

Sinai Temple

BULLETIN



Sinai Temple's 75th Anniversary

For Your Consideration

Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro

We had a wonderful time at Sinai's Big Splash back in May. It was the perfect event. Lots of people participated in the JCC pool: young and old, with children and without children. We had tremendous fun. Plus our congregation's "swimathon" raised over \$3,000 to be given to Springfield's Park and Recreation Department to provide swimming lessons for needy kids this summer.

This is the way we should be celebrating our 75th anniversary. We should be applauding ourselves while also giving back to the community that surrounds us. That is why we have also contributed substantial funds for the creation of a playscape at Washington School in Springfield. We can't fully celebrate until we've done at least part of our share in reaching out to the broken parts of Springfield.

And now comes June. Two major events with a different tone take place this month. This time we are celebrating and remembering and reminiscing.

On June 6, I am so pleased to know that we will be honoring families who have been connected to Sinai for 50 years or more. Each family will be able to write a letter into the Torah scroll that is being refurbished by our sofer/scribe. From the thousands of photos we have in our archives, we'll also see a slide show that gathers together some of our most beautiful visual memories. We will also be able to ratify our new Mission Statement, which I think describes our aspirations as a congregation magnificently.

Then comes June 16 when we will honor our Temple's past presidents. This too will be an evening rich with memories and stories. We will thank some of the congregants who have assumed major responsibility over the years to be sure that we can be here at the age of 75.

We are doing very well as we turn 75. Our Scholar in Residence at the beginning of May even underscored for us how vibrant we are. From learning to remembering to tikkun olam, we are on the right path. I hope to see you for the celebrations this month of June.

Saturday Services

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

June 3 – Joshua Friedberg
Son of Diane and Richard Friedberg

June 10 – Alex Pascal
Son of Renee Prince and Peter Pascal

June 24 – Sarah Brooks
Daughter of Lois and Glen Brooks

Yiddish Special

An evening of Yiddish songs and Yiddish warmth with singer, storyteller, Mark Levy
Friday, June 23

Tanglewood Shabbat

Friday, July 7 and July 14

6:00
Candles and Kiddush
Outdoor picnic

6:45
Outdoor Shabbat service

7:15
Music program

8:00
Dessert

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

FAMILY SERVICE at 7:00 p.m.

June 2

With a story and ice cream too!

KABBALAT SHABBAT at 6:00 p.m.

June 9

Veggies & drink at 5:30 followed by the sweetest hour in 01108.

75th ANNIVERSARY INSTALLATION at 8:00 p.m.

June 16

Congressman Richard Neal plus Mayor Charles Ryan will be part of this service honoring our past presidents and installing this year's new leadership.

YIDDISH SPECIAL at 8:00 p.m.

June 23

Yiddish songs and Yiddish warmth with singer, storyteller, Mark Levy. Plus the aufruf of Carolyn Clini and Jason Schwartz.

FRIDAY NIGHT CLASSIC at 8:00 p.m.

June 30

Shabbat Shalom

SOMETHING BRAND NEW!

SOMETHING WELCOMING!

Changes in dues

Changes for the High Holiday tickets

Changes in Religious School tuition

1. *If you are between the ages of 18 and 30....*

MEMBERSHIP IS FREE with all of its BENEFITS
Including High Holiday Tickets

2. *If you are between the ages of 31 and 35....*

MEMBERSHIP fees are much lower

3. *For everyone who is a member....*

HIGH HOLIDAY TICKETS for your extended family are free

4. *For Sinai parents with children entering Kindergarten this September....*

TUITION is FREE

5. *For people who aren't members who have children entering Kindergarten this September... a chance to try out Sinai and....TUITION is FREE*

SPREAD THE NEWS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Call the Temple office for more information 736-3619

Or Email Jeff Cossin PHOhead@aol.com

The Sinai Temple Bulletin is published monthly by Sinai Temple, Springfield, Massachusetts. This is Issue Number 10 for the year 2005-2006.

Mark Dov Shapiro.....Rabbi
Emily Sleeper Mekler.....Cantor, Music Director

Officers

Steve Weiss.....President
Roberta Hillenberg-Gang.....Vice President
Elliot Greenberg.....Vice President
Rina Miller.....Vice President
Dave Roberts.....Treasurer
Bobi Steingart.....Financial Secretary
Ann Jacobs.....Recording Secretary
Mike Bader.....Membership Chair
Dave Roberts.....Cemetery Chair
Dan Cohn.....Brotherhood

Judaica Shop Corner

For the summer months, we will be available for all your needs. There will not be regular hours until the fall, but just give us a call and we will be there.

Many thanks to all who have supported the Shop during the past year helping to make it another successful one. Also, a big THANK YOU to all our wonderful dedicated volunteers.

Happy vacationing to all.

Thais Fischel 786-9577

Bobbie Cossin 565-9970

1931-2006

Were You Married
at Sinai?

Have you celebrated
a Bar/Bat Mitzvah
or another
life-cycle event
at Sinai?

Has your soul
been touched
at Sinai?

Have you lived
a part of your life
at Sinai?

Celebrating
75 Years!

You are invited ...

75th Annual Meeting,
Tuesday, June 6th
at 7:30 p.m.

- Honor families who have been connected to Sinai 50 years or more
- Elect Temple Officers and Board
- Accept our new Mission Statement
- Watch a slide show highlighting the last 75 years
 - Enjoy Sinai memories from three temple members
- Write a letter in our Torah scroll under the supervision of our sofer/scribe

Special Shabbat Service,
Friday, June 16th
at 8:00 p.m.

- Participate in Shabbat worship service
 - Install Temple Officer and Board
 - Honor Sinai's past presidents
- Welcome special guests: Congressman Richard Neal & Mayor Charles Ryan

A Report on the Big Splash

What a fun time we had at the JCC pool on May 7th for the BIG SPLASH, a Sinai 75th anniversary social action committee event! Thirteen teams swam and splashed their way to a very successful fund raising event. Over \$3400 was raised for the Springfield Parks Department to help pay for children's swim lessons! Children, teens, parents, and grandparents had a day of fun, laughter, and splashing. The competition was fierce as teams battled for overall 1st place standing. The winning "Winer Girls" team, composed of Julia, Leah, Melissa and dad Bruce, were a force to be reckoned with! Second place honors went to the "Big Drips" - Bob Cohen, Hallie Goldstein, and Mike and April Solon. A strong 3rd place finish went to the "Kalman Klan" - David, Noah and Zachary Kalman, with strongman anchor Steve Weiss. Even though the Rabbi's "Dead Sea Divers" team did not win any swimming trophies, they were certainly the big winners in the fundraising department with team member Shaina Gootzit bringing in over \$500 of pledges! Shaina's teammates, Rabbi Shapiro, Andy Chaet and Harry Kalodner, along with all of the other swimmers, congratulate Shaina on a spectacular job well-done. A big mazel tov also goes out to the "Gefilte Fish" team - Michael, Jackie, Aaron and Madeleine Neiman for the team fundraiser; their extraordinary effort raised over \$500 in pledges!



Thank you to Rabbi Shapiro for his vision, inspiration, guidance, and a sense of humor. Heartfelt appreciation goes out to Stu Greene and the JCC for making the center available for this great "fun-raiser."

Thank you to the committee for taking the idea of a swimming tzedakah project and creating a successful, fun-filled, wet event: Chair Betsy Bertuzzi, Emcee Scott Coen, Tina deMeza, Diane Friedberg, Marcia Gordenstein, Bonnie Gibson, Janice Greenberg, Pam Kalman, Howard Kalodner, Bruce Leshine, Joan Rosenbaum, and Carlin Trietsch.

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers and support staff who made phone calls, made sandwiches, and worked the pool deck during the event: Alissa Auerbach, Salena and Ernie Blake, Judy Cohen, Clair Cohen-Stelzer, Donna Comstock, Sally Dickstein, Saul Finestone, Tricia Friedman, Neva Frumkin, Michael Gordon, Beth Green, Emma Klein, Harlene and Richard Kleinman, Liz

Leshine, Karen Mernoff, Jackie Neiman, Pat Normand, Sheila Shear, Lynn Solomon, Sherry Souliere, Candee Stillerman, and Howard Trietsch.

Our hats go off to all the swimmers who participated and who raised all the money: Barry Browne, Joseph Browne, Andy Chaet, Talya Chait, Casey Coen, Bob Cohen, Jacqueline Frank, Jenna Friedberg, Bonnie Gibson, Celia Gibson, Eric Gibson, Hallie Goldstein, Shaina Gootzit, Elliot Greenberg, Kevin Greenberg, Leslie Hager, David Kalman, Noah Kalman, Zachary Kalman, Harry Kalodner, Elijah Kessler, Steven Kessler, Ronnie Leavitt, Abigail Leshine, Alesha Levenson, Sophie Levenson, Elizabeth Metsch, Sarah Metsch, David Morse, Alex Moskovitz, Eliana Moskovitz, Henry Moskovitz, Aaron Neiman, Jackie Neiman, Madeleine Neiman, Michael Neiman, Alex Novak, Belle-Rita Novak, Evan Novak, Rabbi Mark Shapiro, Abby Solomon, Dena Solomon, April Solon, Mike Solon, Rayna Trietsch, Steve Weiss, Bruce Winer, Julia Winer, Leah Winer, and Melissa Winer.



Finally, thank you to all the family, friends and congregants for their generous donations and swimming pledges!

**Adult Opportunities
Torah Study:
A Perfect Way to Start
the Weekend
June, July, and August
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!

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

**First Thursdays:
Lunch and Learn
Thursday, June 1
12:00 – 1:15 p.m.**

Bring your lunch to the Oneg Shabbat room for a discussion of contemporary Jewish concern with Rabbi Shapiro.

**HOLD THE DATE
A GRAND PARTY AND
CELEBRATION IS COMING...**

**SATURDAY EVENING
NOVEMBER 4**

Celebrating 75 years of Sinai Honoring Rabbi Shapiro on his 18th anniversary with Sinai Cocktails, champagne, desserts Featuring guest comedian/entertainer, Joel Chasnoff

SHAVUOT

**AN AMAZING SHAVUOT CONVERSATION
Erev Shavuot**

Thursday, June 1 at 7:30 p.m.

The Zohar...Mysticism...And Madonna

Rabbi Shapiro will lead a study session exploring the world of KABBALAH (Jewish mysticism.) It's more complicated and fascinating than Madonna's public conversion would suggest! Delicious food and wine will also be served.

PLUS

**Shavuot Morning
Friday morning, June 2 at 10:30 a.m.**

A beautiful morning service with Yizkor followed by lunch.

**TANGLEWOOD SHABBAT AT SINAI
Friday, July 7 and 14**

- | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| 6:00 p.m. | Candles and Kiddush
Outdoor picnic |
| 6:45 p.m. | Outdoor Shabbat service |
| 7:15 p.m. | Music program |
| 8:00 p.m. | Dessert |

Tanglewood comes to Sinai...at least in spirit...Join us "on the lawn." This is a kid-friendly event!!! Running and noise are welcome!!!

On July 7 and July 14, bring your picnic blanket (tables and chairs will be provided for those who need them). We will light candles, do kiddush and motsi, and eat together on the Temple lawn.

Following dinner, we will remain outside for services and then go indoors for TWO MUSICAL PRESENTATIONS. If it rains, we'll "picnic" in the Auditorium. Rain or shine, it will still be Sinai's "TANGLEWOOD SHABBAT!"

**Summer Services
Every Friday in July and August**

Please join us throughout the summer for services that are brief, spirited, and full of joy. On July 7 & 14, two Tanglewood Shabbat services begin the summer at 6:00 p.m.

On all other July and August Friday evenings, services take place at 7:30 p.m.

Brotherhood

This is it. The year is winding down. This year, Brotherhood served over 250 breakfasts, (Zel, thanks again for the lox), more than 1500 dinners, Countless Hamentashen and latkes, we had a cook-out and family fun day for Sukkot at the Lipton's place which, I might add, was wonderful, (thanks again, Jeff and Joanne!), presented the Snyder Award to George Dickstein (congratulations again, but you certainly deserved it!), donated \$1,000.00 to Katrina victims, gave each and every B'nai Mitzvah child (now adult) a gift, held a successful raffle, contributed to the Clergy convention, and even found time to increased our membership.

We were unsuccessful in putting together a golf tournament, but at our last meeting, Jack Henrie said that he would be more than happy to chair the committee, so if anyone is interested in helping out, please give Jack a call. (Thanks, Jack!) He is going to try to set it up for this coming autumn, but if that is too soon to get everything ready, he assures me that he can have it ready to go in the spring of 2007. Shine up those clubs, this is going to be a great time, and knowing Brotherhood, we'll probably be including dinner. I have no idea what admission to the tournament will be at this time, but I do know that *if you are a member of Brotherhood it will be reduced.* (Shameless plug.)

Have a great summer, everyone. Feel free to contact me with your ideas or thoughts, or...complaints. I look forward to doing all this and more next year!

Shalom!

Dan Cohn
Sinai Brotherhood President
dcohn@sinaibrotherhood.org



Dr. Mark Washofsky was Sinai's Scholar in Residence last month. His four presentations focused on Judaism, halacha, and bioethics. Pictured at the Sunday morning brunch (from left to right) are: David Morse, Jeff Ochs, Adele Citron, Dr. Mark Washofsky, and Sandi Lotterman.

Caring Community New

Approximately 75 seniors attended the Pass-over luncheon held on April 18th. A wonderful time was had by all. Douglas Bilodeau of Douglas Auctioneers donated his time to run the appraisal event during the luncheon. Donna and Angel prepared a delicious Passover meal. This event was sponsored by the Caring Community. Pam Kalman, the chairperson coordinated all the volunteers which included Candee Stillerman, Judy Aronson, Harriet Flier, Bea Sussman, Helen Weiner, Carolyn Mernoff, Zel Lavin, Adele Citron, Joan Rosenbaum, Shirley Hersh, Marilyn Peskin and Iggy Roberts. We do apologize if anyone's name was omitted from this list of wonderful volunteers. A special thank you goes to Linda Berger who made the beautiful centerpieces. Lucky winners from each table were even able to bring them home!



Yiddish Songs!!!

With Guest Performer
From San Francisco,
Mark Levy

Friday, June 23 at 8 p.m.

Come enjoy a bit of the old country with Yiddish songs to welcome Shabbat. Whether he's singing an old Yiddish lullaby or a new tune of his own, Mark Levy delivers a song with such feeling and conviction that audiences around the world are mesmerized. His heartfelt rendering of Jewish folk songs has earned him a reputation for outstanding programs for all ages.

Mark Levy has performed and taught in the S.F. Bay area for 25 years. He has appeared throughout the country and abroad and is a singer and lecturer who specializes in older Judaic folk music in Yiddish, Hebrew, and Ladino, Klezmer history and theory, and Jewish music history in general.

A Message from Sheila Shear, Director of Education

Shalom Chaverim,

The end of the school year was a busy one with the sixth grade service, the seventh grade Israel Café, and the video conference the fifth grade engaged in with the students in Afula, Israel, with whom they engaged in a cultural exchange. The Rikudya, with special performances by the second grade, fifth grade and Jr. Choir was a special treat.

With all of this, plans are well under way for next year. We are very excited about our new eighth and ninth grade programs as well as the implementation of a new Hebrew curriculum. If you have not yet done so, please remember the sooner you register, the better prepared we can be to give your child a full and rich experience.

I hope all of our students have a safe and happy summer and I look forward to seeing you all in September.

L'Hitraot.

Just a Few Words from Karen Mernoff

It's June! We are all busy making summer plans. For me, the month of June is the time that I get a chance to reflect on the Sinai programs that have taken place since September. Sundays were filled with Club Alef-Bet for our first and second graders and Club Gimel-Dalet for our third and fourth graders. We were very excited to welcome many new families at Bagels and Blocks. It was also great to start our new social club, Club Hey Vav for fifth and sixth graders. (Who would have predicted there would be thunderstorms in March at Ski Butter-nut?) The Lucky Ticket Extravaganza held in January was a huge success. Family Game Night in February brought us all together for a relaxing evening of fun and games. Hammantaschen baking and packing Shalach Manot boxes included so many of our members of all ages. Luncheons for the seniors rounded out the calendar. The list of programs at Sinai continues as exciting 75th anniversary activities are taking place throughout the year.

At this time, I would like to thank you for your support of all the programs. You responded to my numerous flyers and phone calls. I hope that you enjoyed all that we have to offer. As usual, I am always looking for new ideas for programs and would welcome your suggestions. Feel free to contact me at Sinai at 736-3619 ext. 13 or at dkmernoff@comcast.net.

Club Alef-Bet/Club Gimel Dalet



Michael Wald and Dylan Helmus, a 3rd grade student in the Sinai Temple Religious School perform magic at the final session of Club Alef-Bet/Gimel-Dalet.

A joint session of Club Alef- Bet/Gimel-Dalet was held on Sunday, April 30th. Michael Wald was our special “magical” guest. He did a terrific job of entertaining all of us, We even learned how to perform our own magic tricks!

Thank you, Michael ! A thank you also goes to Bari Snieder, who led all the Alef-Bet and Gimel- Dalet sessions for the past school year and last but certainly not least, thank you to our aides, Sarah Chaet, Julia Brenker, Tyler Morrisette and Emily Shotland who helped to make all the programs so extra special.

Mazal Tov to our Graduating High School Seniors

Elyssa Auerbach	Benjamin Porway
Alie Basch	Brett Reiter
Emily Berger	Kyle Robinson
Danny Chase	David Rosenthal
Rebecca Ciciretti	Megan Schlichtig
Zev Cossin	Bryan Shebar
Jonathan Gang	Brian Shotland
Matthew Grodd	Rachel Smith
Nicholas Katz	Zachary Sweeney
Daniel Kurbanov	Lee Taylor
Rebecca Lesser	Joseph Thomas
Anna Licht	Rayna Trietsch
Michael Nathan	Rachel Weiss
Scott Pascal	Michael Wenc

Please
Save the Date
For
Sinai Temple's

75th Diamond Anniversary Gala

Saturday, November 4, 2006
7:00 PM to 10:30 PM

- ◆ Begin the evening with fine conversation, wine and gourmet hors d'oeuvres.
- ◆ Laugh at the hilarious comedy of New York's Joel Chasnoff.
- ◆ Celebrate the 18th Anniversary of Rabbi Shapiro.
- ◆ Enjoy a delicious array of decadent desserts and beverages.

It will be a night to remember!

Wanted: Used Furniture and Household Items

Spring is here! It's time to start thinking about emptying your basement or maybe getting some new furniture for the house. Need someone to come and pick up your old furniture?

Sinai Temple is having a furniture sale fundraiser and is looking for donations of furniture and home accessories. They will provide free pickups from your home. All donations are tax-deductible.

The fundraiser is being held in August but pickups are now being scheduled for the spring and summer. For further information, please call Sinai Temple at 413-736-3619 .



Sinai Temple members, Michael Freedman and Steve Michaelson are helping to pick up used furniture from homes in the area for the Sinai Temple Used Furniture and Home Accessories Sale

**If you have not
yet registered your
child
for the 2006 - 2007
school year,
please send in
your registration
form now.**

Lost and Found

Has your child lost a jacket? We have found 4 children's jackets. If they are yours, please come and claim them. They are hanging in the temple's coat closet.

This Chanukah Give Yourself the Gift of Hebrew (And Celebrate Sinai's 75th Anniversary Too!)

As part of Sinai's 75th Anniversary Celebration, the Adult Education Committee is launching a unique project for Hebrew learning.

In our 75th year, we want to involve at least 75 adults learning Hebrew.

Classes will be offered at six different levels over a ten-week period starting October 1, 2006.

Best of all - classes will be available at many different times so that anyone who wants to learn can find a time and class level that's just right.

You can register by filling out the form on this page!

Let THIS year be YOUR year for the GIFT OF HEBREW!

Schedule of Hebrew Classes for Fall 2006

Please enter your first and second choices.

Choice#	Time	Teacher	Choice#	Time	Teacher		
Beginner Hebrew			Advanced Beginner				
	Sun	9:00 - 10:00 am	TBA		Sun	9:00 - 10:00 am	TBA
	Tues	7:30 - 8:30 pm	TBA		Tues	7:30 - 8:30 pm	TBA
	Wed	7:30 - 8:30 pm	TBA		Wed	7:30 - 8:30 pm	TBA
	Sat	9:00 - 10:00 am	TBA		Sat	9:00 - 10:00 am	TBA
Prayerbook Hebrew			Conversational Hebrew				
	Sun	9:00 - 10:00 am	Rabbi Shapiro		Sun	9:00 - 10:00 am	Gita Gilad
	Wed	7:30 - 8:30 pm	TBA		Wed	7:30 - 8:30 pm	Gita Gilad
					Sat	9:00 - 10:00 am	Gita Gilad
Biblical Hebrew			Torah Cantillation				
	Wed	8:00 - 9:00 pm	Rabbi Shapiro		Tues	7:30 - 8:30 pm	Cantor Mekler

Dear Adult Education Committee:

Count me in! I want to be a Hebrew learner.

Enclosed please find my check for \$18 (payable to Sinai Temple) to cover the cost of my textbook.

Name _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

Mail to: Sinai Temple, 1100 Dickinson Street, Springfield, MA 01108



SAVE THE DATE!!!!

as the

Western MA State of Israel Bonds

pays tribute to our own

Marlene & Jim Gordon

at a

Cocktail Buffet

with guest speaker Professor Stephen Berk

Thursday, June 8, 2006 6 P.M.

at Chez Josef in Agawam

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

Unveilings at the Cemetery: A Note from Rabbi Shapiro

Dear Sinai Congregants -

Several congregants have asked me or members of our Ritual Committee if Sinai has a "policy" about unveilings. Here is my heartfelt response -

We do not have anything as official or officious at Sinai as a policy on unveilings. Both Cantor Mekler and I have another approach.

We believe that unveilings are very important moments in the process of mourning. Although a marker or gravestone can be dedicated or "unveiled" as early as 30 days after a funeral, we recommend that families wait until approximately one year has passed. In that way, the unveiling becomes a kind of signpost indicating most beautifully that the family of mourners has managed to make it through a full cycle of the seasons. They themselves have survived without at all forgetting their loved one. The unveiling is the opportunity to return to the cemetery and recognize this significant passage of time.

As important as it is, however, the unveiling does not have a required liturgy. Poems or stories can be used. The ceremony can be mostly English or partially in Hebrew. All that is required at one point is the recitation of the Kaddish.

All this means that the unveiling ceremony does not require a Rabbi or Cantor. Because of that, we usually suggest that families consider doing the ceremony on their own at their own pace. I even have a packet of possible readings that I send out to families who want to consider doing their own unveiling.

At the same time, the Cantor and/or I are definitely available to officiate at unveilings. We will be there gladly to stand by any family that wishes us to join them. Call me if you have questions. I would be honored to assist you in developing an unveiling ceremony that is appropriate for your family.

Are You a Parent of a College Age Son or Daughter?

Is your son or daughter moving to a different dorm or apartment? Will he or she graduate this month? Please help us to keep our alumni records up to date. Call Karen Mernoff at Sinai at 736-3619 ext. 13 to let her know of any address changes.

The Sustaining Membership Program Returns 2006-2007

The past two year's Sustaining Membership Program has been a wonderful success. We are truly grateful to the many households who stepped forward to renew their involvement or to become sustaining members for the first time.

As we enter a new fiscal year, we are thankful for every one of our sustaining members who chooses to continue with the program. We are also in the midst of an outreach campaign to involve more congregants in the program. A committee of congregants has been on the telephone over the last few weeks inviting congregants who pay full dues at their category to join the Sustaining Membership Program. There are several levels of participation. Each involves committing a certain amount of money over the full dues category that suits you. If you want more information, please call SMP Chair, Martin Lesser (567-5952) or Karen Sprenkle, Office Manager, at 736-3619.

My Conversion

Several weeks ago Nicole Walters became Jewish. She prepared these remarks for the mikveh ceremony.

My faith in God started at a very young age. As I grew older I started to question some of the teachings that seemed so outdated. As I matured into a young woman, I disagreed more with the practices of my family. But never gave up believing in God, knowing there is something more powerful than myself.

I started looking for a place to nurture my beliefs, sadly I never felt quite right. Until 4 years ago when I met Craig. He told me he was Jewish, but he was new to the area and hadn't joined a synagogue. Several months later we took a trip to Toronto to visit his family. Shortly after arriving his Bubbe passed away. As Craig went to help his grandfather in his time of need, Craig's mother told me about the burial the next day. I had very little knowledge of how Jewish funerals worked. I was overwhelmed and had no idea of what to expect. Craig tried to prepare me for the service and explained that his family would sit shiva for seven days. I was moved by the experience although it was very sad. At the funeral everything was very simple there weren't any flowers and the casket was a simple wood casket. Later I asked about the flowers and his family said that instead they asked tzedakah to be given. At the cemetery after they lowered her into the ground his family took a shovel and placed earth on the casket, it was very moving that this was real they were finding closure in such an honest way. Later when we arrived at the shiva house all of the mirrors were covered with sheets. The simplicity was moving no vanity, nothing was being put on and no one was trying to be brave there was only remembrance and mourning. Craig's family accepted me with open arms and tried to explain the events to me.

It started to make sense. I wanted to be a part of the Jewish people. I wanted to learn more. What were the teachings of this 4,000 year old religion? I couldn't learn fast enough, I tried to learn about the culture, the food, traditions, and religion of the Jewish people. I read and really got excited; I had finally found what I needed for my spirituality to grow.

I soon found Sinai Temple and visited for Friday night services. As I sat absorbing everything that was happening, I felt I was home and at complete peace. I soon thereafter knew that conversion would truly make me happy. Now the hard part was asking a rabbi to perform the conversion. It took a while, but after a few phone calls.

Rabbi Shapiro met with us.

Now after learning about Judaism and spending time at the synagogue celebrating Shabbat and holidays, I am finally beginning to get it. On Shabbat as I rush to services I feel tired but when I arrive I exhale and I'm happy to be there. Shabbat for me is just being able to pray try to find peace after a long week to breath and relax. I attended High holiday services with Craig for the first time and each

An Original Prayer

Rina Miller wrote the following prayer which she read at our March Friday Night Live service.

When I pray
Where is my soul supposed to go?
Not the soles of my feet
Planted firmly on the soft carpet
Away from the concrete
of my daily grind.
My soul, that quiet yearning for peace, for love, for decency,
and tranquility
Where does that soul go for it's own refreshment and
nurturing
in a place like this?

Heavenward? But what if I do not
believe in God?

Inward? But I do not worship myself.

To my neighbor sitting next to me? But we are strangers to
each other even though inches
apart.

Where does my soul draw its respite, its reprieve, its
strength in a place like this?
From stillness

From the asking of the question
From the silence
From the yearning for the weekly pause that is Shabbat

It takes its nourishment from the very fact that I know-
when I am here- in this place-
that IT is....that IT exists-
my soul.....
and that is enough.

service was a little different, On Rosh Hashanah there was such a message of hope for the next year that I can do better that life is just how we perceive it, it's about looking for the rainbow that will soon come after the rainfall. On Yom Kippur Craig and I fasted for the first time together and as we stepped into the synagogue that night I know I felt full. I cried during that service, I think some of the tears were sad but most were tears of joy knowing I was in the right place. I was able to ask for atonement and hope to do better this next year.

There is also Pirkei Avot where Simon the Just teaches so beautifully: The world is sustained by three things, by the Torah, by worship, and by loving deeds. I hope that all of these Torah, worship and good deeds will help my life to be a better one. I know my decision to convert and become part of the Jewish people was the right path to find happiness. Although I have learned some I feel my journey is only beginning. I hope my learning will extend through my life to my future husband and children and bring peace to my family.

Mazal Tov to Our College Graduates

Adam Berg	Bentley College, Business Degree
Elizabeth Cossin	Mount Holyoke College, B.A., Religion and Middle Eastern Studies
Elizabeth Grodd	University of Pennsylvania B.A., Communications
Alison Jacobs	Smith College B.A., Studio Art with a Minor in Landscape Design
Sam Katz	University of Tampa Business Degree
Samantha Katz	Washington University, College of Arts and Science B.A., History
Michael Klein	Vassar College B.A., History with a Minor in Jewish Studies
Rebecca Schlichtig	Oberlin College B.A., East Asian Studies with a Minor in Women's Studies
Liza White	Boston University B.A., Music Composition

If you know of any other Sinai Temple members who have graduated college this year, please let us know and we will gladly publish their names and degrees earned in future Sinai Bulletins. E-mail Karen Mernoff at dkmernoff@comcast.net with all info.

Social Action Committee Knitting Project

We want to thank everyone who participated in the Alden-Sinai Knitting Project. We met to knit and discuss current issues as part of our ongoing relationship with Alden Baptist Church. We will be donating approximately 20 shawls to patients undergoing chemo and radiation treatments. We also had a bonus evening as we gathered to watch "Crash" which generated dialogue.

We want to thank the following members of Sinai for their participation:

Helene Segool	Margot Roesberg
Ellen Dyke	Beth Green
Jackie Neiman	Sandy Suib-Dutcher
Laurie Weinberg	Alison Clark
Robin Henrie	Dorothy Posner

(Article was submitted by Sandy Suib-Dutcher)

This Is How Good Summer Camp Can Be

Mason Dunn-McDonagh is one of our student aides in the Religious School. Mason will also be entering Confirmation next year. He wrote the following description of his feelings for one of our Reform Jewish summer camps.

Dear Friends:

Crane Lake is like a second home to me. Jewish camping has given me the opportunity to express my feelings as a Jew. Crane Lake provides me with a religious environment that has helped bring me closer to God.

The friends I have made there are the best. We e-mail each other all year and we really look forward to getting together at camp. We swim, play football, volley ball and we play this great game called gag a (Israeli Dodge ball). There is so much to do at camp!

On Shabbat we have services outside. Each week a different unit takes on part of the service. It is very cool to pray and learn outside.

Every Jewish child should have the opportunity to go to camp. It is a life changing experience.

Shalom,
Mason Dunn-McDonagh

Sinai Reaches out to the Community — Spring 2006

The Gurland Human Relations Award

The 2006 Human Relations Award Established in Honor of Rabbi Jerome S. Gurland has been awarded to the Massachusetts Career Development Institute, Inc., for their project “Seeds for Self-Sufficiency.”

“Seeds for Self-Sufficiency” is a community project established by MCDI in collaboration with Springfield College, for the purpose of cultivating a garden to benefit a significant cross-section of the Springfield Community. The garden will serve as a learning lab for low-income adults, including refugees from Somalia, Burma, and Russia, as well as pre-school children in the area. Instruction in how to start and maintain the garden is being provided by MCDI and Springfield College students. In addition to serving a source of healthy food, the garden’s presence will promote discussion of environmental issues and demonstrate what can be accomplished when Springfield College and the surrounding community share an interest and activity. Ground has been broken, seeds have been planted, and the garden is well on its way.

The Susan Broh Tikkun Olam Award

The two winners of the Susan M. Broh Tikkun Olam Award for the summer of 2006 are Lisa Braun and Sarah Bernstein.

Lisa is currently finishing her junior year at the University of Massachusetts where she is studying Spanish. She has a strong interest in Latino culture and would love to work with Hispanic immigrants in the future, in either social work or English as a Second Language (ESL). She plans to work in Boston this summer for Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts (LVM). Established in 1972, LVM trains volunteer tutors to provide free, individualized tutoring to adults in basic reading and writing, and ESL. LVM is the premier volunteer literacy organization in the state, managing 1000 tutor/student pairs per year.

Sarah is finishing her junior year at Tufts and plans to go on to pursue graduate work in clinical psychology. She will be volunteering at the Germaine-Lawrence Residential Center for troubled girls in Arlington, Massachusetts. She will be living and working with adolescent girls who have suffered serious emotional or physical abuse. Her work will involve leading group discussions and planning events as well as helping to develop ties between Germaine-Lawrence and the Arlington community. Her ambition is to become a therapist specializing in the needs of adolescent girls.

The goals and projects of both of these outstanding young women fulfill the spirit of Tikkun Olam as personified by the life and accomplishments of Susan Broh.

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Mazal Tov To:

Richard Chase on becoming the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Jewish Geriatric Services.

Iggy Roberts on receiving the Robert Orenstein Award from the JCC.

Rayna Trietsch on receiving the Marcia Rosen Award from the JCC.

Matthew Grodd on receiving the Sivek Family Scholarship Award from the JCC.

Michael Klein who will be working in New York City this coming fall as a part of Teachers for America.

1981 — 50th Anniversary of Sinai Temple



From Left to Right: Michael Bader, David Bader (Michael's son), Rabbi Herman Snyder and Rabbi Howard Kaplansky.

These people were planning the 50th anniversary celebration. How quickly the time flies! Now we are on to the 75th!