

Sinai Temple

BULLETIN



Celebrating Israel @ 60

For Your Consideration

Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro

Last month a congregant asked me the following question, "I'm Jewish. My spouse is not Jewish. Can we be buried together at Sinai Temple's cemetery?"

It was a very focused question, and I think it's important to share it with you because, in between the lines, I suspect the congregant may have been asking an even bigger question. *"If one of us is Jewish and the other isn't, how do we belong in the Sinai community altogether?"*

I hope most of you reading this message already know the answer to this question. Our congregation is home to all.

It's true that I don't ask non-Jews to recite the Hebrew blessing at the Torah when their child becomes a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, but I think any non-Jewish member of Sinai who has ever participated in his/her child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah knows how significantly and respectfully he or she was involved. Each was invited to join his/her Jewish spouse when the Torah blessing was said and the non-Jewish parent was invited at that very precious moment to share a personal message for the child.

As I said last year during Yom Kippur, we are all in this together. In fact, our community is enriched and strengthened because so many of the non-Jews who belong to Sinai give us their heart and soul. We are grateful.

Beyond that, however, I do think there are questions and issues about forming a Jewish home which arise uniquely where there is a mixed marriage. For that reason, I am very pleased to let you know that our Temple member, Peter Zimmer (a former Vice President of Sinai and a skilled group facilitator) is going to offer a three session discussion group for mixed married couples. The details are described inside this Bulletin. The agenda will be wide open. Peter will be there to listen and help shape a meaningful discussion.

Sinai is open to everyone as we build for the Jewish future. (And, by the way, the answer is YES. Jews and non-Jewish spouses may be buried in our cemetery. It's a natural part of how we understand building a loving community.)

Saturday Torah Story

Every week
Torah Study
At 9 a.m. with bagels!

Saturday Morning Services

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

January 19 – Talya Chait
Daughter of Neva Frumkin & Yossi Chait

January 26 – Hannah Skiest
Daughter of Suzette Damboise & Daniel Skiest

Family Game Night

Family Game Night
Saturday, January 26
Starting at 5 p.m.

New Member Brunch

New Member Brunch
Sunday, January 27
Starting at 9 a.m.

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

FAMILY SERVICE at 7:00 p.m.
January 4
Songs, prayers, and a terrific story.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE at 8:00 p.m.
January 18
Music with a special style.

KABBALAT SHABBAT at 6:00 p.m.
January 11
We pray in the round in the Auditorium. Veggies and snacks at 5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY NIGHT CLASSIC at 8:00 p.m.
January 25
Shabbat Shalom with Gates of Prayer.

From Stacey Osowski, Community Coordinator

First, I wanted to thank everyone who has participated in our Scrip Program. We will continue this great program, and we are still selling Big Y gift cards. We also purchased \$500 worth of Macy's cards. With the Macy's cards we get back 10% of every dollar we sell. Please see Karen and/or Robin in the temple office to buy these gift cards as well as the Big Y cards.

We had a series of Mah Jongg afternoon and evenings. Some women are still looking to play. If you are interested in playing and don't have anyone to play with, call me at 736-3619x13. I would love to play "matchmaker" and find someone for you to play with. When you call, leave me the times and days you are interested in playing. Once I get people who are interested in the same times and days, I'll "match" you up.

Also, I want to mention that we still have some 2007 Mah Jongg cards available. You can purchase one at the temple office for \$6.50. Please Karen Sprenkle.

Get ready for Family Fun Nite on January 26. A separate flier will be sent with more information.

Welcome to Sinai!

We're so glad you decided to join Sinai Temple in the past month.

Paul Kuc

SAVE THE DATE

New Member Welcoming Brunch!

Sunday, January 27, 2008

Sinai Temple, 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

More Information to Follow

The Sinai Temple Bulletin is published monthly by Sinai Temple, Springfield, Massachusetts. This is Issue Number 5 for the year 2007-2008.

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

A Message from Cantor Emily Sleeper Mekler

As I write this, it is just the beginning of December and there is a dusting of snow on the ground, but I want you to begin thinking about this coming spring and the wonderful opportunities at Sinai Temple for your participation and enjoyment.

First, Sinai Temple's first ever Women's Weekend. It is time we had a Women's Seder at Sinai and I thought we should combine it with some other intriguing events into one fabulous weekend to bring Sinai women together.

Here's the schedule of events:

- Thursday evening, April 3rd the Women's Seder, which is open to Sinai women only
- Saturday, April 5th, Professor Judith Plaskow of Manhattan College, will speak at Torah Study and then a special session for women only (open to the community), on the New Women's Torah Commentary, published by the Women of Reform Judaism and the Union of Reform Judaism Press;
- Sunday, April 6th an afternoon trip to Mayyim Hayyim, the mikveh in Newton, MA.

There will be more information on the flyer inside this bulletin and in future bulletins.

Then on Friday evening, May 9th we will have a celebration at Sinai Temple of Israel's 60th anniversary with a congregational multigenerational BAND and CHORUS. This is an exciting opportunity to dust off your instrument, have your children practice extra hard and/or warm up your voice in the shower or the car so you'll be ready to volunteer with your fellow Sinai members of ALL generations. I put together a big band at Sinai Temple for Israel's 50th and now, 10 years later, it's time to do it, again. We'll perform some selections from the vast wealth of music of our beloved Israel. You will definitely want to be a part of this great event at Sinai Temple to honor her special anniversary year!

Stay tuned for more information about these exciting Sinai events!

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.

Cinema Sinai Continues

Focus on Israel

Sunday, January 27

7:00 p.m.

OR

Tuesday, January 29

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.

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.

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

Thursday, January 24

Wednesday, February 27

Tuesday, April 10

7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Have you got questions? Have you learned strategies you might want to share with others? Would you simply like to talk about the setting in which a Jew and non-Jew are married and members of Sinai Temple. Peter Zimmer, (a former Vice President of Sinai and a skilled group facilitator) will lead a three session discussion group for Sinai this winter. The group will meet at Sinai. Please RSVP to the Temple office so that we know you are coming. For questions, you can contact Peter through the Temple office.

Announcing...6 for 60!

2 Essays + 2 Poems + 2 Short Stories That Gave us the State of Israel

Tuesdays, March 4, 11, & 18

7:30 to 9 p.m.

How and why did the State of Israel become the way it is today? What happened at the beginning of modern Zionism? What may happen in the coming years?

Rabbi Shapiro will lead us through an exploration of these important questions as we read SIX classic texts about Israel. This will be a mini-course for those with lots of interest but not so much time to read. It will be melt-in-your-mouth learning on Israel's 60th anniversary. Please speak to the Rabbi so he can prepare the feast!

Moslem-Jewish Dialogue

Three Evenings of Conversation

Between members of Sinai Temple And the Springfield Moslem community Coming in March

What do modern Moslems believe? What do they think about us, the world, politics, and meaning? If you would like to share a conversation with Moslems in our area and share some of your own feelings about Judaism with them, this program is for you. Please call the Rabbi or let him know you'd like to learn more. markdov@sinai-temple.org

Chicken Soup for the Jewish Mind: Torah Study

Saturdays at 9 a.m.

We are returning to 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.

Monthly Morning Service

Wednesday, January 2

at 7:30 a.m.

A chance to start your day with a different focus. We meet on the bimah for a service of 20 minutes. Breakfast follows. Those who need to leave for the rest of the day are free no later than 8:15 a.m.

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

**First Thursdays (mostly):
Lunch and Learn
Thursday, January 3
12:00 – 1:15 p.m.**

Bring your lunch to the Oneg Shabbat room for a discussion of contemporary Jewish concern with Rabbi Shapiro. Future discussions are February 7, March 6, April 3, May 1, and June 5.

**Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah
Are You Interested in Starting a New
Class For A New Year?
Orientation Session – Saturday, May 3
at 8 a.m.**

Dear Congregants:

As many of you know, it has been my privilege to work with four groups of men and women who have chosen to become Bar/Bat Mitzvah as adults. I think each group of learners will tell you we had a wonderful time together. We were not attempting to become Harvard graduates. We were only attempting to grow and explore ourselves as Jews. If you are at all interested in helping form another Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah class that could start meeting this coming May & June, please contact me. Our first informal get-to-know-one-another session will take place Saturday, May 3 in the Oneg Shabbat room. No commitments. Call me and we can see if it's right for you. Rabbi Shapiro

**Happy 60th Birthday Israel –
Did you know that:**

- 1.2 million Arab-Israelis live in Israel
- Arabic is an official language in Israel on par with Hebrew
- Size: Israel is 1/5 of 1 percent of the Arab world
- Israel built 6 universities, 20 community colleges, and 166 clinics for Palestinians between 1967 and 1995
- 19 out of 21 Arab nations have never recognized Israel's right to exist
- Israel is the only country in the Middle East in which there is legal protection for gays from discrimination and hate crimes
- Israel is the only country in the Middle East that outlaws "honor killings" of women
- Israel recognizes 15 official religions

**You're Invited to Israel
We've got dates for
SINAI'S NEXT TRIP TO ISRAEL
JUNE 28 – JULY 10, 2009**

Dear Friends -

Let's go to Israel! After our great success in the summer of 2007, I am eager to share the adventure with a new group of Sinai travelers during the summer of 2009. We are going to see old sites as well as very new sites. There will be museums as well as active days of kayaking on the Jordan River and exploring the Golan Heights by jeep.

Financial details, including travel subsidy information, will soon be available. A detailed itinerary will be on our website in the next few months. www.sinai-temple.org

Subsidies and scholarships will be available for both adults and children.

Shalom,

Rabbi Mark Shapiro

Our Tour will include:

- Roundtrip airfare from New York to Tel Aviv
- 2 nights in Tel Aviv, 2 nights 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

**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.

Judaica Gift Shop

We thank the many volunteers who helped us throughout the Chanukah season. Children's Shopping Day was especially wonderful with all the youngsters picking and choosing their gifts.

Now Think Spring! We look forward to all the B'nai Mitzvah weddings and the many happy events coming up. Your Judaica Shop has appropriate gifts for all!

Thais Fischel 786-9577 | Bobbie Cossin 565-9970



Sinai Temple Women's Weekend

April 3 – 6, 2008

Please join us for all (or part of) this very special, multi-generational weekend for women from Bat Mitzvah age and up. Female guests of Sinai women are welcome. Space is limited so respond early.

WOMEN'S SEDER

Thursday, April 3, 6:30 p.m.

We're preparing a special women's Haggadah just for this occasion. This is a wonderful opportunity for all women of Sinai to join together in celebration. Potluck sign ups will include options for those who don't want to cook as well as opportunities for those who love to cook to strut their stuff!
(Suggested assignments to follow) **price: \$10.00 per person**

SPECIAL SHABBAT MORNING WITH DR. JUDITH PLASKOW: Saturday, April 5

Dr. Plaskow is a Manhattan College Professor of Religious Studies. She has lectured widely on feminist theology and is the co-founder of *The Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* and the Past President of the American Academy of Religion. Dr. Plaskow will present the new Women's Torah Commentary, recently published by the Union for Reform Judaism, for review.

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

10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. – For Women Only

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

FIELD TRIP TO MAYYIM HAYYIM, NEWTON MA

Sunday, April 6, 12:00 a.m.

Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters Community Mikveh and Education Center opened its doors on May 14, 2004 as a unique center for Jewish spirituality and learning. Mayyim Hayyim reclaims the ancient tradition of mikveh and reinvents the rituals of immersion to serve the needs of a diverse 21st century Jewish community. We'll tour this beautiful facility for an enriching afternoon of discovery and learning. We leave Sinai at 12:00 a.m. and return around 5:30 p.m.

price: \$10.00 per person (includes transportation)

This event has been generously underwritten by Robyn Newhouse.

Please RSVP by March 10.

Make checks payable to Sinai Temple and mail to:
Women's Weekend c/o Sinai Temple, 1100 Dickinson Street, Springfield, MA 01108

Name: _____ Phone number _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

___ Women's Seder: No. in party ___ X \$10.00 = \$ _____

___ Special Shabbat Morning: (10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.) (NO CHARGE)

___ Field Trip to Mayyim Hayyim: No. in party ___ X \$10.00 = \$ _____

Total \$ _____

___ I want to come but I can't drive to Temple and need a ride.

News from the Caring Community

The Caring Community has been busy this past year. We held two Senior lunches on Sukkot and Passover. We love getting everybody together for these great meals. We delivered kugels to many members and continue to send out cards of sympathy. In 2008, we will be sending out birthday and anniversary cards to those members who are celebrating special milestones.

Don't forget, Rabbi has lunch every first Thursday of the month from 12:00 - 1:15. He would love for you to join him.

The Caring Community is here for you, please don't hesitate to call the temple office. If you want to participate in this committee, please call and leave a message for Stacey Osowski at extension 13.

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.

Do You Know Someone In Need of Care at Home?

Spectrum Home Health and Hospice Care, a program of Jewish Geriatric Services based in Longmeadow, is dedicated to providing adults of all faiths with professional rehabilitation, healthcare and hospice services, delivered in the privacy and comfort of their own home. These include skilled nursing services, physical, occupational and speech-language therapies, home health aides, home monitoring of vital signs through a Telemedicine program, medical social services, hospice, and spiritual care. JGS Family Care and House Calls provides physician and nurse practitioner home visits to frail elderly and homebound patients who are unable to come to a physician. To make an appointment or to learn more about Jewish Geriatric Services, please call (413) 567-6211 or visit www.jewishgeriatric.org.

Quilting, knitting, crocheting.....you choose! Tuesday, January 8 at 6 p.m.

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 Merhoff, 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.

A Message from the SPFTY Advisor Andy Chaet

*This note I'll keep short and sweet.
This message I will keep brief.
SPFTY is truly taking form.
We hope that this month we can help you stay warm.*

Come see us on
Sunday Nights in' 08.

The first Sunday of each month will be a general membership/business meeting that will begin PROMPTLY at 5:00 and conclude NO later than 6:30 p.m.

The third Sunday of each month will be a Pizza and social meeting. These will go from 5:00 -7:00 p.m. This will allow for socializing and discussions on any Teen related topic. Feel free to bring a dessert.

As always, any thoughts or suggestions feel free to contact me.

Shalom,
Andy Chaet
aechaet@yahoo.com 413-262-8297

Mazal Tov to:

Rebecca Lesser, a sophomore at NYU Tisch School for the Arts. Rebecca has become involved, through the Bronfman Center for Jewish Life at NYU with a program run by the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC). This program links NYU students with local Holocaust survivors in a program of home visits. The ICHEIC Service Corps (as it is known) provides services to those affected by the Holocaust and educational opportunities for the students to learn about the Holocaust.

Michael Katz on becoming chairperson of this year's United Way Campaign.

Charlie Reiter on being named Raveis Vice President of Western Massachusetts.

Gary and Connie Rappaport on the engagement of their son, Jeffrey, to Michelle Katz.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE SINAI TEMPLE CONGREGATION FROM: THE BOARD OF YOUR BROTHERHOOD

Dan Cohn has resigned as our President, and luckily, Scott Sherman was ready to step into the breach and become our new President. Please read on and stay tuned for news from Your Brotherhood.

Note: In a little less than three short years we'll celebrate the 70th Anniversary of Brotherhood at Sinai!

The men of Sinai's Brotherhood have accomplished a lot over the years. We want to do more and need your help to do more, but not the same way as we have been doing things. Please do not stop reading here. Keep going.

We need more people to be active, even occasionally, so that these great things that we want to do can be done. Right now about 10% of Sinai men are members and far fewer than that number are active. This needs to change. With your help, it shall change. We're a fun group, join us.

Due to a scheduling mix-up, we have had no activities on the temple calendar until this month. During this time we have realized that to keep doing what we have been doing while expecting different results (more members and more member participation) does not make a lot of sense.

So we have started by deciding what our Brotherhood should be at Sinai. To that end, we have recently voted on a new mission statement:

Brotherhood will provide a place for the men of Sinai Temple to have joint experiences as men, and, as an organization, look to be of service to the congregational community.

We are going to be looking at programming that fits the needs of the younger men of today as well as our older stalwarts. We will be soliciting ideas from within Sinai and from Brotherhoods at other Reform synagogues. It will take a lot of good ideas to craft a new program for us, but if the work is done right, we know the result will be worth it. Honestly, it is also a very exciting project for us to engage in.

The current calendar of events, as of this writing are:

January 13, 2008, Breakfast and speaker / February 10, 2008 Breakfast and speaker. (Other dates are in flux as of this writing.) We will email Brotherhood members with specific programming updates. Watch our column in the Sinai Bulletin as well.

The annual Snyder Award Dinner will still be held in the Spring of 2008. Please continue to send in nominations for this prestigious award. Thank you to those who have already submitted. This very special evening has always been a well attended event.

We ask for your help and comments. You may write a letter to Brotherhood c/o Sinai

Temple or e-mail Scott Sherman at president@sinaibrotherhood.org

Most of all, we need all the men of Sinai to get behind the mission of our Brotherhood. Please let your voice be heard.

Support your Sinai Temple Brotherhood!

For further reading –

A Christian Partner's Perspective on Raising a Jewish Family By Jim Keen

Our Reform movement is constantly offering new ways for us to understand the realities of mixed marriage. Two books have recently been published by the URJ (Union for Reform Judaism). A Christian Partner's Perspective on Raising a Jewish Family is written by Jim Keen who grew up as a Christian and maintains his Christian identity even though he is very committed to raising his children in a Jewish family. Another book published by the URJ is entitled Mingled Roots: A Guide for Grandparents of Interfaith Children. Both of these books are in our Temple library along with other books on intermarriage and Jewish parenting.

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

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

Israel Art Show – A Great Success

The Israeli Art show is finished but the benefits of the event will last a long time. Many people in the Springfield Jewish community purchased art to beautify their homes. Sinai Temple is proud to have hosted this wonderful event that not only financially benefited the Temple but also provided a wonderful occasion for congregants to gather at Temple, to share some delicious food, catch up with news of friends and view some wonderful Israeli art.

This event could not have possible without the energetic committee that met for over six months planning the show. Members of the committee were: Pamela Kalman, Linda Kay, Ann Jacobs, Diane Friedberg, Judy Schweiger, Jodie Foster, and Susan Goldman. We also want to give special thanks to the Rabbi, Karen, Robin, Donna, and Angel. We were also blessed with many people who volunteered their time to be docents, cashiers, bartenders, and a group of SPFTY high school students who served the food at the Gala.

We also want to thank our special sponsors who supported this show with their contributions. Through their efforts and all the people that purchased art we were able to raise over \$11, 000 for the Temple.

A huge thanks to everyone as well as the Springfield Jewish Community for their support.

Mel and Beth Chafetz, Co-Chairs



Artist's Circle

Kevin & Donna Armata	Gerald & Leah Gottlieb
Jim & Nancy Aronson	Elliot & Janice Greenberg
Joel & Betsy Bertuzzi	Barry & Margaret Slitzky
Mel & Beth Chafetz	Eric & Elizabeth Stahl
Bradley & Jodie Foster	Steve Weiss & Carol Daigle
Michael & Sally Ginsburg	Ruth Weiss
Marc & Sue Goldman	

Patrons

Geoffrey & Jayne Berman	Bob & Linda Kay
Gregory & Sharyn Breslau	Jeff & Rickie Leiter
Richard & Jane Engleman	Robyn Newhouse
Margaret Epstein	Jeff & Fran Ochs
William & Marjorie Feinberg	Dave & Carol Roberts
Dick & Betsy Gaberman	Daryl & Lynn Schwartz
Bruce Wintman & Jonna Gaberman	Richard & Helene Segool
David & Roberta Gang	Mark & Marsha Shapiro
Jim & Marlene Gordon	Steve & Patti Sussman
Harold Grinspoon & Diane Troderman	David and Carol Tivoli
Frank & Bea Hano	Howard & Carlin Trietsch
Paul & Ann Jacobs	Bruce & Barbara Winer
David & David & Pam Kalman	

Friends

Laura Blake	Emily Mekler & Marc Cohen
Adele Citron	Rina Miller
Michael & Judy Cohen	Jason & Betsy Port
Jeff & Robin Cossin	Gayle Rediker
George Dickstein	Joan Rosenbaum
Richard & Diane Friedberg	Alan & Rachel Sampson
Judith Plotkin Goldberg	Frances Scheckter
Lee Grayboff	Marc & Judy Schweiger
Joan Katz	Richard & Roberta Steingart
Zel Lavin	Ruth Webber
Martin & Joan Lesser	Laurie Weinberg

Our Sincere Apologies

The December Temple bulletin contained a magnificent Chanukah picture taken during Chanukah 2006. We erred in attributing the photograph. It was taken by our Temple member, Seth Kaye. We are so grateful to Seth for his talent and devotion!

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.

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.

A Message from Director of Education Sheila Shear

Shalom Chaverim,

As I sit here amidst ice and cold I am looking forward to the spring and the lovely blooms outside my office window. While I am dreaming of spring 2008, I am also thinking about what a wonderful month December, 2007 was. Our Chanukah family program was a great success and what fun the grades 7/8 and 9/10 joint Chanukah programs were. Some of the events coming up this month are our monthly Family Service on January 8, the special Shabbat PACT for 3rd and 4th graders and their parents, and the 7th grade PACT on January 20. Parents of 9th graders should be watching for information on the 9th grade trip to the Religious Action Center in Washington D.C., April 4-7, and parents of 6th graders should be watching for information regarding the 6th grade Retreat at Camp Eisner, April 11-13.

New this month, Charyne Cordeiro, who has been teaching 3rd grade on Thursdays will now also be teaching 3rd grade on Tuesdays, and I would like to welcome Melissa Mollen to our teaching staff. Melissa holds a Bachelors Degree from Brandeis University in Political Science and is currently attending WNEC Law School. Melissa is teaching Hebrew on Sunday mornings and will be preparing our 9th graders for their trip to the Religious Action Center in Washington D.C.

Sometime over this month I will finally have had time to process my time at the URJ Biennial in San Diego and am anxious to share some of my incredible experiences with you in the February bulletin. Stay warm.
L'Hitraot



Making Apple Pies - On Sunday, November 18, Religious School students from Grade 5 - 7 took time to make apple pies for Thanksgiving. The pies were delivered to Open Pantry.

Holocaust Remembrance

Save the Date - January 27, 1:00 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center

Hatikavah Holocaust Education Center is hosting a special musical program produced and presented by the Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies at Keene State College. The audience will be taken on a musical journey through the words and memories of survivors and bystanders. The performers will be the Apple Hill Chamber Players and the Keene State College Chamber Singers.

There is no fee to attend.

Mishkan T'filah – As We Consider A New Reform Prayer Book

Although Sinai has not yet made a decision to use the new Reform Prayer Book, many people have wondered about the background to the new siddur. Here are some Q&A's prepared by Jeff Ochs and Robyn Newhouse of our Ritual Committee.

Why change from the familiar Gates of Prayer that was published in the 1970's?

A national survey found that many congregations, including ours, had begun creating their own prayer books which they often used in place of Gates of Prayer. The survey asked what Reform worshippers throughout the United States sought from a new prayer book. They learned that people wanted transliteration, translation, and more gender-neutral language. The rabbis and editors also wanted a prayer book that might help re-engage Jews in meaningful worship. It would offer a balance of creativity and beauty, theology and purpose.

How is Mishkan T'filah organized?

Almost all Hebrew prayers appear alongside a transliteration and are followed by an exact translation – not an interpretation – of the prayer. People wanted this. A lot of those attending services cannot read Hebrew. And many of those who can read the Hebrew words may not understand what all of the words mean.

Mishkan T'filah also addresses questions people may have about the prayers they are reading. At the bottom of the page are historical references, interpretations and explanations of traditional body movements associated with a particular prayer.

For most prayers the Hebrew translation and transliteration appear on the right hand page. On the facing (left hand) page are alternative readings to the translation. The rabbi or prayer leader is able to choose the interpretation or alternative reading that responds to the needs of the community at the time of the service. The alternative readings express varied perceptions of God and perceptions of what God expects from us. Some are poetic or philosophical. Others talk about social justice or the challenges of daily life. They reflect the diversity of the worshippers even within congregations such as ours.

Of course, some prayers such as the Sh'ma and the Torah service don't have alternatives. The Sh'ma is written across two pages as a visual expression of its importance. It even has two letters larger than the others. This is the way it appears in the Torah. This attention to the visual presentation of the service is evident throughout.

Are there changes in the prayers – in Hebrew and translations?

Yes. Some prayers in Mishkan T'filah have different wording than those in Gates of Prayer. The Amidah includes references to our foremothers, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah. The V'Ahavta offers a paragraph that was omitted from previous Reform prayer books. Translations provide gender neutral descriptions of God.

Why not just keep using our own custom prayer books?

The CCAR felt it was important to have some consistency within the Reform movement and saw the prayer book as the gateway to Jewish identity. They wanted a book that would encourage individualism, but define the community in which that individualism is possible. Rabbi Shapiro and the Ritual Committee are also thinking that someone coming from another Reform synagogue ought to be able to see the same prayer book used in his or her home congregation.



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Sinai Temple fundraising night at the

MAJESTIC THEATER

A special performance has been scheduled to benefit Sinai Temple.
Over 60% of the ticket price will be donated back to Sinai.

This performance is underwritten by the Kadis Family as a memorial to Betty F. Kadis.

Bring your friends and come and have FUN! Everyone is welcome. Here are some of your fellow congregants who have already purchased their tickets. Please join them! Book now!

Rabbi Mark & Marsha Shapiro
Diane and Richard Friedberg
Berenice and Cecil Michelow
Roberta Hillenberg-Gang and David Gang
Cantor Emily Mekler
Joan Rosenbaum
Seymour Frankel
Marilyn and Robert Peskin
Ann & Paul Jacobs
Rina Miller and Joe Hershon
Carol and Dave Tivoli
Roberta & Sidney Ziff

Robert Kadis and guest
Carol and Dave Roberts and guests
Beth and Mel Chafetz
Richard and Helene Segool
Ilene and Michael Conklin and guests
Helen and Sy Weiner
Ellen and Myron Follett
Maria and Glenn Markenson and guests
Laraine and Paul Shore-Suslowitz
Linda and Robert Kay
Susan Shepherd and David Morse
Carlin and Howard Trietsch

Sunday, February 10, 2008 at 7:00pm

Guys On Ice - The Ice Fishing Musical

Book & Lyrics by Fred Alley • Music by James Kaplan

Created for Wisconsin's American Folklore Theatre and the Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Guys on Ice is a hilarious take on the art of waiting for something to happen. Long time pals Marvin and Lloyd spend their day sitting inside Marvin's shanty in the middle of the frozen lake, fishing through a hole in the ice, waiting for the perch to bite. They are also nervously anticipating the arrival of the host of a local television fishing show to come and interview them – and possibly make them famous! They keep warm by drinking beer, discussing women and the Green Bay Packers, swapping bad jokes, and voicing their thoughts in songs like "De Wishing Hole," "Ode To A Snowmobile Suit" and "Fish Is De Miracle Food."

As critics and audiences across the country have been saying, GUYS ON ICE is a show "sure to charm your wool socks off!"

All Reserved Seat Tickets: \$22 & \$25

(Please note that these ticket prices are not inflated for this fundraiser – they are the same as for other performances. If you need transportation, please call the Temple office.)

Please call the Majestic Theater Box Office directly to purchase reserved seat tickets for this Sinai Temple performance.

Majestic Theater Box Office (413) 747-7797
131 Elm Street • West Springfield, MA



At the Shabbat Service on November 30, a large Sinai Temple congregation celebrated Shabbat in a service which made use of the original "Friday Night Live" music written by Craig Taubman. Cantor Emily Sleeper Mekler was the producer and Music Director.

GAME NIGHT

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26
5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

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Recently purchased Scroll of Life Plaques:

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with love, Barbara and Bruce Winer and Family.

In Memory of Sylvia Stein
Beloved Mother & Grandmother
with love, Barbara and Bruce Winer and Family.

In Memory of
Franny Hochman
from Ruth Webber.

In Memory of
Our Dear Niece
Merrilee Posner by
Renee Gold & Nesi Schulman

In Memory of
Amy Reiner
Beloved Friend. (from Barbara Wesniak)

How do I Observe the Yahrzeit of Someone I Loved?

Light a 24-hour memorial candle at your home in the evening that begins the Yahrzeit (anniversary of death). Attend Shabbat services on the Friday evening closest to the Yahrzeit date. At services, you can join the congregation and recite the Kaddish.

You should receive a personalized reminder of your loved one's yahrzeit from the Temple office several weeks in advance of the date every year.

If you have any questions about yahrzeit, please speak to Rabbi Shapiro.

Thank for Rosh Hashanah Shoes

Dear Sinai Temple,

Thank you so much for organizing the drive to collect new shoes for children served by The Gray House. This special donation of 100 pairs of brand new shoes was heartwarming.

The children were so excited to see what their sneakers looked like and the parents were so appreciative of this gift.

Please extend my gratitude to all those at Sinai Temple who made this generous contribution possible.

With gratitude and peaceful wishes,

Dena Calvanese
The Gray House, Inc
22 Sheldon Street
Springfield, MA 01107

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 November 14, 2007 and up until December 5, 2007:

Patricia Strauss, sister of Ed Wallace.

Richard Hausmann, husband of Erna Hausmann.

Frances Goodman, mother of Larry Goodman.

The Kitty and Jay Berger Endowment Fund

Jay and Kitty were asked by Zel Lavin to consider establishing an endowment fund. They thought that it would accomplish 3 things important to them;

1. It would immediately bring some funds to the Temple.
2. It would give them a format to make donations in their name for various events.
3. It would provide a fund for others to donate to Sinai and to help build the endowment.

Over the years it has done exactly what they had hoped, and they encourage others to set up their own endowment fund also.

When asked when they joined Sinai, they joke and say "shortly after the Civil War." Actually they joined a day or two after returning from their honeymoon in 1954.

Kitty's family belonged to Temple Beth El, and Jay came from an Orthodox background. However, they were both very fond of Rabbi Snyder and his wife Adele, and asked for their blessing at their wedding even though they were married by the rabbi from Beth El.

As their family grew, each child went to religious school and Hebrew school at Sinai and were bar and bat mitzvahed and confirmed at Sinai.

Kitty spent many years working with the youth groups and the sisterhood, as well as the music committee, singing in the choir for many years. Jay was on the board as an officer as well as establishing and running the library for many years.

Having this endowment fund is a natural extension for them as Sinai has played an important part in their family's life.

Sinai Temple

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