

Sinai Temple

BULLETIN



Celebrating 75 Years

For Your Consideration

Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro

Dear Friends - Even though Purim has not yet arrived, it's not too early to begin thinking about Passover. This year's Seder takes place on Wednesday, April 12. You can begin your Pesach Countdown as follows:

Four weeks before the Seder (Starting March 12) — Find and count last year's Haggadahs. If they look bad or if you suddenly remember how inappropriate they were, visit the Sinai Gift Shop and consider buying a new set of Haggadahs.

At the same time, look for the Passover handouts I've prepared over the years. They contain many, many readings and Seder suggestions. If you've lost the material, call the Temple office and I will make sure you receive some of the past handouts.

Go online as well to see what's new for Passover 2006. Try www.urj.org or www.myjewishlearning.com. Of course, if you're hosting the Seder, decide who to invite.

Three weeks before the Seder — Talk with your Seder guests and decide who is cooking, baking, or bringing which part of the Seder. (Sharing the preparations makes life easier and also involves more people.) Buy some of the products you'll need for Passover: new ketchup, new coffee. A full list will be available at our website www.sinai-temple.org.

Two weeks before Passover — Make your chicken soup and matzah balls (then freeze them), and, while you're in the kitchen, clean your cupboards. Clean your car. (It's probably got crumbs from chametz scattered around from a year's worth of snacking.) Have you decided which Haggadah to use? Have you considered what parts to give to your guests? Think about some relevant themes for the 2006 seder.

One week before — Buy horseradish root for the maror on the Seder plate.

Buy a shankbone and Passover wine. Do place cards for your guests. Get out your Seder dishes. (Change to Passover dishes the night before if you do so.) Move aside those "chametz" cereal boxes and crackers. Watch the news to see how your Seder can reflect 2006 most powerfully.

Wednesday, April 12 – *Enjoy one of our people's greatest evenings. Passover has arrived!*

Be Happy – It's Purim

Purim
Monday, March 13
6 p.m.
An "incredible" evening of happiness

Music of the Baroque Era

Friday, March 24
8 p.m.
A music service honoring Brotherhood and our 2006 Snyder Award Recipient, George Dickstein.

Saturday Services

Saturday, March 25
10:30 a.m.
Mazal Tov to Celia Gibson, daughter of Patrick and Bonnie, as she becomes a Bat Mitzvah.

Saturday Torah Study

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

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

FAMILY SERVICE at 7:00 p.m.
March 3
Songs, prayers, and a terrific story.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE at 8:00 p.m.
March 17
Music with a special style.

KABBALAT SHABBAT at 6:00 p.m.
March 10
Veggies and snacks at 5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY NIGHT CLASSIC at 8:00 p.m.
March 24
Shabbat Shalom with Gates of Prayer

There will be no greggers
at this year's Purim Service!
No noisemakers
at the Megillah Reading
unless you bring them!!!!

Help stamp out Haman's name
And help stamp out hunger at the same time!

Bring a box of Macaroni and Cheese
To the Megillah Reading.

We will shake the noodles as our noisemakers.
Then, we'll donate the food
To the Open Pantry.

No greggers
Unless you bring
Your box (boxes!!!) of
Mac and Cheese.



PLUS ANOTHER MITZVAH OPPORTUNITY WHEN YOU GET TO TEMPLE FOR THIS YEAR'S MEGILLAH READING...

Esther's Baby Boutique will be open for your tzedakah purchases.

Imagine what might happen if Esther weren't in the palace, how would she take care of her family? She might depend on us. Our donations will go to a shelter in Springfield for homeless mothers and children.

AND COSTUMES ON DISPLAY...

don't forget...
Every child (and adult too)
Should come to the Megillah Reading in a costume.

Hamantaschen Baking Contest Monday, March 13 After the Megillah Reading During Dinner

The contest returns! Bake your own hamantaschen and bring them to the Temple for Purim. There will be prizes for the best tasting, most original, and best overall hamantaschen.

Mmmmm Food!!!

This year we're going to fulfill the mitzvah of Mishloach Manot* by preparing food baskets for our Alumni (Sinai young adults ages 18 to 30) plus new Temple members plus a healthy selection of Temple's beloved empty nesters. We'll also be baking enough hamantaschen for the entire Religious School.

You can be part of this great event in several ways....Come help bake HAMANTASCHEN in the Temple kitchen on Wednesday, March 1 or Thursday, March 2. Help package Mishloach Manot food baskets for mailing on Monday, March 6 at 9 a.m.



**Writing a Torah:
Please join our Torah Scribe
In an Open Studio
Sunday, March 5 from 9 a.m. to noon
OR
Tuesday, March 7 from 7:30 to 9 p.m.**

In honor of our 75th anniversary, we are “renovating” three of our Torah scrolls. Artist and calligrapher, Rabbi Kevin Hale, will be our “sofer...Torah scribe” over the next several months. Rabbi Hale begins his work with two open studio workshops where adults are invited to watch, learn, question, and dialogue with him. Later in the month, he will also be teaching the students in our Religious School.

Please drop by the Oneg Shabbat Room on March 5 or March 7. You’ll be able to see how a Torah is actually created. You’ll be able to do some of your own calligraphy.

Many thanks to Jim and Barbara Sadowsky and Ron and Brenna Sadowsky for underwriting this project in memory of the late Bill Sadowsky.

Save the Date!
Passover Senior Luncheon
Tuesday, April 18th
Watch your mail for details

**Announcing Surprise Guests
John Roberts & Samuel Alito
Monday, March 13 at 6 p.m.**

Sinai is very fortunate to have not one, but two, guest judges appearing this month. Judges John Roberts and Samuel Alito will be visiting Sinai to act as judges in our Hamantaschen Contest. Although neither judge was able to comment on the specifics of his approach towards baking, our researchers have learned that each judge has most definitely been seen eating baked goods thousands of times over the years. Since security will be a necessity, reservations are a must. Please call our special judicial hotline - 413-613-1313.

**Passover University
Sunday, March 26
9 to 11 a.m.**

Are you leading your own seder? What do the ritual foods mean? How do you customize the seder for your family and friends?

Come to the Passover University and discover the answers to your questions. Study and eat your way towards the best Passover ever. Workshops to choose from:

- ✧ Haggadah Variations for groups of all ages
- ✧ Making charoset, matza balls and kugel (Cook & taste in the Kitchen)
- ✧ How to make a Seder when your guests are 9 or 90, Jewish or not
- ✧ Passover wine tasting
- ✧ Delicious Passover recipes
- ✧ Passover melodies
- ✧ Door prizes

The Passover University is made possible by a gift from Joel Cohen in memory Marilyn Cohen who would have loved to enrich Passover for our Sinai community.

Sunday, March 5th at 3 p.m.
SINAI TEMPLE HOSTS
AN INTERFAITH SACRED SERVICE

PLEASE JOIN US
FOR PRAYER AND BEAUTIFUL MUSIC
IN THE TEMPLE SANCTUARY

*Sinai Temple's 75th Anniversary
Scholar-in-Residence Weekend
Friday, April 28 to Sunday, April 30*

Dr. Mark Washofsky

*Asking Questions for the 21st Century:
What Can We Say about Stem Cell Research, the Right to Die, or
the Changing Nature of our Jewish Families?*

Questions about ethics, science, and the essence of what it means to be a Jew bombard us every day.

During our anniversary scholar weekend, Dr. Mark Washofsky will invite us into the world of Jewish decision-making. He will do this from his perspective as Professor of Rabbini- at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, where he was ordained and earned a Ph.D. Dr. Washofsky specializes in the literature of the Talmud with a focus on applying Jewish law to the contemporary world.



- ◇◇◇ Friday, April 28
- ◇◇◇ 8:00 p.m.
- ◇◇◇ Service & Oneg
- ◇◇◇ ***The Enduring Connection: How the Talmud's ancient words lead us to decisions in the modern world***
- ◇◇◇ Saturday, April 29
- ◇◇◇ 9:00-10:30 a.m.
- ◇◇◇ Shabbat Morning Study Session
- ◇◇◇ ***Do We Ever Have a Right to Die? End of Life, Assisted Suicide, and Jewish Law***
- ◇◇◇ Saturday, April 29
- ◇◇◇ 4:00-5:30 p.m.
- ◇◇◇ Shabbat Afternoon**
- ◇◇◇ (At the home of Brad and Jodie Foster, 21 Memory Lane, Longmeadow)
- ◇◇◇ ***Jewish Perspectives on Stem Cell Research and Cloning***
- ◇◇◇ Sunday, April 30
- ◇◇◇ 9:00 a.m.
- ◇◇◇ Brotherhood Breakfast and Learning
- ◇◇◇ ***The Emerging Jewish Family: How does intermarriage affect our lives as Reform Jews?***

** Please RSVP to the Temple (736-3619 or c/o ngladstone@sinai-temple.org) for the afternoon program so that we can be prepared for the right number of people.

A heartfelt thank you to Daryl and Lynn Schwartz for underwriting this program.
For more information, please call Joel Bertuzzi (567-3524) or Reva Kleppel (567-8116).

PURIM 5766

THE INCREDIBLES
VISIT SHUSHAN!

MEGILLAH READING!

SINGING!

"A Purim Shpiel"

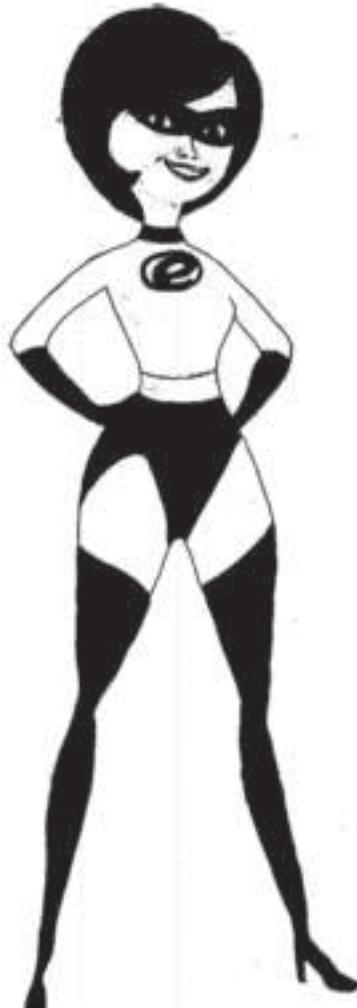
MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 13, 2006 AT 6:00 P.M.

HAMANTASCHEN BAKING CONTEST
Use Your Imagination!
Bring a batch
of your ORIGINAL HAMANTASCHEN

COSTUME CONTEST!
Be Creative!
WEAR your ideas!

Oh today we'll merry, merry be!!

And nosh some Hamantaschen



Sinai Temple
1100 Dickinson Street
Springfield, MA
413-736-3619

Stem Cell Research, Same Sex Marriage: Judaism's response to our very modern world

**Monday, April 3 and Monday, April 10
7:30 to 9 p.m.
(Taught at the JCC)**

As the world changes ever more swiftly, all of us confront unprecedented questions about right, wrong, and proper behavior. This brief course will look into the world of Reform Jewish opinion to see how traditional texts might help us respond to the most difficult questions of today.

The questions to be addressed will be chosen from the work of Rabbi Mark Washofsky, Professor of Rabbinics, Hebrew Union College. Rabbi Washofsky will be Scholar in Residence at Sinai Temple from Friday, April 30 to Sunday, May 1.

**Monthly Morning Service
Wednesday, March 1
at 7:30 a.m.**

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

Future "morning minyan" services will take place on Wednesdays, April 5, May 3, and June 7.

**Sinai's Trip to Israel
July 16 - 28, 2006**

**To reserve a place at the right price,
Register now**

Our tour will include: Roundtrip airfare from New York to Tel Aviv, 2 nights at the Dan Panorama Hotel in Tel Aviv, 2 nights at the Kibbutz Nof Ginnosar Guest House in the Galilee, 6 nights at the Inbal Hotel in Jerusalem, breakfast daily & five dinners, transfers, entrance fees, and portage, and roundtrip bus transportation from Springfield to airport

The daily itinerary with details on registration is available on the Sinai Website (www.sinai-temple.org). You can register with Ayelet Tours, 19 Aviation Rd. Albany, NY 12205 or call (800) 237-1517 * (518) 783-6001 * FAX (518) 783-6003 * E-mail: ayelet@ayelet.com

Why Not Give Yourself the Gift of Hebrew?

As part of Sinai's 75th Anniversary Celebration, the Adult Education Committee is hoping to launch 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 this Fall 2006.

AND - 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.

To learn more, contact Reva Kleppel, Adult Education Chair. rkleppel@hotmail.com.

**The Challenge of Moral Leadership
Speaker - Rabbi Jack Riemer
The Samuel Dresner Memorial Lecture
Thursday, March 30th at Temple Beth El
at 7:30 PM**

An Expression of Thanks

I want to thank Sinai Temple for recommending that I be the recipient of a Micah Award which was presented to me by the Pioneer Valley Project (PVP) on January 28, 2006, at Cathedral High School. It is an honor that I shall cherish forever.

I also want to very much thank the many of you who made contributions in honor of my award. The donations, unless specified for another cause, were designated for PVP.

In addition, I thank the several Sinai congregants who came to the dinner event at Cathedral High School who, in a very real way, shared in the excitement of that elegant evening. I thank you so much for being there with me and my family.

A community atmosphere filled with joy and heartfelt friendship prevailed, and for that I am extremely grateful.

Saul Finestone

**Don't forget:
Sinai Temple Cookbooks are on sale at
the Temple Office and at the Gift Shop.
They make great gifts!**

From: Brotherhood: The Rabbi Herman Snyder Awards Dinner

This is it. The occasion that everyone's been eagerly awaiting: The Rabbi Herman Snyder Awards Dinner.

Join us for dinner on this very special day at 6:00 PM on March 24th as we celebrate the achievements of George Dickstein, this year's honoree. Dinner will be followed by the award presentation and then services at 8:00 PM. Please make sure to call the office no later than Tuesday the 21st to make your reservations! Dinner will be \$5.00 for Brotherhood members and \$10.00 for non-members.

The Brotherhood membership cards everyone has been asking about are finally ready. They are in the Temple office. All you have to do is go and get your name checked off on the list and you will get one. Sorry for the delay. Next year, we'll be much better prepared for the onslaught of requests.

Earlier in that very same week, on Sunday we will be having a "Men's Only" breakfast. This is geared specifically for those of you that have not joined Brotherhood. ***This event is absolutely free.*** All you have to do is take the responsibility to drop your kids off for Sunday school, park the car, and then walk into the O.S. room & join us for a real good breakfast of eggs, lox, and bagels, and with any luck a lively conversation will take place as well. And don't forget...sorry, ladies... psssst... no girls allowed!

Last month we had our first monthly Brotherhood poker game. It was a great time! We had a deli platter, and played for hours! We have decided to make this a regular event, so mark your calendars. Going forward, the forth Tuesday of the month will be Brotherhood poker night. We do ask for a \$5.00 contribution to help defray the expense of the food. If we get enough people, we might even dedicate a table to that ever popular fad game, Texas Hold 'Em.

Finally, we are holding our annual raffle on May 20th. This year we really do have more prizes than ever, including dozens of gift certificates to different area restaurants among our many other prizes. If we sell our usual number of tickets, your odds are greater than one in ten that you will win a prize. Tickets will be available in the Sinai office, or from a Brotherhood officer or member of the Temple board.

As usual, I am always open to new ideas for programming and events, as well as places where Brotherhood can contribute. Feel free to drop me a line at dcohn@sinaibrotherhood.org.

Dan Cohn

Just a Few Words from Karen Mernoff

On January 21st, over 200 people attended The Lucky Ticket Extravaganza. This event was a fundraiser for the Religious School and what a fundraiser it turned out to be! Over \$2500 was raised. A big thank you goes to the chairperson of this event, Joanne Brunell. Joanne, along with the committee of Lynn Solomon, Shari Cooper and Jodie Foster worked for 6 months to make certain that every aspect of the evening was planned right down to the very last detail.



On the evening of the event, many Sinai members helped out to make certain things ran smoothly. I would like to take the time to thank each one of them but please accept my apology if I left anyone out. First, thank you to our adult volunteers: Bonnie Gibson, Kathy and Andy Chaet, Melanie Stone and Joel Solomon. Thank you to our teen volunteers - Mason Dunn-McDonagh, Sarah Chaet and Erin Mernoff and of course, thank you to our student volunteers - Josh, Aaron and Zach Fisher, Sean and Zachary Meunier, Abbey and Dena Solomon, Andrew and Lauren Stone, Eric Gibson and Matthew Cooper. Also, thank you to our bakers - Joan Miller, Neva Frumkin and Tricia Freedman. (Melanie Stone and Lynn Solomon baked too!)

A big thank you goes to Robin Dunn-McDonagh, who did an outstanding job of emceeding the evening. A big thank you also goes to Michael Wald, our magician who donated his time to help make the evening extra special. In addition, thank you to Joe Berger who captured the evening by taking beautiful photos. Please be certain to check out the temple website to see his photos. Many of them are hanging in the temple hallway too.

Last but not least, thank you to all the Sinai families who donated gift baskets or prizes, gave monetary donations and who attended the event. Your support is appreciated and thanks to you, the Religious School will continue to thrive.

Speaking of support, thank you to all of you who participated in our two other Religious School fundraisers. Proceeds from the November Bake Sale and the December Paperwhites Sale all go to support the Sinai Temple Religious School.

Cantor Emily Sleeper Mekler

Judaism does it right. Following the death of a loved one the wisdom, thought and compassion of Judaism's traditions of coping with dying and death come through as guides and anchors for mourners along their way through darkness. Each of us who suffers a loss carries personal memories and emotions. With a firm, knowing, and compassionate hand, Judaism takes us along paths our own dear departed have walked before us.

From the day of Dad's passing, the funeral, the evenings of comforting Shiva services and following, my home was filled with warmth from hugs and sympathetic words. I gratefully welcomed the company and the support.

The 4th day following my father's death was Shabbat. I looked forward to its arrival and the much-needed opportunity to catch up on some rest. On Shabbat eve I attended the 6 p.m. minyan in the chapel of Temple Beth El, where my father had been a member and where both he and I, at different times, had sung in the choir. I had attended Junior Congregation and Hebrew and religious school there and had become a Bat Mitzvah and been Confirmed and married there. It was also where my mother's funeral had been held 8 years ago, and, a few days earlier, my father's. Coming home from the temple that evening, I lit my Shabbat candles, had some of the wonderful food with which well-wishers had filled my refrigerator, spoke with friends who called to check in, and went to bed very early, exhausted.

I awoke a bit after 2 a.m., and, noticing a faint glow in the room, thought I'd mistakenly left a light on somewhere in the house. But when I reached my bedroom door I realized that the glow from the shiva candle on the mantelpiece in my living room was filling the room with a warm and comforting light that filtered into my bedroom like morning mist over an open field. My father's spirit glowed and was very much "alive". Judaism does it right.

When I turned off my bedroom light to go back to sleep it seemed for a moment that it was darker than before, but when my eyes readjusted, the comforting glow in my room was still there.

My thoughts leapt ahead for a moment to the time, in just a few days, when the candle would burn out. The first week of Shiva would be over, and I would have to turn the first corner towards continuing my life without the presence of my dear father.

Unlike the Shiva candle that flickers and burns for only a week, my father's spirit will shine within me throughout my life. The glow will never fade and the song will remain.

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Dear Friends,

I cannot begin to express my deepest appreciation for the cards, contributions, and creative expressions of sympathy and compassion sent in memory of my dear father, Arnold Sleeper. Your kind and thoughtful gestures have been a great source of comfort to my family and me at this very difficult time of loss.

Zichrono livracha - May my father's memory be a blessing.

L'Shalom,
Cantor Emily Sleeper Mekler

For High School and College students

A Summer Program Making Money; The Susan M. Broh Tik-kun Olam Award

This summer Sinai Temple invites students to get involved with tik-kun olam - repairing the world. We would like to underwrite students who choose to spend their summer in a project that enriches the world. Interested students can get involved by thinking of a project or an area of interest. Those who are selected will be paid a salary of approximately \$7.50 an hour. (College students living outside the Pioneer Valley are welcome to find a project wherever they'll be spending the summer.)

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

A full application is available by calling the Temple office.

Save the Date!
New Member Brunch
Sunday, April 9th
Watch your mail for details!

Club Gimel-Dalet

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

Next Session

Sunday, March 19th

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Please remember to call Karen
Mernoff (736-3619 ext. 13)
to let her know if you can
attend

Do you have a preschooler who
is too restless to sit through
services?

Well, Sinai Temple has a service
for you.....

Tot Shabbat

Friday, March 24th

6:00 p.m.

This brief service is followed by a
snack

**A wonderful experience for you
and your preschooler**

Helping the Jews of Turkey

Dear Friends:

It is our pleasure to acknowledge
your contribution of \$725.00
in support of our response to
the recent terrorist bombings in
Istanbul, Turkey. Your support of
our work is greatly appreciated.

Through this special emergency
mailbox, JDC, in partnership with
the local Jewish community, will
ensure that all Jewish needs are
met and will provide non-sectarian
assistance to other victims of the
attacks.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors

American Jewish Joint Distribution
Committee, Inc.

www.sinai-temple.org

Be Famous!! Get Your Name in the Sinai Temple Engagement Calendar

You may not get your name in
lights, but you can get it in print.
Just get yourself listed as a "Friend
of Sinai" and you'll be famous in the
engagement calendar we publish
every summer. While you're at it,
you can also list your family's special
dates...anniversaries, birthdays,
yahrzeits, and anything else that you
want to share. One year I listed my
dog's birthday! It was June 24.

For \$18 you can be a Friend; for
\$36 you are a Super Friend; and for
more, you can be a Benefactor for
\$50 - and I'll come sing "Hey, Big
Spender" to you! Fill out a form
today or call the Temple office to get
your name in print.

Shalom,

Bea Sussman, Calendar Committee

Mazel Tov!

Mazel Tov! David and Marilyn
Amster on the birth of their grand-
daughter Sofia Gormley Amster on
February 6, 2006.

Mazel Tov! Mason Dunn-Mc-
Donagh on being accepted as one of
100 hand picked teens from across
the country to attend the first ever
Jewish Youth Funders Conference in
Denver, Colorado March 31 to April
3, 2006.

Sunday, March 5th at 3 p.m.

**SINAI TEMPLE HOSTS
AN INTERFAITH SACRED SERVICE**

**PLEASE JOIN US
FOR PRAYER AND BEAUTIFUL
MUSIC**

In the sanctuary at Sinai Temple

PASSOVER 2006

**PASSOVER BEGINS WEDNESDAY
EVENING, APRIL 12.**

**PASSOVER ENDS AT SUNDOWN,
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19.**

COME PRAY...COME FILL THE SANCTUARY PASSOVER MORNING

Thursday, April 13 at 10:30 a.m.
(Luncheon to follow.)

This grand service will include
special holiday music and an extra
opportunity to explore the appeal of
our great spring festival.

CONGREGATIONAL SEDER

Thursday evening, April 13

Mark your calendar for our Sinai
Temple Seder on the second night
of Pesach.

Reservations are due March 8.

YIZKOR AND CONCLUDING SERVICE

Wednesday, April 19 at 10:30 a.m.

We dedicate new plaques on our
yahrzeit board and bid farewell to
Passover.

A luncheon follows the service.

Welcome Nancy Gladstone to Sinai!

There is a new face at Sinai. When
you enter the office or when you
call the Temple, you'll be able to
meet Nancy Gladstone. Nancy is
Rabbi Shapiro's new secretary. She
began working at the Temple in
January and will be actively involved
in a variety of ways to make sure
Sinai functions well. When Nancy
answers the phone, please introduce
yourself. Drop by too. Nancy
comes to us via Kodimoh where she
served as synagogue secretary and
administrator for several years. It's a
pleasure to welcome her to Sinai.

Birthright Trips to Israel

I'm finally home after an amazing trip. Everyone I know who has come back from a Birthright trip has said what a great experience it was, but I never imagined it could be this incredible. We saw so much and learned so much not only about Israel historically but also modern Israeli culture. I think one of the most eye opening parts of the trip for me was the mega event we went to with all other birthright trips from around the world. They rented out the Jerusalem convention center two different times and each time it was packed with different trips. It was just a really great feeling to be in a room surrounded by thousands of other Jews from all over the world all in one place. Sharon was supposed to speak too, but unfortunately it was the night after he went back into surgery. It was a trip that I would tell every 18-26 year old Jew that they have to do. There's nothing to lose, it's completely free and an experience of a lifetime.

-Amy Paysnick



Rebecca Schlichtig just returned from a Birthright Trip to Israel. Here she is on a camel! Rebecca writes, "For me, traveling to new countries is significant because it makes the places I go to real and not just someplace far off that I read about in books. Israel was no exception, and I'm definitely glad I went."

From Sheila Shear, Director of Education

Shalom Chaverim!

Things are hopping at religious school these days. We have had an exciting third and fourth grade PACT with visitors of the reptile sort, from the Forest Park Zoo. We enjoyed On Wheels, an enlightening second grade Israel PACT experience with Robin Henrie. In a first grade PACT, we spent time learning about Shabbat. I am looking forward to celebrating Purim with all my young friends here at Sinai Temple, on Monday night, March 13th.

I would like to take another moment to talk to you about attendance at Friday Night Shabbat Services. Along with Sunday Religious School sessions and weekday Hebrew School sessions, Family Services for children in grades kindergarten through 4, and Kabbalat Shabbat Services for students in grades 5 through 7 are an important part of your child's Jewish education. I hope to see you at either or both of these family friendly services during the upcoming months. The Shabbat Habit. It's one of the good ones.

Campfire — An Israeli Film At Sinai Temple

A widow wants to change her life by moving to a new religious settlement in the West Bank; her two teenage daughters have different ideas. As the mother tries to convince the community that her family will be a productive addition to the settlement, her daughters begin to explore their attraction to the opposite sex and its repercussions.

Date: March 18 2006

Time: 7:30 PM Havdallah Service, 8:00 PM Film

Place: Sinai Temple, Auditorium

The Israeli Film Series is being sponsored by:

A grant from the Jewish Arts and Culture Initiative of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and The Anna P. Housen Israel Desk of the Jewish Federation of Greater Springfield.

*The Anna P. Housen Israel Desk is funded by a grant from the Anna P. Housen Fund for Israel of the Jewish Endowment Foundation of Western Massachusetts, a subsidiary of the Jewish Federation of Greater Springfield.

This film is being co-sponsored by the Women's Division of the Jewish Federation of Greater Springfield.

Draft 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 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.

Over 180 congregants participated in focus groups for the Mission Statement this past fall. Members of our Mission Statement Committee took careful notes and when the focus groups were over, we compiled everything that had been said. Looking over the treasure of commentary on Sinai, we found that certain themes and words did repeat themselves. An image of our congregation definitely rose out of the many voices we heard. Based on that image, we developed an initial Mission Statement and shared it with the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees. They made suggestions to us so that we could develop the revised statement.

Now we would like to hear from you. You may e-mail your comments to Karen Mernoff at kmernoff@sinai-temple.org or submit them online at: www.sinai-temple.org/DraftMissionStatement.html.

*Mission Statement Committee
Sinai Temple*

SAVE THE DATE!!

Friday evening, March 24, 2006

JEWISH MUSIC OF THE BAROQUE ERA

Highlighting the music of

Salamone Rossi

(circa 1570 -1630)

Featuring

The Sinai Temple Adult Choir

John Gerry-Karajanes, harpsichord

Sue Kurian, flute

Boris Kogan, cello

Sustaining Membership

At Sinai Temple, we have always welcomed everyone regardless of financial situation. No one is turned away from our synagogue because he or she lacks the means to pay full dues. To be as fair as possible, we have taken great care in granting dues abatements, recognizing that a reduction for one must be subsidized by an increase to others. In order to assure that membership remains available to all, and to continue meeting the operating expenses of the Temple, we have reinvigorated our Sustaining Membership program.

This fiscal year (2005-2006) we have turned to congregants who were already paying full dues at their category level and asked them to assume their fair share of sustaining Sinai by voluntarily increasing their financial commitment to the congregation. The results have been gratifying. As of January 1, 2006, 91 households have joined the Sustaining Membership program (paying amounts ranging from \$250 to \$2,500 over their required dues). These households have committed a total of \$52,535.00. We are so grateful for their generosity. Recognition for their sustaining membership support can also be seen on the plaque which is in the Temple lobby.

Thank you for your support!

Sinai Temple Funds

The form below may be used when submitting your donation. Those honored will be promptly informed of your thoughtfulness. Please return form to the Temple office.

Note: Suggested minimum donation is \$10.00. To honor the memory of your loved one with a permanent memorial plaque, contact Nancy Gladstone at 413 736-3619.

I (we) wish to contribute to the following funds:

<input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi's Discretionary Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi Jerome S. Gurland Human Relations Fund
<input type="checkbox"/> Cantor's Discretionary Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> College Outreach Fund in memory of Shirlee Cardarett
<input type="checkbox"/> Religious School Special Projects Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Education Fund in honor of Buster and Shirley Stahl
<input type="checkbox"/> Joseph Emanuel, Rabbi Eliot & Adele Biederman Snyder Memorial Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Temple Beautification Fund in memory of Bernerd Dunn
<input type="checkbox"/> Library Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Art Fund in memory of Andy Berger
<input type="checkbox"/> Temple Shabbat Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Abraham and Edna Simons Camp Scholarship Fund
<input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah Hunger Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Programming Fund in memory of Arline and Arthur Rogers
<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Book Fund (and Prayer Book Inscription Fund - \$25)	<input type="checkbox"/> Berman-Snieder Family Fund in honor of Our Parents
<input type="checkbox"/> World Crisis Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Caring Community Fund in honor of Joan Rosenbaum
<input type="checkbox"/> Baby Gift Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Paul Rubin Memorial Garden Fund
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Group Fund (SPFTY & JOY)	<input type="checkbox"/> Susan M. Broh Tikkun Olam Fund

Please print clearly

Please inform:

Occasion _____

Name _____

Address _____

From _____

City _____

Phone _____

State _____ Zip _____

Ushpizin Kicks off Film Festival

The Springfield component of the Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival opens Wednesday March 29 at the Showcase Cinema in West Springfield. Join us at 6:30 for a special Festival opening Reception followed at 7:30 pm by the screening of Ushpizin, winner of Israeli Film Critic's Best Picture Award.

Ushpizin is a rare collaboration between secular and ultra-Orthodox Israelis and one of the first movies filmed in the insular Jerusalem neighborhood Mea Shearim with ultra-Orthodox actors. Taking place "during the holy days of Sukkoth, the film is a gently comedic parable that offers a unique view of a cloistered society while addressing themes of faith, family and friendship that are universal," says Bob Strauss of the LA Times

The Festival programming continues in the Springfield community with daily screenings through Monday April 3rd, Movies include comedies, documentaries, and dramas from around the globe. If you enjoy films which make you laugh or cry, inspire you or cause you to consider a particular issue you'll be sure to find many films from which to choose.

In addition to the Showcase Cinema, screenings will be held at the Basketball Hall of Fame, Elms College, Western New England College, and the JCC. A full schedule of films, locations, ticket prices, and associated programs may be found at www.springfieldjcc.org or the official Festival Website www.pvjff.org. Advanced tickets are available at the JCC.

Sponsoring organizations in the Springfield area include the the JCC, Hatikvah Holocaust Center, Jewish Family Service, Elms College, Western New England College, Jewish Federation of Greater Springfield's Leadership Development and Outreach program and Israel Desk, Sinai Temple, Hadassah, and Temple Beth El.

Major Festival funders include, the Jewish Endowment Foundation of Western Mass, the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, Sapirstein & Sapirstein, Showcase Cinemas, Matthew Shaw in honor of Paul and Laraine Shore-Suslowitz, Springfield, Northampton, and Amherst Cultural Councils which are supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

The Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival opens officially on Sunday March 19th at the Yiddish Book Center and will screen films throughout the Valley until April 10. Look forward to greeting you at the Festival. For more information call the JCC, 739-4715.

Sinai Temple



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Purim

Back in the 50's, what a good time the adult members had celebrating Purim! Some names of the people are: first on the left - Milton Palmer; third from left, Abe Simons; fourth from left, Louis Selwitz. Perhaps you know the other two!

To all of you...Happy Purim.