social justice. I am proud of our Tikkun Olam and the Rabbi's involvement in the greater Springfield community bringing honor to our Temple. It is a comfort when we are sick and when we experience loss. **Susanne Simon***

# VOTE ARZA

## REPRESENTING REFORM JUDAISM IN THE 2015 WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION ELECTIONS

From January 15<sup>th</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – the World Zionist Organization will hold open voting for all Jews to help shape its agenda, including issues affecting both Diaspora Jews and the state of affairs in Israel. The World Zionist Organization is the highest legislative body of the World Zionist Organization, which provides a forum for all the world's Jews to come together and deliberate about critical issues.

**Every Jew has the opportunity to vote** for the platform that most aligns with their personal views.

### A VOTE FOR ARZA-REPRESENTING REFORM JUDAISM IS A VOTE FOR:

#### WOMEN'S RIGHTS & GENDER EQUALITY

We strive to create a world in which gender equality is the rule – where men and women can pray, work and live together as equals deserving of the same respect and honor.

#### RELIGIOUS EQUALITY

We envision and work for a society in which all denominations are treated fairly and with respect – and all of us are seen as Jews, regardless of our level of observance.

#### REGIONAL SECURITY

Lasting peace, security and stability for Israel, the Palestinians and the Middle East region is possible and although the road may be long, we are building the path to peace every day.

### WHAT CAN I DO?

#### PLEDGE TO VOTE

Visit [ReformJews4Israel.org](http://ReformJews4Israel.org) or fill out a pledge card and pledge to vote for ARZA-Representing Reform. By pledging to vote ARZA in the 2015 World Zionist Organization, you're taking the first step towards voting, and you'll receive updates about the elections to pass on to your family and friends.

#### SPREAD THE WORD

Spreading the word about the 2015 World Zionist Organization elections will be critical to our success. Share this flyer, a pledge card, or the website [ReformJews4Israel.org](http://ReformJews4Israel.org) with your family and friends so they can learn more, take the pledge, and help shape tomorrow's Israel today.

Voting occurs from January 15<sup>th</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015. A processing fee is \$10.00 USD (\$5.00 USD for anyone under 30) and offsets the cost of conducting the election. Requirements to register to vote: 1. You must be Jewish, 2. You must be 18 years or older by June 30, 2015, 3. You must be a resident of the United States.

**FILL OUT A PLEDGE CARD OR VISIT [REFORMJEWS4ISRAEL.ORG](http://REFORMJEWS4ISRAEL.ORG) TODAY.**





# Sinai Temple Bulletin

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SPRINGFIELD, MA  
PERMIT NO.537

1100 Dickinson Street  
Springfield, MA 01108  
(413) 736-3619  
www.sinai-temple.org

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## **Living with Loss: A Bereavement Support Group**

Jewish Family Service in collaboration with the Jewish Community Leaders of Springfield is in the process of putting together a Bereavement Support Group entitled **Living with Loss**.

This group will be designed for relatives who have suffered the loss of a loved one.

The goal of the group will be to provide support around feelings of loneliness, loss and isolation, coping with anger and other unexpected emotions, learning how to live with the grief process, and how to move forward.

The group is scheduled to meet for an hour and a half each week.

Time, date and location to be determined based on community need.

For more information, you can contact either Rabbi Shapiro or Cantor Levson.  
To register your interest and the times that would work for you, please call:

Donna Gordon  
*Clinical Director, Jewish Family Service*  
455-1936- Extension 103