

Sinai Temple

BULLETIN



For Your Consideration

Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro

Several months back, I called a congregant whose child had recently returned from a rehab setting. We were talking about the young man's path into substance abuse and the difficult road he was following to regain his life. One activity involved attending Alcoholics Anonymous as many times a week as possible.

"But, there's one problem with AA," said the mother. "It feels so Christian."

She was right. Years ago I volunteered as a rabbi in a rehab setting that focused on AA. The challenge for the Jewish patients there was to follow the path of recovery and somehow redefine it for themselves in Jewish terms.

As a volunteer, I did not become an expert, but I did learn a few things. First and most obviously, our Jewish community is not immune from families in trouble. There is substance abuse amongst us. (As we learned at our recent December 11 brunch, there is most definitely domestic violence.) Although Jews may still have less family dysfunction than the general population, as the years go by we are catching up. It's important to admit that out loud.

The second thing I learned was that there are Jewish resources available. I referred our congregant to an organization called JACS - Jewish Alcoholics, Chemically Dependent Persons, and Significant Others. (For domestic abuse, you can call me at Sinai or a confidential Jewish hotline..1-888-883-2323..or Jewish Family Service..737-2601.)

I also drew her attention to a book by Rabbi Kerry Olitzky called, *Twelve Steps to Recovery: a personal guide to turning from alcoholism & other addictions*. (For domestic abuse, the book to consult is *Sins of Omission* by Carol Goodman Kaufman.)

I think it's also worth noting the heading you can find on the JACS website: *Whoever saves a single life saves the world*.

Perhaps simply admitting that not all our families are perfect is the way to begin saving our families. We all do our best. Sometimes we produce the "perfect" family. More often, luck and circumstance result in the "good" family; sometimes we can't even manage that. It's in times of crisis when we most need each other. Please call me or reach out to someone else you trust. None of us needs to be alone.

Saturday Torah Study

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

75th Anniversary Brunch

Sunday, January 8
Opening Brunch
For 75th Anniversary
9 to 10:30 a.m.

Lucky Ticket Fundraiser

Saturday, January 21
Lucky Ticket Extravaganza
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

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

FAMILY SERVICE at 7:00 p.m.
January 6
Songs, prayers, and a terrific story.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE at 8:00 p.m.
January 20
Music with a special style.

KABBALAT SHABBAT at 6:00 p.m.
January 13
Veggies and snacks at 5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY NIGHT CLASSIC at 8:00 p.m.
January 27
Shabbat Shalom with Gates of Prayer

President's Message by Steve Weiss

I attended the URJ Biennial in Houston in late November, and all I can say is that the experience was unforgettable! While I feel I could fill up the entire Bulletin with my experiences and observations, I would like to share just a few of my thoughts with you.

- As I'm sure many of you already know, the theme for the Biennial was outreach, to both non-affiliated Jews and non-Jews in our community and our congregation. Rabbi Eric Yoffie's sermon on Saturday was inspirational. You can read or listen to his remarks on the URJ website, and I urge you to do so. During the course of his sermon, he referred to the non-Jews in our congregations, who decide to raise their children as Jews, as "heroes", whom we need to recognize more completely.

- The URJ debated and approved a number of resolutions, the most important of which was on the war in Iraq. Our movement overwhelmingly resolved to "Call upon the Bush Administration immediately to provide more transparency regarding all aspects of the war and a clear exit strategy to the American public with specific goals for troop withdrawal" after the completion of Iraq's elections. The URJ also endorsed a resolution criticizing the politicization of science in the United States, resolving to "demand that public officials and appointees to governmental and advisory bodies respect the integrity of the scientific process and not manipulate scientific data and evidence to achieve political or ideological objectives".

- The week was tremendously helpful to me in my capacity as Temple president. I attended workshops on membership and retention issues, and brought back some publications that will help Sinai as we explore ways to enhance our retention of members and attract new congregants. Equally importantly, I had countless conversations with members of congregations as close as our neighbors in South Windsor and Northampton and as far away as Abilene, Kalispell, Montana, and New Orleans. I had lunch with the president of the Metairie, Louisiana congregation to whom we've send aid after Katrina. They are grateful for the assistance they have received; every prayer book was destroyed in the flooding, and their synagogue is only partly habitable. I came back grateful for what we have and full of ideas to strengthen Sinai.

- On a more personal level, the week was tremendously enriching, spiritually and intellectually. There's something indescribable about praying in unison with 5000 Reform Jews; the song and the prayer totally enveloped me, and I was able to totally lose myself in the moment. The Shabbat Torah study sessions were fascinating, and charged my "intellectual batteries".

For those of us you attended previous biennials and told me what I was missing, I humbly accept your "I told you so's". For those who have never attended, I hope you can do so; you won't regret it.

P.S. Don't forget: Next year's URJ regional conference is right here in Springfield!

Mission Statement Update

The Mission Statement Committee is hard at work creating a first draft, which will most likely be available for review by the time you read this article. We held ten focus groups during the fall, involving 181 congregants in the discussion process. Happily, the great response from our membership allowed us to meet our goals of hearing from at least 180 voices, and acquiring a huge volume of information, opinions, and feelings from congregants which will guide us in writing the mission statement.

At this writing, the first draft of the mission statement has gone to the Executive Committee, and will go to the Board of Directors for discussion in December or January. After this first review, we will make revisions and publicize the first draft in February. The draft will be sent by email to all 181 congregants who attended focus groups, and it will be available for everyone on the website and in the bulletin. We hope to hear responses and reactions from many of you - those who attended focus groups as well as those who did not. Our goal is to develop a mission statement that is both descriptive and prescriptive - one that clearly communicates the distinguishing values and qualities of Sinai Temple and guides us into our next 75 years. Please continue to add your voices to the process.



The new Sinai Temple Cookbook is available for sale

The cookbook is dedicated to Lenore Cohn, a member of Sinai who loved cooking and baking. The price of the cookbook is \$12.00. Stop into the temple office or gift shop to purchase one today. It makes a perfect gift!

All proceeds from the sale of the cookbooks will be used to support Sinai Temple

1931-2006

Sinai Temple is

75 Years Old!

You Are Invited
To An Opening
Celebration:

Sunday,
January 8, 2006
9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Springfield Then & Now:
How The Community &
How We Have Changed



Featured Guest
& Speaker
Cantor
Morton Shames

Storyteller and master of memory, Morton Shames arrived in Springfield in 1955. The Cantor will "remember" with us how Springfield looked when he arrived and how our community has come to be what it is today.

Brunch will
be served by Brotherhood.

Just a Few Words from Karen Mernoff

Happy New Year! 2006 is guaranteed to be a fun-filled year at Sinai Temple.

January is the month for our huge Religious School FundraiserThe Lucky Ticket Extravaganza.....on January 21st...this is an event not to be missed. Tickets can be purchased at the Temple Office. This event is for all ages and is open to Sinai members and non-members too! You can find a link to our flyer describing this event linked to the Home Page of the Sinai Temple web site at <http://www.sinai-temple.org>. The available prizes are in a box on this page of the Bulletin.

Another fun event will be coming soon....our second annual Family Game Night on February 11th. This event was such a success last year that the Caring Community just had to bring it back again. Please Save the Date!

There are also new sessions of Club Alef-Bet, Club Gimel-Dalet and Club Hey Vav scheduled for January and February.

With all these events being scheduled, please remember to call me to say that you are attending. We always love to see as many members as possible at an event but we want to make certain that we have enough materials and food for all ...so don't forget to call me at 736-3619 ext. 13. If I am not in or the temple office is closed, feel free to leave a message.

Club Gimel-Dalet

Sinai Temple's
Social/Recreational Program for
3rd and 4th Graders

Next Session
Sunday, Feb. 5th
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m

Watch your mail for details!

Attention 5th and 6th graders

Club Hey Vav

Friday, Feb 10th

Pizza Party

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Inflatable Fun and Games too
This event takes place right after
the 6:00 Kabbalat Service
Watch your mail for details!

From Sheila Shear, Director of Education

Shalom Chaverim!

We are so blessed to have people like Donna Comstock, who care about our Religious School so much, that she, along with Angel, and a small group of volunteers, continue to organize and work the Annual Rummage Sale. The Religious School reaps the rewards of 80% of the profits from this sale. Donna, you have our sincere gratitude for all you do to make this annual event a huge success. Thanks also to those who volunteered their time to help out and demonstrate their support for our religious school children. Thanks also to Joan Miller for her efforts in organizing the bake sale and Robin Dunn McDonagh who is currently organizing the Paper Whites sale that will also support our Religious School. These funds go directly to support the children's learning. Coming up on January 21st is our Lucky Ticket Extravaganza. Thanks to Joanne Brunell and her committee, it should be a wonderful evening.

In our religious school, Kindergarten has been studying Shabbat, first grade has been learning about God, second grade students have traveled to Israel, third grade continues their Torah Study, fourth grade is learning how life in ancient Israel compares with their lives today, fifth grade has finished their study of life cycle and has begun their joint learning with the fifth grade class at Bet Ze'ev Elementary School in Afula, Israel, 6th grade is learning about being a Jew during the Inquisition, and 7th graders spent the entire first term studying the Holocaust and had the privilege of visiting the Hatikvah Holocaust Center and meeting some local survivors. It has been a busy time.

Our Hebrew School students continue to examine and learn the daily, Shabbat and special prayers that are found in our Siddur, and our Simchat Sheva students have engaged in many wonderful activities leading them to a deeper understanding to Torah.

I look forward to seeing our third and fourth grade students and parents at our special Shabbat program on January 28th.

Club Alef-Bet

Sinai Temple's
Social/Recreational Program for
1st and 2nd Graders

Next Session
Sunday, Jan. 22nd
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m

Watch your mail for details!

**Sinai Temple
Invites You to Join a
Trip to Israel
July 16 - 28, 2006**

Tour Includes:

Roundtrip airfare from New York to Tel Aviv
2 nights at the Dan Panorama Hotel in Tel Aviv
2 nights at the Kibbutz Nof Ginnosar Guest House in the Galilee
6 nights at the Inbal Hotel in Jerusalem
Breakfast daily & five dinners
Transfers, entrance fees, and portorage
Roundtrip bus transportation from Springfield to airport

Adult participants on the trip are eligible for a \$1,000 travel grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. (This will reduce the adult cost of the trip from \$3,249 to \$2,249.) Teenagers (starting at age 13) can receive a grant of 50% of the cost of our trip.

A daily itinerary with details on registration is available on the Sinai Website (www.sinai-temple.org).

.....
• I want to join Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro and Sinai Temple on their tour to Israel!
• I will visit the Sinai website to locate the registration form to be sent to Ayelet Tours, 19 Aviation Rd. Albany, NY 12205
• (800) 237-1517 * (518) 783-6001 * FAX (518) 783-6003 * E-mail: ayelet@ayelet.com
.....

**Chicken Soup for the Jewish Mind:
Torah Study
Saturdays at 9 a.m.**

We are studying the Torah Portion of the week, proceeding through the Torah in order. Everyone at any level of knowledge is welcome. The group meets in the Oneg Shabbat Room from 9 to 10 a.m. Bagels and coffee are part of the deal. During the Rabbi's sabbatical, guest teachers as well our own Sinai congregants are leading each weekly session.

**Monthly Morning Service
Wednesday, January 4
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, February 1, March 1, April 5, May 3, and June 7.

**The MICAH Award Dinner
Honoring Saul Finestone
Saturday, January 28 at 6 p.m
Cathedral High School,
260 Surrey Road, Springfield**

Sinai Temple is very 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.*

Our 2006 honoree will be SAUL FINESTONE.

To attend the dinner in honor of Saul, please send a check for \$30.00 per person to Pioneer Valley Project, 235 Eastern Avenue, Springfield, MA 01109. Make the check payable to PVP.

To make a donation in honor of Saul, please send a check for any amount payable to Sinai Temple to 1100 Dickinson Street, Springfield, MA, 01108.

Saul is a long-time member of Sinai Temple. He has served on our Social Action Committee for many years and taken the lead with our Alden Baptist Church exchanges. He also co-chairs our 75th Anniversary Committee social action program. Saul is also Vice-Chair of Longmeadow's Democratic Town Committee. He chairs the Hampden County Chapter of Massachusetts Citizens Against the Death Penalty. He is past president of the Longmeadow Council on Aging, the Western MA Association of Approved Basketball Officials, and the State Board of Massachusetts Basketball Referees. Saul facilitates three senior adult discussion groups and is a volunteer for Springfield schools. He retired from being a Social Studies teacher in Connecticut in 1988. Saul is married to Claire. They have three children and two grandchildren

My Journey to Judaism

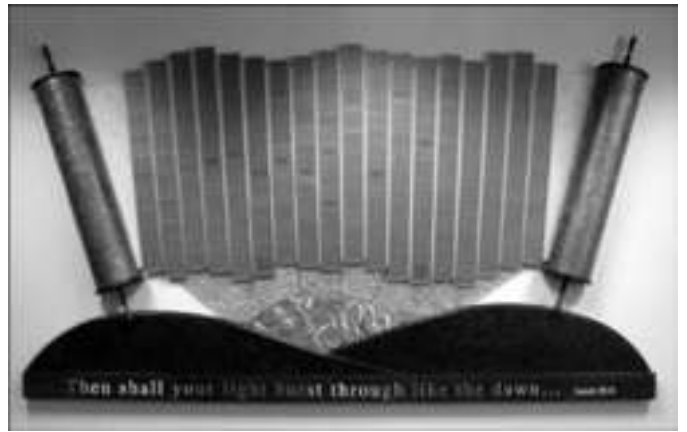
(Kathleen Del Monte recently converted to Judaism. She wrote the following words in order to capture her feelings about becoming a Jew.)

From the first evening I walked into Sinai, I experienced a feeling of close family and community ties with one another and God. It was an exhilarating experience for me to not only see but to feel the joy emanating from those who had come to worship on this Friday evening. It was a friendly place. The sanctuary was bright and cheerful — no sadness here! It was a different type of service than I was used to. There was so much emphasis on being grateful to God for all that he has given us, and while this all seems like a simple concept, here we were actually thanking God for the trees, the sun, the sky, and the flowers. I left services that night wanting to know and learn more about this 4,000 year old Jewish religion.

I started buying any books I could find on Jewish family and life, holidays and traditions, and cookbooks, of course, a hobby I have held for many years.

Also, I decided it would be helpful if I could follow along in services, so I began Hebrew lessons at the JCC. The first several weeks, I kept asking myself what I was doing there. Learning Hebrew was definitely a challenge, and I got frustrated; but my teacher was very patient with me. With her encouragement, I continued my lessons. Learning to read Hebrew became very important to me. By that time, I knew it was going to be my link to pursuing a Jewish life. Each time I attended services, I could see my reading improving as the blessings were chanted. If I couldn't keep up, at least I knew where we were on the page. After leaving services, I found myself humming the chants. I would listen to these blessings on CD on my drive into work every day, and I would chant along with them. I was succeeding, and I was proud of my accomplishments. By this time, I had started meeting with the Rabbi and going to Torah Study. I wanted all that my Jewish family and friends had — this connection to God. Though I knew who I was and had grown up in a loving family, had been taught to love God and family, and the importance of being a kind, caring and compassionate person, I felt I could bring these virtues with me into my new religion and my Jewish family. I wasn't losing anything; I was adding to my life. I am ever grateful for the support of my family, friends, teachers, Rabbi and Cantor for encouraging me through this journey — of course, my journey has only just begun.

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.

At Stake: Millions of Dollars for Reform Judaism in Israel and a Strong Voice for our Movement

ARZA is leading the campaign to elect Reform delegates to the 2006 World Zionist Congress (WZC), often called "the Parliament of the Jewish people." Registration for the election runs through January 15, 2006. Information about voting for the Reform slate and the opportunity to register can be found at Sinai's website: www.sinai-temple.org. When you get to Sinai's home page, please follow the prompts so that you can easily register to vote for the World Zionist Congress.

The Mitzvah Habit: Help us feed the hungry

You can't miss it! Every time you enter the Temple, you see the box for THE OPEN PANTRY on the floor outside the Temple office. Sometimes the box is full; sometimes it's fairly empty. But every week the Open Pantry truck comes by to scoop up whatever the box contains and take it back to the Open Pantry.

You can help keep the box full. Whenever you go shopping, buy an extra non-perishable food item. Then whenever you come to the Temple, bring along your food item and drop it in the box. If you're coming to a meeting or services, if you've got business in the office, if your child is coming to Religious School, start a new MITZVAH HABIT. Bring some food along and place it in the box for the OPEN PANTRY.

Brotherhood Message

It is Brotherhood's great honor to host the kick off breakfast for the yearlong Sinai 75th anniversary celebration. This will take place on Sunday, January 8, 2005 at 9:00AM. The speaker will be Morton Shames. He will be speaking about the last 75 years here in Springfield. I am really looking forward to this. It promises to be extremely interesting! Of course, there will be breakfast. Brotherhood members will be admitted free. If you haven't paid your Brotherhood dues for the year yet, you can do so at the door. All others will be charged the usual \$5.00.

Our second membership letter has gone out to those of you that have not yet paid your Brotherhood dues. If you have paid your dues, thank you! You are helping to expand Brotherhood and Sinai programming and activities throughout the year. If you haven't received them yet, you should be receiving your membership cards shortly. So far our membership is still less than 15%. What is the big hold up? We aren't asking for much, just \$40.00. Most of you spend that every morning at Starbucks.

Our next Breakfasts will be March 19th and April 30th. The March breakfast should be very interesting. It is a "men only" event, so guys, this is your chance to take the reins. Make the morning a little easier for your wives. Drop your kids off for Sunday school and then join us for a great breakfast. There will be no charge for this one, folks.

The Rabbi Herman Snyder Awards Dinner is approaching. Please send in your ballot and nominate the individual or couple that you feel deserves the recognition that this prestigious award will give them. All you have to do is complete the insert that is here in this issue of the Bulletin and slide it under the office door.

Dan Cohn
dcohn@sinaibrotherhood.org

Judaica Shop Corner

Chanukah has come and gone and we were so busy! Many thanks to all the energetic volunteers who helped us, and to the many folks who were so very happy with our gift selections.

Now we have returned to our regular hours of Thursdays from 2 pm to 4:30 pm, and Sunday mornings from 10 am to 1 pm.

For the upcoming B'nai Mitzvah, there is a lovely selection of tallisim and many appropriate gifts.

Thais Fischel 786-9577
Bobbie Cossin 565-9970

Attention All Kids 2 to 102

Sinai Temple's Caring Community Presents ...

Family Game Night

Saturday, February 11, 2006

5:00 p.m. — 8 p.m.

Looking for great family fun?

Come be a part of Family Game Night!

Don't worry about dinner - we can order a pizza for you while you are having fun* or if you prefer, you can bring your own dinner.

Drinks and dessert will be provided.

We will wrap up the evening with a short Havdalah Service.

RSVP to Temple Office 736-3619 by February 3rd

*If you want a pizza, you must pay in advance.

SINAI TEMPLE BAND

STILL AVAILABLE

POSITIONS FOR NEW MEMBERS

If you are a Sinai Temple member and are a musician of any age with AT LEAST 3 years current playing experience, with good music reading and/or improvisational skills please contact Cantor Mekler (736-3619 ext. 14) to inquire about joining our Sinai Temple Band. She will be delighted to fill you in.

If this sounds like you, PLEASE FILL IN THE ATTACHED FORM AND RETURN IT TO CANTOR MEKLER AT THE TEMPLE.

Name of Performer: _____

Age of Performer: (youth, teen, adult, senior)

What instrument(s) do you play? _____

Are you currently playing in a musical ensemble? _____

How long have you played the Instrument? _____

On a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being best) how would you rate your music reading skills? _____

How would you rate your overall performance abilities - Excellent, Good, Average, Fair? _____

Detach Guideline and return to Sinai Temple,

ATTENTION: Cantor Mekler

Showcase Shabbat



January 1950

Our current Temple in its beginning stages. How far we have come. Think of all the happenings that have graced its interior and have continued to make us aptly called "the friendly congregation."



Wanted:

Estate quality furniture and accessories

Sinai Temple is embarking on an exciting new fundraising event and we need your help to make it a success. If you or anyone you know has something great that they just can't use anymore, please let us know.

We will even pick up your tax deductible donation!!

Some suggested items include:

Furniture in good condition*Area rugs*Framed Art Collectibles* Silver*China*Antique/Vintage toys
Patio furniture*Clocks*Lamps*small appliances*Jewelry
Judaic items*Dinnerware*Newer televisions
Electronics*Exercise Equipment

*sorry but we are unable to take mattresses, VCRs, computers, typewriters (except antiques), baby items and clothing. Large appliances may be listed via a photo ad on a sell board only, not on site

**To donate items
Or for more information please
contact**

Sue Chanin 567-9185 or Mark Stone 567-0392



Showcase Shabbat: A great inaugural success!!

Sinai Temple's first Showcase Shabbat took place on Friday night, December 2nd with over 150 participants. Each chose one of four venues before dinner, including a family-friendly service led by Cantor Mekler, a December dilemma discussion led by Rabbi Shapiro, a yoga class led by Lynne Greene, and a discussion about attending services facilitated by Jim Gordon. The Oneg Shabbat room welcomed everyone with dimmed lights, Shabbat candles, wine, and home made challot. A sumptuous dinner followed. After dinner, Steve Katz and Bernie Cohen faced off in the Great Latke/Hamantaschen debate, moderated by Belle Rita Novak while children's activities were led by Matt Bertuzzi and Lynn Solomon.

The Ritual Committee wants to thank Susan Goldman and Rachel Sampson for catering our dinner. Other members of the committee included: Beth Chafetz, Linda Kay, and Rickie Leiter. Talented bakers of challot as well as desserts include: Zel Lavin, Sue Chanim, Margot Roesberg, Carol Daigle, Steve Weiss, Michael Solon, Bonnie Engelman, Adele Citron, Lynn Perlmutter, Sandy Suib-Dutcher, Helene Segool, Bernie Cohen, Marci Jackson, Lee Grayboff, Cheryl O'Connor, Gloria Wald, Marlene Gordon, Judy Cohen, and Belle Rita Novak.

We are grateful to the family of the late Arline and Arthur Rogers, who helped underwrite this program.

Mazal Tov to...

Judy and Stuart Warshaw on the birth of their granddaughter, Hannah Elizabeth Warshaw. Proud parents are Cynthia and Stephen Warshaw.

Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro on having one of his Torah Commentaries published in Living Torah, a new book on Torah interpretation from the Union for Reform Judaism.

Ben Jacobs on his engagement to Stacy Sofia. Proud parents are Ann and Paul Jacobs.

Lee Green on his engagement to Leslie Goldman. Lee is the son of Jerry and Beth Green.

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. Your confidential request should go to Rabbi Shapiro no later than March 15.

Celia Gibson, age 12, recently wrote this description of her summer at Eisner:

There is a special place in the world that mean a lot to me. It is called Camp Eisner in Great Barrington, MA. This past summer was my second year there and it was even better than the year before. The entire experience is so special every time I go. From my friends, who I only get to see for one month and maybe once or twice during the year, to song session in the Beit Am, to Maccabia Break, to Banquet. I love it all and it is a very special place for me.

My friends from camp are the greatest friends in the world. They know when something is wrong and they always know exactly what to do to cheer you up. Song session is one of the most fun times at camp. Every Friday after Shabbat dinner every one runs to the Beit Am, or what most people call an auditorium, and we sing songs and jump around and have a good time, and after that we go outside and dance. Maccabia, or color war, is always the last week of camp. The night that it starts is always a surprise. All the units are having their evening program and all of a sudden the oldest unit somehow enters the building that you are in yelling "Maccabia! Maccabia!" and t6ben you go to a designated spot and there is a huge show of fireworks or acrobats or flame jugglers and then you find out your teams. It is all really exciting. Banquet is on the last night of camp. Every one dresses up and goes down to the dining hall for dinner. Every year there is a theme. This past year, it was Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and every one had a great time.

All these things and many more make up camp and make it a special place for me.

The Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Needlework

The Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Needlework was organized in 1977 by a group of professional Jewish needle artists who met in New York. These women shared a common interest in Jewish tradition and the desire to create new and beautiful ceremonial objects for the home and synagogue.

Meetings are a rich blend of needlework, culture, tradition, and religious practices as they relate to Judaic textiles. Members study the history of Judaic ritual objects in order to embellish their work with authentic symbols and folk art motifs.

For information or to join, please contact Barbara Sanofsky, Pioneer Valley Chapter, 350 Williams Street, Longmeadow, MA 01106.



Knitting for Sinai and Alden Baptist

Starting Wednesday, January 11

Grab your knitting needles and join us as we meet with Alden Baptist Church in a joint project. We will be making "healing shawls" for those in our community who are coping with breast cancer. The purpose of the shawls is to restore one's spirit and to snuggle in during cancer treatments, hospital visits or at home. Breast cancer is a disease that knows no ethnic, socioeconomic, age, gender or cultural boundaries. The shawls will be donated to anyone in need.

We will meet on Wednesday, January 11th at 6:30 at Alden Baptist Church (649 State Street) and alternate knitting sessions between Alden and Sinai. Patterns for a shawl will be available. You will need knitting needles (sz 13 is recommended) and 3 skeins of yarn, although some yarn has been donated for our use. Please call Sandy Suib-Dutcher at 567-3283 for more information.

Sinai Temple BULLETIN

1100 Dickinson Street
Springfield, MA 01108
(413) 736-3619
<http://www.sinai-temple.org>

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LUCKY TICKET EXTRAVAGANZA

An Evening of Good Fortune & Magic



Saturday, January 21, 2006 at Sinai Temple
Doors open at 6:30 p.m. ~ Drawings begin at 8:00 p.m.

Come join us for an exciting evening that gives you a chance to win hundreds of prizes that range in value from \$5.00 to over \$200.00! Bring the entire family. Friends and strangers are welcome too! **This event is open to everyone, Sinai members and non-members.**

The cost of admission is \$5.00 in advance, and \$7.00 at the door, per person (Children under 5 are free). **Admission passes will include 30 tickets (25 white/5 green).** Grand prize tickets are sold separately. All proceeds will benefit the Sinai Temple Religious School.