



Sinai Temple Bulletin

*Take Back Your Time:
Rediscover Shabbat*

March / April 2017
3 Adar 5777-4 Iyar 5777

From the Rabbi's Study...

You might already know that I spent my childhood in Hyde Park, a neighborhood on Chicago's South Side. The time was during and shortly after the end of World War II. Almost everything about Hyde Park was Jewish then, and if there ever were a locale with major connections to what was going on in – or had gone on in -- Europe, this was it.

The neighborhood was filled with German Jewish refugees who had managed to leave Germany "just in time." And too there were many native Yiddish-speakers who had come to these shores from Eastern Europe not that many years before. Not only coming here because of the economic opportunities, that group had also left Eastern Europe to get away from the pogroms, or the "knock on the door in the middle of the night," something my grandmother, *aleha hashalom*, talked about altogether too often.

And then, once the war ended, yet another group of Jews appeared in the neighborhood. These, at least when the weather was warm, were the people who made a point of walking around with one sleeve rolled up to display to anyone who cared to look the tattooed numbers that were a reminder of the wearer's journey into the hell of Auschwitz.

In that milieu, many of us grew up with the belief that around every corner lurked an anti-Semite, or, at the very least, a potential anti-Semite. As a result we saw the world through eyes that viewed everything in terms of safe/unsafe, "safe" meaning it was Jewish, "unsafe" meaning it was not.

Thankfully, most of us grew out of that kind of dichotomous thinking. It might not have been easy, but we did.

However, even though we did, it doesn't mean that anti-Semitism ceased to exist. It still exists, and we all know it. One would have to be an ostrich with its head buried in the sand not to see that Jewish communities are under assault across Europe now. Or that pro-Israel Jewish students are under attack on American campuses where the Palestinian narrative, spewed by leftwing professors and promulgated by left-wing student groups, has become the dominant view. Or that the mainstream media daily portrays Israel at the top of the list of cruel nations. (Yes, about that I know what some are claiming, i.e., that anti-Israelism is about politics. It isn't. It's nothing more than the old anti-Semitism now being cloaked in new nomenclature.)

continued on page 3

Friday Evening Services

Fridays March 3, 17, April 7, 21
at 6:00 P.M

Fridays March 10, 24, 31, April 14, 28
at 7:30 PM

Saturday Morning

Torah Study: Every Saturday morning at 9 A.M.

Saturday Morning Services

All services start at 10:15 A.M. except when there is a B'nai Mitzvah, start time then is 10:30 A.M. See below.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah dates

3/11/2017 Hayden Steinberg

3/25/2017 Abigail Mirof

4/1/2017 Zachary Landon

ONEG SHABBAT CIRCLE

WE are looking for bakers for our Onegim. If you would like to bake, or to coordinate bakers, please contact Robin in the office. Coordinating this Shabbat hospitality will not be a big time commitment and will add to our community celebration of Shabbat. Please tell us which Shabbat you would like to bake for, or we will give you a date that works for you.

***Thanks for adding to the joy of
Shabbat at Sinai!***

NOTE...SINAI IS PRINTING ONLY SIX BULLETINS THIS YEAR.

COMING BULLETINS WILL BE MAY/JUNE. THIS IS A VERY STRONG REASON FOR OUR WANTING TO STAY IN TOUCH VIA E-MAIL. PLEASE SEND US YOUR E-MAIL.

Message from Bruce Leshine

Temple President

My Friends,

I have heard from many of you following my letter of two weeks ago regarding the Board's very difficult decision on our "path forward." **And I hear you.** So, I invite you all to an open Congregation meeting on this very important subject, on **Sunday, March 12, at 7:00pm**, in the temple auditorium. I have asked the Long-Range Planning Committee and the Clergy Planning Group to attend and to make their respective reports and recommendations to the Congregation, as they had done previously in July and January to the Board, and to answer any questions that all of you may have on their work or their recommendations. I also encourage you to share your thoughts and comments during the meeting. Thank you for your passion for Sinai Temple and your involvement in our future, and call or email me any time...

Be well, Bruce

NOTES FROM THE CANTOR

Please join us on Friday evening, March 24, as I enthusiastically welcome the incredibly talented Eliana Light to Sinai Temple of Springfield! According to her bio, "Eliana Light empowers people to make Judaism their own through song, experiential education, and prayer. She has put out two albums of original Jewish music and teaches all over the country. Eliana holds a Masters in Jewish Education from the JTS and is the Director of Music Education at Park Avenue Synagogue in Manhattan." What her brief bio doesn't mention is that I had the unique pleasure of writing some Jewish music with Eliana as part of the *Keshet Shir* Boston Cohort songwriting collaborative. Some of the melodies we use during services came out of this collaboration, including the *Ahavah Raba* we sing regularly at Saturday morning Shabbat services. Eliana will be joining us for not one, but two services this evening! At 6:00 she will help lead the Tot Shabbat service for our youngest congregants (you don't need to have a "tot" of your own to attend this service), and then at 7:30 she will join me for our "grown up" service, where we will speak about the *Keshet Shir* method of Jewish songwriting and present some of the music we composed together. Don't miss this exciting evening of contemporary Jewish music!

Ivdu et Hashem B'simcha! Serve the Holy One with Joy!

JUDAICA SHOP CORNER

We're on the way to setting up for Passover!! The shop will be filled with beautiful Seder plates, Elijah and Miriam cups, and much, much more to make your Seder perfect.

We will have more open days and longer hours to meet your needs. Our flyer (coming later) will tell all!

Thais Fischel 786-9577

Message from Heather Sullivan

Director of Education

Hello,

We're headed to DC! That is Rabbi, high school teacher Sheri Levson, and 5 of her students are headed to DC. They will be learning at the Religious Action Center about social justice and various hot topics before heading to Capitol Hill to present their own ideas. What an awesome, once in a lifetime opportunity!

Other notable events for March/April:

- March 12 - Purim-Join us at 11:00 at the end of Sunday School for Megillah reading, followed by lunch
- April 7-8 - In house 6th grade retreat-

April 9- Whole school seder

- No classes 4/16, 4/ 18, 4/23
- 4/30 NYC Trip for families

Mazel Tov to B'nai Mitzvah Hayden Steinberg, Abigail Mirot, Zachary Landon, and their families!

L'Shalom, Heather

ATTENTION!!!
ATTENTION!!!
ATTENTION!!!

HavDeli!!!

Back by Popular Demand

And here is the schedule for our final

HavDeli!!! gatherings
and don't-miss great movies:

The time?

The time? **Always at 6:00 PM**

Movie 5: Saturday, March 25
Movie TBA - check E-vents

Remember: **HavDeli!!!** is

- 1) havdalah, followed by
 - 2) a deli dinner followed by
 - 3) a movie, all on a Saturday night,
- and all for the modest cost of just \$12 per person!

Mark your calendars now!

Rabbi message continued from page 1

I bring this all up because Purim is around the corner. And Purim is a message about anti-Semitism in the world, something we have always kept in plain view as we've celebrated it year after year. No, Purim was never just about going off masquerading. Or eating homentashen. Or laughing at the antics of Purimschpiel actors. Or imbibing far more than most of us should (If that is your practice, make sure you bring a designated driver with you). Or spoofing our sacred institutions and religious leaders. Or making raucous noises in synagogue every time Haman's name is mentioned.

It's about recognizing that Haman is not just some fictional character in the megillah of Esther. It's about recognizing that he is a prototype figure who, unfortunately, has reared his ugly head altogether too many times in our history and tried, thank God unsuccessfully, to do us in.

The Shabbat before Purim, we will read these words in synagogue:

"Remember what Amalek did to you on the road during [the time of] your going out of Egypt, how he happened upon you on the road and cut off all your rearward stragglers when you were tired and weary. (And no, [Amalek was not] afraid of God!)

"[So let this be your lesson, Israel:] when your Eternal God gives you respite from all your enemies round about in the land your Eternal God is going to give you to possess as an inheritance, blot out the memory of Amalek from under the heavens! Do not forget..ever!!!" (Dt. 25:17-19)

Harsh and brutal words these are, so much so that our Sages proclaimed that they should not be taken literally. Amalek does not exist anymore, they said. But they knew, as we do, that what he and the Hamans and the Hitlers were about did and still very much do exist.

No, I am not suggesting that we live our lives in the belief that every non-Jewish person we meet might just be the enemy. She or he categorically is not. But I am saying, just the same, that hatred of us for what we are very much, in some circles, does exist. It exists, just as it does of a whole host of other people in the world who are oppressed and persecuted for what they are, or look like, or hold as their religious beliefs.

And that too becomes our message, just as this too, as our tradition teaches, is part of what being a Jew means: wherever bigotry and hatred exist, we need be in the vanguard of those seeking to eradicate it. That is what Isaiah meant in prophesying that we would be a "light to the nations," and that is what we need be committing ourselves to as we celebrate the festival of Purim.

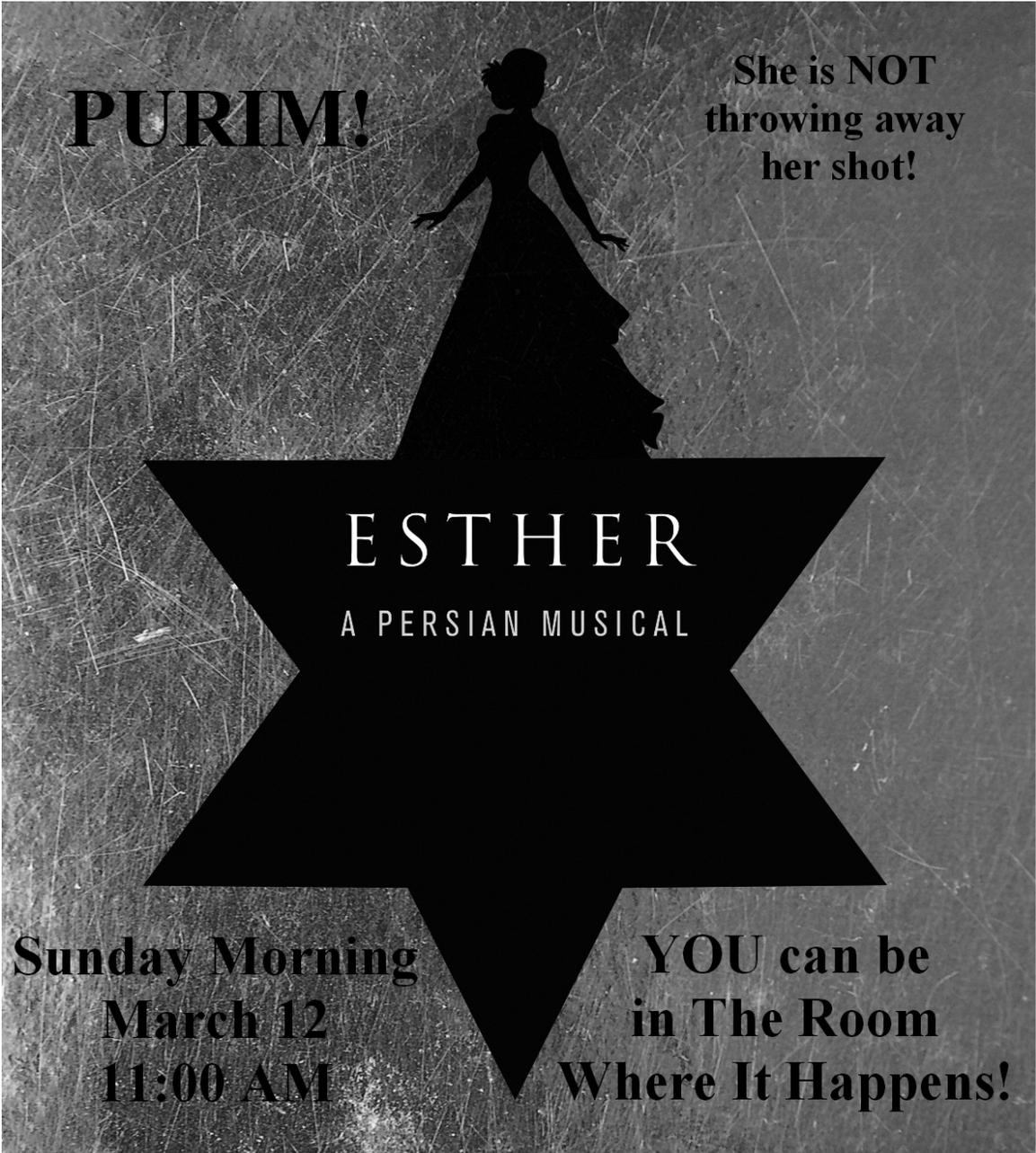
Rabbi Howard Kosovske



Eliana Light

PURIM!

**She is NOT
throwing away
her shot!**



ESTHER
A PERSIAN MUSICAL

**Sunday Morning
March 12
11:00 AM**

**YOU can be
in The Room
Where It Happens!**

PASSOVER SEDER MATCH:

Sinai Temple wants to help match up people who want to attend a Seder with members who are holding a seder and have room at their tables.

If you are someone who would like to have us match you to a home, or have a home with room at your seder table, please send an email to Steve Kessler at: steve.thekeess@gmail.com, and Steve will help match you up. We are also reaching out to local colleges to see if there are students who need a place to observe Pesach, so please let us know if you are open to having a college student at your home.

THANKS!

HAGGADAH APP.

Starting March 20...Looking for a new App? Sinai has the Haggadah App for your Seder this year! And it won't cost you a cent!

We've got over 100 copies of the Reform movement's modern Passover Haggadah just waiting for you to borrow and use. It's like a library. PLUS we have a Children's Haggadah, also published by the Reform movement. We've got them all. We want you to use them. Borrow 5, 10, 15 or as many as you need for your Seder.

Visit the Temple office Monday to Friday or see Tina in the Library on Sunday mornings.

Dayenu? Have you got enough? Come see what's available for free.

SINAI TEMPLE
2ND NIGHT OF PASSOVER
CONGREGATIONAL SEDER
Tuesday, April 11, 2017
6:00 PM



Join Rabbi Howard Kosovske and Cantor Martin Levson
as they lead our congregation and guests in celebrating Passover
using a family friendly Haggadah.
Our Seder will be catered by Cheryl Blonder
and will feature a festive fully kosher for Passover meal.

The fare:

Individual seder plates
Matzah at each table
Wine and grape juice

First Course:

Gefilte Fish
Chicken Soup with Matzo Ball

Main Course:

Boneless Breast of Chicken Mirabella (With dried Apricots)
Roasted Lemon And Garlic Broccoli
Roasted Red Potatoes

Desert:

Assorted Parve Pastries
Coffee, Tea

Cost:

\$54 per person (\$45, children under 13; free, age five and under) all inclusive
Make reservations on-line or by check at the Sinai Temple office

*It is with great pleasure that
the Men and Women of Sinai
announce the recipient of the annual*

***Rabbi Herman Eliot Snyder
Service Award for the year 2017/5777***

Rabbi Emeritus Mark Dov Shapiro

*Please join us on
Friday night, April 28th, 2017*

*for Dinner provided by the
the Men and Women of Sinai*

Followed by Erev Shabbat Service

*As we honor the recipient for the quality
of his many years of service to
Sinai Temple and the community*

Dinner: 6:00 PM - Service: 7:30 PM

Cost: \$12

*Reservations Required by Tuesday, April 25th
Call the Sinai Temple office at 413.736.3619 or
Use the Sinai Temple website at www.sinai-temple.org*

ADULT OPPORTUNITIES

Adult Purim

Saturday, March 11 - 6:30 p.m.

The unexpurgated Megillah in English, an unbelievably x-rated book of the Bible. No children allowed! We will supply graggers and hamantaschen.

(The **Kids' Great Purim Celebration** will take place at the end of Sunday school on Sunday, March 12. MWOS will supply a Purim feast of hotdogs and hamantaschen. This is not to be missed.

MARCH LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

Rabbi Kosovske will offer two separate and unique adult-level classes in the month of March. Offered twice and at different times to accommodate as many people as possible.

Program for March 29: "Spooky Seder Secrets: Things They Didn't Teach You about Pesach"

The date and times for the program:

Wednesday afternoon, 1:00 – 2:15 pm

Wednesday evening, 7:00 – 8:15 pm.

SINAI READING PARTNERS

MARCH 29: We will discuss **Here I Am**, Jonathan Safran Foer's new novel that explores some of the Heneni moments that we face today as individuals, Jews, Americans, parents, sons/daughters.

April 26: We will discuss **The Zelmanyaners**, a satiric/comic family saga novel by Yiddish modernist writer Moyshe Kulbak, set in Minsk in the early 1930's as Jews teetered between traditional Yiddishkeit and Soviet citizenship. Some of us are reading this as part of a Yiddish Book Center online book group so we will have lots to share.

Meetings are at noon in the library, we will have a copy of each in our library and ask Longmeadow Storrs library to have some on hold for us.

JCC LITERATOUR COMES TO SINAI

Thursday, April 27, 7 p.m.

Dov Waxman, Northeastern University Professor of political science, international affairs, and Israel studies, will discuss his new book, **Trouble in the Tribe: The American Jewish Conflict Over Israel** (Princeton University Press, 2016). Free for Sinai members, please pre-register with JCC, 739-4715, or e-mail bnadler@springfieldjcc.org

TRIPS TO THE YIDDISH BOOK CENTER AND JEWISH NEW YORK CITY

Sunday, April 2, 2017, we will meet at 1 p.m. (or carpool from the Temple parking lot at 12:15) at the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst for an insiders' tour, including the vault, following a greeting with Aaron Lansky. Aaron's vision resulted in the rescue of untold numbers of Yiddish language books and material, and the founding of this beautiful and very active museum and educational center. At 2 p.m. photographer Marisa Scheinfeld will speak on "The Borscht Belt: Revisiting the Remains of America's Jewish Vacationland". The talk is optional for our group. The Book Center has a very unique gift/book shop. Cost is \$8, the museum admission fee, please register and pay in advance as the Yiddish Book Center would like one payment so we can arrive and begin our tour immediately. Pay on our Temple website or in the office. Questions or want to carpool? Contact Laurie Weinberg (sagecitrus@aol.com)

Sunday April 30, NYC to visit **The Tenement Museum** and **The Museum of Jewish Heritage**, with lunch at **Katz's Deli**. We leave the Temple at 7:00 A.M., arrive back at 8:30 P.M., \$99 for adults, \$89 for under 18, includes bus and gratuity, and museum admissions. Lunch is separate but we will order ahead. The Tenement Museum is a short walk from Katz's, also an easy cab ride, and our bus will bring us from Katz's to the Museum of Jewish Heritage. Check the website of both museums, the Museum of Jewish Heritage overlooks the Statue of Liberty and has floors dedicated to life before the Holocaust; the Holocaust; and rebuilding after the Holocaust. Also a beautiful gift shop! Register and pay online or in the office. Questions? Contact Carol Tivoli (cbt112@gmail.com) or Sarah Shtrax, (sshtrax@gmail.com)

NOTE: HELP US BE THERE FOR YOU!

Rabbi Kosovske wants to be present in your life both during happy moments and in times of need. But, alas (!), he is not clairvoyant. So if there is a joyous occasion in your life, or if, God forbid, you are in the hospital or in a convalescent facility, please let the office know (or make sure one of your family members or friends lets the office know) so our rabbi can be there for you.

Also, if you move to a new address, or change your email address, or get a new phone number, or get a new cell phone number, please let the office know that too so we can keep our records up to date.

Book Drive for Link to Libraries Purim Celebration Morning

March 12, 2017

Sunday School Morning Purim Party Celebration we will be collecting new books (soft covered) for local non profit Link to Libraries.

Books for ages birth through grade 8 would be appreciated.

Over 60% of the children in Western MA that receive new books from Link to Libraries have never owned a new book prior to their receiving this gift.

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For more information on Link to Libraries contact
413-224-1031 or www.linktolibraries.org



Jewish Film Festival

2017 Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival Announces Lineup

Israeli Sports Legend Tal Brody to Appear at Opening Night Screening of On the Map, Illuminating Documentary About Israel's 1977 Underdog Basketball Team

The Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival, presented by the Springfield Jewish Community Center, announces its 12th festival season. The PVJFF runs March 18 through April 4, with 21 films from 9 countries screening in 16 venues across Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin Counties. This year's lineup continues the Festival's tradition of diverse, innovative and socially relevant programming, and reinforces its standing as the largest Jewish cultural event in Western Massachusetts.

Carlin Preisick Trietsch, Festival Co-Director
413.739.4715 | ctrietsch@springfieldjcc.org

Deb Krivoy, Festival Co-Director
413.345.0603 | dkrivoy@springfieldjcc.org

For ticket information, schedules, trailers, and venue directions, visit www.pvjff.org or call 413.739.4715.

Report of the Social Action Committee on Climate Change

By now we've all heard the bad news when it comes to the environment, as the new administration intends to stop U.S. participation in the United Nations climate agreement, destroy the clean power plan, and open up the floodgates to fracking, digging coal, and drilling whatever fossil fuels remain in the ground. This is disheartening news, indeed, and some of us are so discouraged by it that we've given up addressing the issue.

Jewish scripture and rabbinical literature do not provide us with the option of turning our backs on this challenge, however. From Genesis and Deuteronomy through the Psalms and the Talmud, we are commanded to "till and tend" God's earth (Genesis 2:15), for if we fail to do so, there will be nobody after us to repair our damage (Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7:13).

When it comes to climate action, the Union for Reform Judaism has heeded this commandment by resolving to support government climate and energy policies that promote sustainable responses to climate change. On the congregational level, the URJ also has instructed congregations "to reduce energy and other resource consumption and use renewable energy in their facilities, programs, and practices."

On February 23rd, the Social Action Committee convened an "open house" of sorts, inviting all members of the Sinai Community to embrace climate action on a range of different levels: the individual, the political, and the congregational. If you missed the meeting on the 23rd and are interested in learning about the many options that exist for us to provide a Jewish response to the threat to our environment, please contact Michele Marantz at mb.marantz@comcast.net 413 567-4220 or Richard Segool at segool@aol.com 860 668-6595.



From Rabbi Kosovske Regarding the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund of Sinai Temple

A number of people have asked me questions about my Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. The reality is that it is not *my* discretionary fund. Rather, it is *your/Sinai Temple's* Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, and my role is to serve as its custodian.

There are a couple of things you should know about the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. Most important among them is what it exists for. Essentially, while the fund will do such things as provide emergency assistance/scholarships to congregants and others in need, supplement congregational programs in need of additional funding, and support local, national, and international non-profit organizations, the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund first and foremost is a *chesed* and *tzedakah* fund. Its main purposes are to aid the needy, care for the infirm, teach the unlearned, and extend a helping hand to those who have lost their way in the world. Very few transactions will ever be made outside of these purposes, and always they will have a *tzedakah* and Toraitic component to them.

Second, the fund, by its nature, will often operate in a confidential manner. But even in such cases, while the recipients of help from the fund will be and always remain confidential, the amounts and the transactions of the fund, in and out, will not be.

Therefore, several things will apply. First, at the end of my tenure, fund transaction records will be presented to our treasurer for confidential auditing. Second, any funds remaining in the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund will, at the end of my tenure, be turned over to Sinai Temple for passing on to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund of my successor to start his/her fund.

Finally, there have, at this point, been only a relative handful of contributions to the fund. The fund needs (and is soliciting) support, therefore, whether as memorials, or happy day contributions, or, simply, as acts of *tzedakah*.

The Rabbi's Discretionary Fund will always strive to be a powerful vehicle for carrying out the highest ideals of Sinai Temple and Reform Judaism. Your participation in its work literally will make difference in the lives of people.

VOLUNTEERS VOLUNTEERS

This Is Our Community! Working together is what makes things happen! There is an endless variety of ways to be involved in Sinai ranging from a one time commitment for an event, to joining a committee, to attending a meeting or two to share your thoughts, to taking photos at an event, greeting at a service, sharing a ride, or participating in a way that we have not thought of but you have! We would love to hear from you! Please contact a committee chair or simply let Robin in the Temple office know that you would like to speak to someone about joining in the work of our community.

WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED US SINCE 9/1/2016

Matthew & Allison Bertuzzi

Ziv & Therese Corber and their children
Alexzander & Aiden

Samuel & Madeline Fialky and their children
Emily & Jeffrey

Mandell & Marcia Greene

Cathy & Carol Parker

Richard & Barbara Rubin and their children
Jason & Amanda

George & Judith Sachs

Helder Serrazina

Amy Weiswasser

Do you know someone who might enjoy being at Sinai Temple?

Maybe they are looking for a welcoming and vibrant Jewish spiritual home. Maybe they don't know what they are seeking. Maybe they don't feel they are seeking at all. Maybe they would be surprised by what they would find.

You, the members of Sinai Temple, are the best ambassadors for our congregation.

Think of co-workers, students and teachers and colleagues, fellow yoga attendees, parents of kids' friends, people in their 20s and 30s, and more! There are many ways to connect at Sinai Temple.

Sometimes all it takes is an invitation.

Invite someone to consider connecting with Sinai Temple. Call the Temple and let us know if we can be of any support.



Contacting Sinai Temple Committee Chairs

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	E-MAIL ADDRESS	PHONE
Adult Education	Laurie Weinberg	sagecitrus@aol.com	599-1978
Bar/Bat Mitzvah	Susanne Simon	Pandacircle3@gmail.com	566-8045
Caring Community	Alan & Leslie Brown	Shalom2875@yahoo.com	525-6254
Cemetery	Ron Weiss	rweiss@bulkley.com	567-8868
Dues	Buff Maniscalco	rmmaniscalco@tighebond.com	563-2153
Finance	Buff Maniscalco	rmmaniscalco@tighebond.com	563-2153
House	Irwin Pers	Irwin.pers@nemoves.com	567-3156
Interfaith	Erica Brunette	ericalbrunette@gmail.com	754-3139
Library	Tina deMeza	cdemeza@verizon.net	567-1330
Membership	Susan Cash Cannizzo, Maggy Cohn	Susancash9@gmail.com magmag40@telecomguru.org	567-1151
Men & Women of Sinai	Jack Henrie	ergo.llc@cox.net	860-668-6178
Nominating	Susanne Simon	Pandacircle3@gmail.com	566-8045
Personnel	Susanne Simon	Pandacircle3@gmail.com	566-8045
Religious School	Samantha Schrager	sjschrager@gmail.com	567-3609
Ritual	Steve Kessler	steve.thekeess@gmail.com	565-5162
Social Action	Richard Segool	Segool@aol.com	860-668-6595
SPFTY	Jonathan and Elizabeth Dubinsky	elizabeth.dubinsky@gmail.com	
STUFF	Melanie Courtemanche, Alisha Snow	mnkle17@gmail.com alishaksnow@yahoo.com	530-3045 567-2049
Technology	Jody Maple	retusaf@earthlink.net	218-4554
Youth	Cantor Martin Levson	mlevson@sinai-temple.org	736-3619

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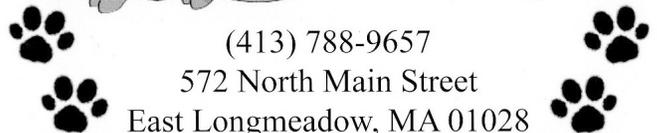
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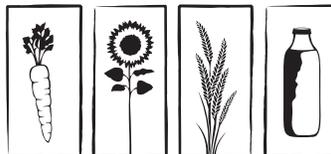
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