

Sinai Temple

BULLETIN



Take Back Your Time: Rediscover Shabbat

For Your Consideration

Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro

May 15 is the day.

We are offering a fancy, full, fun “Jewish” breakfast for free, and we are hoping Sinai congregants will invite non-affiliated friends to join them that morning at 9:30 a.m.

The plan is for us to show off a bit. We’ll be warm and friendly. We’ll hopefully feel and act like such a terrific Temple that your friends will want to become members.

Can we succeed? You tell me.

On my own, I can easily name ten households that don’t belong to a synagogue. Technically, they could all join Sinai. And if they did, our Temple would be better off because, by our calculations, if we are concerned about running out of money, more members would mean more revenue and hence more security for the future.

But here’s the real bottom line. No one is going to join Sinai because they want to help balance our budget. Hardly any current member stays solely because they want to balance the budget. People come to a Temple and stay at a Temple because it’s a significant address for them. Something meaningful, something educational, something personal makes membership matter.

So here’s the secret ingredient for the May 15 breakfast spectacular. It’s you and your heart and soul. It’s you and your feelings that Judaism and Sinai are relevant, powerful, and sacred.

Bring a friend to Sinai on May 15. Do it for some good food, but, more than that, bring a friend because you want to share the goodness of our Temple.

Synagogues do good things and it is a blessing to be part of such a community. I feel that way. If you agree with me, then we are on the right track. Sinai has open doors. We would love to be a home for you and your friends who may be searching for us and what we offer.

Saturday Mornings May and June

Torah Study at 9:00 a.m. every Saturday Morning

Shabbat Service at 10:30 a.m.

Mazal Tov to Bnai Mitzvah

May 7 - Abbey Solomon, daughter of Joel and Lynn

May 21 - Noah Kalman, daughter of David and Pamela

June 4 - Craig & Seth Conklin, sons of Michael and Ilene

June 11 - Lauren Stone, daughter of Mark and Melanie

June 18 - Abbie Foster, daughter of Brad and Jodie

June 25 - Kayla Mernoff, daughter of David and Karen

Friday Evenings in May

May 6 at 7 p.m.

Service with a Story

Family Shabbat Dinner. The service will include honoring our teachers, the Andy Berger Art Contest, plus extra happiness for Israel’s birthday.

May 13 at 6 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat

Snacks at 5:30 p.m. followed by the service in which we will honor this year’s High School Seniors.

May 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Service with a Band

Make music; make happy. A true celebration of Shabbat.

May 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Service with the Torah

Happy Long Weekend and Shabbat Shalom

Friday Evenings in June

June 3 at 7 p.m.

Service with a Story

Ice cream and a delicious story. Plus the Photography Contest and blessings for those attending Jewish summer camp.

June 10 at 7:30 p.m.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE

Please honor our finest High School students. Terrific Tenth Graders on the bimah.

June 17 at 7:30 p.m.

INSTALLATION SERVICE

We honor incoming Temple leadership.

June 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Service with the Torah

Look at the weekly Torah portion. Rabbi Shapiro will teach.

Special Friday Evenings

TOT Shabbat - Fridays, May 20 & June 24 at 6 p.m. - Families with children from birth to five years of age meet for a service and dinner.

Sacred Chant - Fridays, May 27 & June 24 at 7 p.m.- Cantor Levson will lead half hour services of chanting and meditation to set the tone for the congregational service at 7:30 p.m.

Message from President Mark Stone

Shalom Chaverim (Goodbye Friends) שלום חברים

Well, it's really not goodbye but it will be the last time I will address in writing you as President of the congregation. My intention was to update you on what we have been doing and where we are headed. I have since changed my mind. In mid-May you will be receiving a communication that will offer you all the updates you need.

In this setting, I would rather like to tell you what I have learned over these past two years as Temple President. First, I wonder if I could ask you a few questions. What does the presence of Reform Judaism in Springfield mean to you? And, what do you think our congregation will look like twenty years from now?

I asked myself that very same question a few weeks ago when attending a Friday night service. You see, in June, I will be one of those congregants who have completed the B'nai Mitzvah for all my children. Yes, Lauren will become a Bat Mitzvah on June 11th. She will be the 2nd third generation B'nai Mitzvah for my family at Sinai. It so happens that is one of the exit points for some of our congregants. The thought is I'll check out for a while and come back later. Unfortunately, that model or way of thinking will not perpetuate our congregation into the future. For me it's easy, being connected for so long and being part of a family that has been part of Sinai for four generations does help me stay connected. Of course, you don't need to have that many generations belong to Sinai to feel connected.

I have learned that the future of our Synagogue and Reform Judaism in Springfield is ultimately up to us individually as it was in previous generations. They knew that, in order for the congregation to thrive, their continuing affiliation was paramount to its future as they built this congregation. I know we have competing priorities now a days but the Board and committees cannot resolve our retention concerns by themselves. You alone and collectively can do just that. If we were able to retain half of those who leave Sinai, we would not have a declining membership concern.

It is my sincere hope that many years from now, when I have entered my twilight years and I am slowly heading to the glow of a distant sunset, I will have a place like Sinai to be part of and help me complete that Journey.

But what about those of you that need help connecting? Now more than ever synagogues need our support throughout all our life cycle events. We have been working hard these past years reaching out to those who may question their connection with Sinai. We have done many things to communicate and connect with our entire congregation. Our Clergy, staff, board, committees and volunteers have been working very hard on these efforts and to them I would like to say THANK YOU for all you have done.

So here we are, one last time, and part of me finds it hard to let go. I know you may find this hard to believe, but I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute as President of the congregation. Sure, there can be some ups and downs, but I hope you are pleased with what we have accomplished over the past few years. It has truly been an honor to serve the congregation.

On behalf of my family (Grandpa Arthur Rogers and Nana Arlene Rogers - Alav Hashalom - May they rest in peace) who I hope are very proud of our Sinai Temple, my parents Marlene and Nelson, my wife Melanie, children Andrew and Lauren I wish you all health and happiness.

The Sinai Temple Bulletin is published every other month by Sinai Temple, Springfield, Massachusetts. This is Issue Number 6 for the year 2010-2011.

Mark Dov Shapiro Rabbi
Martin Levson Cantor
Sheila Shear Director of Education
Lisa Gittleman Udi JOY and SPFTY Advisor
Mark Stone President
Jeff Cossin First Vice President
Steve Sussman Vice President
Linda Kay Vice President
Bruce Leshine Treasurer
Laurie Weinberg Financial Secretary
Jackie Neiman Recording Secretary
Jack Henrie Men of Sinai
Ron Weiss Cemetery Chair
Jackie Neiman Membership Recruitment Chair
Visit our website: www.sinai-temple.org

Larry Midler at Sinai Tuesday June 14

Larry Milder is a flatpicking, singing rabbi with a knack for off-beat Jewish tunes. His combination of wry wit and exceptional guitar playing have earned him a national following among fans of new Jewish music.

Larry has produced four albums of new and original Jewish folk music. He has appeared at synagogues and Jewish art festivals across the country, as well as at prestigious folk venues such as the Maine Festival and the Left Bank Cafe. And Cantor Levson and Rabbi Shapiro guarantee that he is wonderful and stimulating performer. Not to be missed.

**A "Taste" of Sinai Breakfast
Designed for You and Your Unaffiliated Friends
Sunday – May 15th
9:30am – 11:00am**

**Bagels, Lox, Whitefish, Blintzes, Kugel, Cream Cheese, Tomatoes,
Rugelach, Fruit, Herring, Juice, Coffee, Desserts, and more ...
a delicious Jewish breakfast!**

All you need to do to enjoy this great breakfast buffet is to invite your unaffiliated friends to join you.

Give your guest the invitation card you recently received in the mail and send back the response card so that we know you are coming.

If you have lots of unaffiliated friends and need more invitation cards, please call the temple. Bring an appetite. More importantly, bring a friend to the Temple and let them see us at our best! Thank you for your support.

—Sinai Temple Membership Recruitment Committee

**And Later on Sunday, May 15
At 11:30 a.m. when the school year concludes
Men of Sinai is offering a BBQ for parents and kids.**



**A Congregation – Wide Dinner
Annual Meeting
Honoring Cantor Levson on his 20th
year as a Cantor
Concert with Larry Milder
All on one fabulous night
Tuesday, June 14 at 6 p.m.**

At 6 p.m., dinner is served for everyone. (Children are welcome.) At 6:45 p.m., Temple's annual meeting will take place with an update on our plans for the future and congratulations to our Cantor.

7:30 p.m. brings guest performer, Larry Milder. The best of the best!

Larry Milder's appearance is made possible by a gift from Ed Wallace and family in memory of Paul Feldman, father of Carol Roberts.

Celebrating Learning, Music, and Community

MACCABEATS TO PERFORM ON ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

Yom Ha-Atzma-ut for the Whole Community

Tuesday, May 10 at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Beth el



In celebration of Yom Ha-Atzma-ut, Israel's birthday, the Anna P. Housen Israel Desk of the Jewish Federation is presenting the world famous Maccabeats on Tuesday, May 10 at 7:30 pm at Temple Beth El in Springfield.

A cappella at its best. These guys are terrific!!! (They are the ones who produced this past Chanukah's best-selling and best-viewed YouTube Chanukah song.)

Tickets are available in advance for \$5.00 per person at the Springfield JCC and Federation office. Tickets may be ordered online for \$6.00 per person by visiting the Federation website. www.jewishwesternmass.org Seating is limited. We expect a sell-out crowd. For more information, contact Conrad Koller at (413) 737-4313 x157.

Yom Hashoah...Holocaust Memorial Day

Sunday, May 1 from 7 to 8 p.m.

At Temple Beth El for the whole community

The annual commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day will present readings from the "Shoah Scroll", a literary work of poetry, prose and prayer chronicling individual histories from the Holocaust.

The one-hour program will include a traditional memorial service, a candle lighting ceremony and moving music.

The event is co-sponsored by the Springfield Jewish Community Center and the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts with support from the William and Lynn Foggie Holocaust Studies Fund.

SHAVUOT EVENING

Caring for our Loved Ones:

What We Can Learn From the Characters of the Bible

With Professor Norman Cohen,

Tuesday, June 7 at 7 p.m.

Spouses take care of spouses. Adult children care for aging parents. Responsibilities, blessings, frustrations and complications. How do we cope?

Professor Norman Cohen will be our guide as we navigate these human challenges on June 7 when Sinai Temple and Temple Beth El celebrate Shavuot together. Starting at 7 p.m., the evening will include worship, conversation, and a home-baked Oneg.

SHAVUOT MORNING – AN EXPERIENTIAL SERVICE

Including Yizkor

Wednesday, June 8 at 10:30 a.m.

Instead of merely reading about Mount Sinai, we will explore the experience our ancestors had when they received the "constitution" of the Jewish people at Sinai. We will meet in the Oneg Shabbat room unrolling the scroll of Torah in our midst. Yizkor will be part of the service. Lunch will follow



CARING FOR OUR LOVED ONES:

WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM
THE CHARACTERS OF THE BIBLE

**AN EVENING FOR STUDY AND DIALOGUE
WITH PROFESSOR NORMAN COHEN,
PROVOST EMERITUS AND
PROFESSOR OF MIDRASH,
HEBREW UNION COLLEGE, NEW YORK**

**Tuesday, June 7 at 7 p.m.
At Sinai Temple**



Norman Cohen was ordained in 1971 and received his Ph.D. in 1977. He was a participant in Bill Moyers' Genesis: A Living Conversation series on PBS, and is the author of several books, including *Voices from Genesis: Guiding us through the Stages of our Life and Self, Struggle, and Change: The Family Conflict Stories in Genesis and their Healing Insights for our Lives.*

Spouses take care of spouses. Adult children care for aging parents. Parents care for children. Responsibilities, blessings, frustrations and complications. How do we cope? How did Jews of the past handle these human dilemmas? Can we discover their healing insights to help us in our own lives?

Norman Cohen will be our guide on June 7 as Sinai Temple and Temple Beth El celebrate Shavuot together. Starting at 7 p.m., the evening will include worship, conversation, and a home-baked Oneg.

This program is underwritten by a grant from the Harold Grinspoon Supporting Foundation plus the cooperative efforts of Sinai Temple and Temple Beth El.

Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Are You Interested in Starting a New Class For A New Year? Orientation Session – Saturday, May 7 at 8 a.m.

Dear Congregants:

During the last several years, it has been my privilege to work with five groups of men and women who have chosen to become Bar/Bat Mitzvah as adults. If you are at all interested in helping form another Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah class that could start meeting in the near future, please contact me. markdov@sinai-temple.org

Our initial, informal get-to-know-one-another session will take place *Saturday, May 7 in the Oneg Shabbat Room at 8 a.m.* No commitments. Call me and we can see if it's right for you. Rabbi Shapiro

Interested in Movies? Read On!

A recent New York Times article noted that American cinema rarely focuses on the complex ties between the Western and Islamic worlds. We don't see some of the finest films on this topic from around the world. Are you interested in previewing some of these films and perhaps sharing them in a short film series at Sinai next year? Please contact Rabbi Shapiro.

Torah Study – We Feed You Weekly with the Weekly Torah Portion Every Saturday morning At 9 a.m.

The best free breakfast in the Pioneer Valley coupled with a taste of Torah. Led by Rabbi Shapiro with a smile and good humor.

Saturday Morning Services Every Saturday morning At 10:30 a.m.

A regular weekly Shabbat morning service. Even when there isn't a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, we meet at 10:30 a.m. complete with the Yahrzeit list.

Please note - Although Torah Study continues every Saturday at 9 a.m. in July and August, Saturday morning services will not take place in the summer. We will return to morning services on September 3.

Monthly Morning Service Wednesday, May 4 & June 1 at 7:30 a.m.

Meet in the sanctuary for a service of 20 minutes. Breakfast follows. The feeling of togetherness is wonderful. Those who need to leave for the rest of the day are free no later than 8:15 a.m.

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 1 & 8, services will take place outdoors after a picnic dinner starting at 6:00 p.m.*

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

Have You Got a Suggestion?

As the programming year draws to a close, June becomes our most important month for planning next year's happenings at Sinai. Almost every one of our committees will be meeting to think about next year.

So...If you have an idea or a suggestion...Please call the office, Temple President, or the Rabbi and let us know. Better still...Call to find out when our committees are meeting and come to one meeting to share your thoughts.

The committees meeting in June are: Ritual, Adult Education, Religious School, Caring Community, and Social Action. Please visit the meeting(s) of your choice. Each committee would love to hear from you.

Casseroles?

Dear Friends - Every Fall Sinai Temple cooks dinner on several occasions for the soup kitchen called Loaves and Fishes. We have a standard casserole with a fixed recipe that is easy to make and freeze ahead of time. If you've got one hour to make one casserole next Fall, could you please let us know now? We can give you exact dates and the recipe when September arrives, but, meanwhile, it would be great to know that YOU can help. Thank you.

Bobi Steingart 567-6327
drblood50@comcast.net

Message from Cantor Martin Levson

Spring is here, and a Cantor's thought turn toward... the High Holidays. Yes, believe it or not, I am already making plans for the fall. Here's some of what's in the works:

The High Holidays are "late" this year! (Actually, as Rabbi Charles Sherman of Tulsa likes to joke, "Rosh Hashana starts on the first day of Tishrei, just like it does every year!") Because the holidays are "late" according to the secular calendar, this gives us all a little more time to prepare. Rehearsals for the High Holiday Choir will begin in early August. It is my intention to expand the role of the choir in the Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur services with some new musical settings and some new arrangements. The choir will once again sing for the evening services, so choir members can sit with family and friends during the other services on the holidays. If you would like to sing with the choir this year, please let me know. We would love to welcome new singers. Singing in the High Holiday Choir is a great way of deepening your appreciation of the liturgy, and it's also a lot of fun!

One of the many things I appreciate about the High Holidays at Sinai Temple is the tradition of having lay Torah readers. It is my intention to have all the Torah readers chosen, and for them to have their portions and CDs in hand by June 1st. This will give the readers almost 4 months to practice! If you would be interested in chanting Torah for the High Holidays, please let me know soon

Speaking of chanting Torah, a few people have asked about my offering a Torah chanting class. We discussed this possibility at a recent Adult Education Committee meeting. I would be willing to offer such a class in the fall, IF there is serious interest from members of the congregation. The class would meet weekly over a period of about 10 weeks, and yes, there will be "homework" assigned! The class would culminate with the graduates chanting some verses of Torah during a Shabbat service. If you can already "decode" Hebrew (reading letters and vowels, but not necessarily with comprehension), and would like to learn the sacred art of chanting Torah, please let me know that you would be interested! If I get enough of a response, I will offer the class this autumn.

And now, back to the present: On Friday evening, May 27 and June 24, I will once again be offering a 25 minute pre-services "Welcoming Shabbat with Sacred Chant" sessions. We will begin upstairs in room 6 at 7:00, and we will chant (with brief periods of meditation) until about 7:25. I invite you to open your hearts and souls to Shabbat on these evenings through the powerful practice of Jewish sacred chanting. (And you don't have to sit on the floor!)

Finally, some "kvelling" is in order: "Shir Fun!" (and their parents) made a journey to Boston in early April, where they sang at a Junior Choir "Zimriyah," a choral festival held annually at Temple Israel of Boston. "Shir Fun!" was one of eleven choirs that sang at the festival, and was the group that schlepped in from the greatest distance. Our kids sang beautifully, and represented Sinai Temple and Western MA with dignity. I was very proud of our young singers! You can hear "Shir Fun!" on Friday, May 6, June 3, and Tuesday, June 14, at the Annual Meeting, where they will sing a few songs with our special guest Rabbi Larry Milder!

*"Yvdu et Hashem B'simcha!
Serve the Holy One with JOY!" (Psalm 100:2)*

One Service for Rosh Hashanah Morning -

Just in case you missed this important announcement in the last Bulletin:

After careful consideration, the Ritual Committee and Temple leadership have decided to return to Sinai's historic practice of bringing the community together for one service on Rosh Hashanah morning when the New Year arrives this September.

As you will recall, Mark Stone, our Temple president, announced last Rosh Hashanah that this change was being considered. We now want to go back to the tradition of a single service so that the entire congregation can share the same experience just as we do on Yom Kippur morning. Both morning services will begin at 10 a.m. Child care and programming will, of course, be available during the Rosh Hashanah morning service just as it is on Yom Kippur. You're welcome to share any questions you may have with Ritual Chair, Sherry Souliere, 567-7446.

Transportation Needed? Maybe you need The Sinai Shul Shuttle



Do you ever need a ride to the Temple? Have you ever missed a service or an adult education class or any other event because you couldn't find a ride?

Call the Temple office at least two business days in advance to make a reservation. The Caring Community Committee will connect you with a Temple member who will happily do the driving.

If you know someone who needs transportation or if you are someone who wants to volunteer as an occasional driver, please call the Temple office as well.

Message from Sheila Shear Director of Education

Shalom Chaverim

As I sit here writing this Purim is just passed and Pesach lies just ahead. This signals much on many levels for me. Personally it is a time for cleaning, cooking and more cleaning. It is a time for me to look ahead with great joy at the blooming of the trees and flowers, the chirping of birds and the return of warmer weather. It is a time professionally when I look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of our students and assessing the effectiveness of our programming. I am pleased to report that while not so many years ago it was more the norm than the exception that students required additional tutoring during their B’Nai Mitzvah year, in this current year of 5771, our fifth using Mitkadem for our Hebrew Curriculum, this is no longer the case.

The time between Purim and Pesach is also a time to think about the strength of our community. When we left Egypt we did it as a community, as we raise and educate our Jewish children let us continue to act as a community. Let’s continue to work together to grow our educated Jewish children into educated Jewish adults. Our children need the support of the entire Sinai community. I’m in, how about you?



From Tot to STUFF: A New Name, A New Committee, and a New Fund!

Throughout the past year, Sinai’s Tot Programming has gained momentum with events drawing spirited crowds of the youngest members of our congregation. We are pleased to introduce a new committee and a brand new name – STUFF – Sinai Temple Under Five Families. STUFF will be expanding Sinai’s current “tot” programming to continue to offer Jewish experiences designed specifically for families with children or grandchildren from 0 – 5 years old.

Additionally, the “Esther Pachman Fund for Programming for Children Under Five” has been created to support Tot Shabbat services and other meaningful and engaging experiences for our youngest congregants (0-5 years old) and their families. This fund was established by the Courtemanche family in memory of Melanie Courtemanche’s grandmother, Esther Pachman, who would have loved to have been a part of STUFF. This fund is now another option when making a contribution to Sinai and is an excellent way to celebrate a birth, an adoption, a birthday, a B’nai Mitzvah or other milestone, or to honor or remember a loved one.

“Stuff” about STUFF

January 21st and February 11th were evenings filled with songs, smiles, and prayers as Sheila Shear led the service for STUFF at Tot Shabbat. In February, the children decorated their own challah covers to use at home on Shabbat. Both nights included a delicious dinner and socializing among families. On March 5th, STUFF participated in Sinai’s Day of Unplugging with a program called “From Morning to Night, All is Well” led by fellow congregant and PJ Library Educator Iris Koller. Morning and evening greetings of “Boker Tov” and “Laila Tov” and rituals associated with these times of day were introduced through songs, PJ books, and crafts. Children were encouraged to recount the blessings of their day and created a crafts to help with this ritual. Prior to the Purim Play on March 20th, STUFF celebrated the holiday with a Bagels and Blocks program facilitated by Gloria Wald. After listening to a Purim story, the children sang and danced with Cantor Bim Bam to Purim tunes. The children also made their own groggers to help drown out Haman’s name during the Megillah reading. Bagels were noshed on by all and the program ended with some free time to build with blocks.

We have lots of exciting upcoming STUFF events:

- Sunday May 1– Mitzvah Day STUFF Activity
- Friday May 20th – 6:00 p.m. Tot Shabbat, dinner to follow
- Friday June 24th – 6:00 p.m. Tot Shabbat, dinner to follow

If you are interested in receiving more information about these events or if you would like to participate in the newly formed STUFF committee, please contact Melanie Courtemanche at mnkle17@gmail.com or Alisha Snow at alishaksnow@yahoo.com

Your Telephone May Ring This Month: The Sustaining Membership Program

If you are among those congregants who pay full dues in your category, your telephone may ring this month. Members of the Sustaining Membership Committee will be calling you to ask that you become a Sustaining Member of Sinai.

What is a Sustaining Member?

A Sustaining Member is someone who chooses to offer Sinai an extra amount of fund beyond dues. During the current fiscal year, over 90 Sinai households became Sustaining Members and contributed over \$60,000 to our budget.

By doing this, the Sustaining Members helped reduce the need to raise the fees for Temple members who cannot afford full dues. By assuming a kind of “fair share,” the Sustaining Members also allowed Sinai to continue to offer a full and varied menu of programs.

Thank you to those who have become Sustaining Members. Thank you now - in advance - to those of you who may choose to join the program for next year. The levels of involvement are below. Each level assumes a member paying his/her dues and then adding on to those dues the following amounts.

Leader	\$3,000
Pillar	\$2,500
Chai Friend	\$1,800
Friend	\$1,500
Benefactor	\$1,000
Chai Sponsor	\$720
Sponsor	\$500
Chai Supporter	\$360
Supporter	\$250

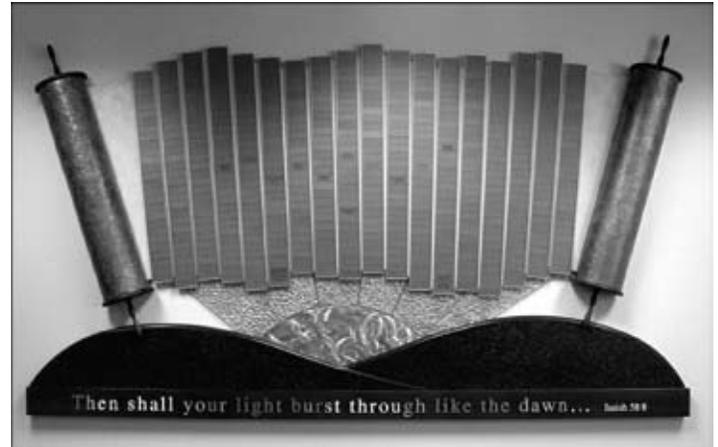
If you have questions or want to join the program, please call me at 567-2278.

Shalom,
David Kalman,
Sustaining Member Chair

The Sustaining Membership Program: Matching Gifts are New for This Year

A generous Sinai Temple supporter has volunteered TO MATCH any increases in commitments made by any member of the Sustaining Membership Program. The donor will also match the commitment of any new participants in the program. Please consider SMP even more than before. Thank you for helping MATCH and strengthen this program.

Scroll of Life



The Scroll of Life is a work of art in the Oneg Shabbat Room. It was created by Presentations Gallery of New York. The Isaiah quote at the bottom of the Scroll was taken from the Yom Kippur Haftarah as an expression of hope.

The Scroll has space on it so that Sinai members can commemorate either joyous events or memorialize loved ones. Each contribution of a plaque on the Scroll will be used to enrich the life and strength of Sinai. The cost of each plaque is \$200. The inscription may be 3-4 lines with a maximum of 27 spaces per line.

Happy Graduation!

Mazal Tov to the following Sinai teenagers who have grown up at Sinai and are now graduating High School. Remember, we can stay in touch with our young people via our ALUMNI program. When next year's addresses are confirmed, please let the Temple office know. Packages and reminders from home will follow!

Anthony Barbieri
Sarah Breslau
Sara Brooks
Charlie Dorison
Joshua Friedberg
Celia Gibson
Joshua Hurwitz
Clark Kadis
Sarah Klein

Spencer Locke
Martin Markenson
Harry Miller
John Narmontas
Alex Pascal
Simon Sherman
Ilanna Tariff
Melissa Winer

NOTE... SINAI IS PRINTING ONLY SIX BULLETINS THIS YEAR. THIS MAY/JUNE BULLETIN WILL CARRY US THROUGH TO A BRIEF UPDATE FOR JULY & AUGUST. WE CAN STAY IN TOUCH MOST EFFECTIVELY IF WE HAVE YOUR E-MAIL. PLEASE SEND US YOUR E-MAIL FOR A ONCE-WEEKLY CONNECTION.

Prospective New Members for Sinai Temple: Recruit Members...Build Sinai

Every year people relocate to the greater Springfield area, or people who have lived in the area consider joining a Temple. Often these people, friends, colleagues, neighbors or relatives ask current members about Sinai Temple. You can help the Temple recruit these interested people by referring them to Jackie Neiman, Chair of the Membership Recruitment Committee. Jackie has created a new committee with many new resources for new members. You can reach Jackie at 567-7978.

And don't forget our Recruitment Breakfast on Sunday, May 15 at 9:30 a.m.

Bring a friend!

Spread the News

Do you know Sinai Temple's membership incentives? What follows are the incentives developed over the last few years. NEW INCENTIVES will be available this Fall.

Young Adult 18 – 30

Complimentary

Ages 31 – 35

Reduced rates to make it easy to belong

Those who belong to another local synagogue!

Associate Membership reduced dues

Those who live out of town!

An "out of town" membership is available

Plus Try-A-Synagogue Offers Reduced Rates For People Joining Any Local Synagogue

Please reach out. Let your unaffiliated family, friends, and neighbors know about the wonderful world of Sinai. Share the benefits of belonging to our community.

And if you refer someone to Sinai who becomes a member at any level, we will most certainly want to thank you.

Why Sinai Temple is such an Important Part of my Life

By Zel Lavin

When our family moved to this area 50 years ago, we were confident that we would join a Reform Temple, because there was no question but that we would become affiliated only with Reform.

I believed at that time that it was normal to attend High Holyday Services, send my children to Religious School, and work with the Sisterhood. Once I became involved, however, and began attending Services more often and working as a volunteer, I began to understand that I was gaining more than I was giving!

There is ruach at Sinai, almost like a second family. I am impressed to see the long time members, the staunch supporters, and past leadership appear at funerals and shiva services when a member is bereaved. They are showing their support by their presence, by bringing food, and offering other assistance. It is as if it is a second family.

When we had Justin Cammy on a Friday evening, volunteers provided delicious soups and there was no charge for the evening. Again, volunteers sponsored the speaker. The positive feeling in the room was pervasive.

Those Adult Education dinner discussions are another example of attracting members to become involved, and again.....there is no fee.

The best example of the spirit at Sinai was shown with the Music Man production. The volunteers were apparent, running around behind the scenes. It ran perfectly smooth because those members cared. I felt such pride to see people I knew and some I didn't know, all working together to make this production a success. Snacks and flowers were donated so that financial profits could increase. No one was looking for special recognition. It was "All for Sinai".

I realize that everyone has a busy life; but I want to encourage those who only attend services at Sinai on the High Holydays to take advantage of all we have to offer.

Pride is an intangible word but I feel I have touched it at Sinai Temple.

Judaica Shop Corner

Mother's Day is almost here, and we have lovely jewelry to make her smile.

For B'nai Mitzvah, our selection of tallisim will satisfy every taste; traditional, silks, organzas, wools. Many are sets which include tallis bags and kipots.

After mid-May, when Religious School ends, we will be available. Call us and we'll be there.

Have a great summer.

Thais Fischel 786-9577

Take Back Your Time Rediscover Shabbat

Some “rules” and thoughts about the seventh day – otherwise known as Saturday.

ADULT PLAYGROUND RULES

- No Laptop or Cell phone use allowed.
- No worrying about deadlines.
- No business suits allowed.
- No business meetings.

MORE TIME. LESS STUFF

There’s no doubt about it. When it comes to stuff per capita, Americans are number one. But, possessions don’t translate into happiness. What does? A good family life, meaningful relationships, hobbies, volunteering for the common good.

It’s time we traded some of our productivity gains for time instead of money and stuff. We’d all be happier.

BE STILL...

“Be still and know that I am God,” reads the Bible. Now that we’re working 24/7, there’s no time for the soul. To live a spiritual life, we need quiet time and respite from over-work and over-scheduling. American life is out of balance, and it’s time to get that balance back.

TAKE BACK YOUR TIME: REDISCOVER SHABBAT

The Harold Grinspoon Foundation: Open Positions

Coordinator, Community Outreach Programs

Harold Grinspoon Foundation/Jewish Arts & Culture Initiative seeks dynamic professional for full time position to coordinate several partnership programs for the Pioneer Valley Jewish community in Western Massachusetts, primarily the Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival, but also including other projects, such as Culture Connect, Rekindle Shabbat, and Unsung Hero Awards.

Must be a team player with proven ability to build community partnerships, negotiate business agreements, detail oriented, and self-directed. Must have proven project management skills, including program development and implementation, fundraising, and knowledge of Jewish practice. Must have an undergraduate degree and relevant professional experience. Full-time position based in West Springfield, Massachusetts.

Director of Community Development

The PJ Library© is seeking an individual with knowledge of the North American Jewish community to help



Message from Men of Sinai President Jack Henrie

You will have the benefit of reading this after our April 24th Men of Sinai breakfast, while I am writing before. I will venture that our feature speaker, Ben Marchette, a director in New England and primary presenter for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, regaled all present with the state of current events in the Middle East, their impact on the U.S. and Israel, and the truth behind media coverage of Israel, supporting Israel by knowing the facts. It was a great event and I hope that you were able to join us.

March was another active month for MOS, with a breakfast, Sinai’s Purim Party with food provided by the Men of Sinai, the conclusion of the raffle of a 42” HDTV with a Sony Blu-ray player (won by Sheila Shear) donating \$1,370 to Sinai’s Religious School Scholarship Fund, and the dinner and presentation of the Rabbi Herman E. Snyder Award to Robyn Newhouse and Steve Kaplan.

The Men of Sinai will provide a barbecue on May 15th following the Taste of Sinai. It is another of our events which are free to Sinai Temple and our community. Our barbecues have coincided with a presentation by a scientist who led the expedition of Mars by land rovers and the beginning and end of the Religious School year. We have had seven breakfasts, hosted the Hanukkah dinner which was the largest such event in Sinai’s history, nearly 500 people for the Fall Festival of Art which netted Sinai and the Men of Sinai about \$5,500, sponsored the Rabbi’s interfaith program of learning for interfaith clergy of the region, and all that I mentioned above.

Thankfully, more have joined in the Men of Sinai to help with all these activities as our ranks have grown by over 70% this year. We would gladly welcome many more!! Many thanks to all of you who have participated in the Men of Sinai’s success in our support of Sinai and of our community!

expand The PJ Library© program into new communities, and support existing communities.

The candidate must be able to create strong connections through personal interactions with Jewish communal organizations and funders. This person will be charged with educating organizations about The PJ Library© program, launching and ensuring longevity of the program through stewardship and participating in fundraising initiatives with philanthropic partners. Frequent travel required. Full-time position based in West Springfield, Massachusetts.

Please see HGF.ORG for more information.

E-mail cover letter, résumé and references to JOBS@HGF.ORG for all positions. Applications will be accepted until positions are filled.

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR
CONFIRMATION 2011/5771
FRIDAY, JUNE 10 AT 7:30 P.M.
AT SINAI TEMPLE**

WE WOULD LOVE TO SHARE OUR LEARNING WITH YOU!

TALYA CHAIT, DAUGHTER OF NEVA FRUMKIN AND YOSSI CHAIT
MADDY COHEN, DAUGHTER OF AMY COHEN
REBECCA COHEN-LINDFORS, DAUGHTER OF JANE LINDFORS AND BERNIE COHEN
DAN ERLICH, SON OF SHARON AND DAVID EHRlich
JENNA FRIEDBERG, DAUGHTER OF DIANE AND RICHARD FRIEDBERG
TAYLOR GORDENSTEIN, SON OF MARCIA AND RON GORDENSTEIN
ETHAN KADIS, SON OF KAREN AND TODD KADIS
ZACH KALMAN, SON OF DAVID AND PAM KALMAN
BEN LEAVITT, SON OF DONNA FISHER AND ROBERT LEAVITT
APRIL SOLON, DAUGHTER OF TINA DEMEZA AND MIKE SOLON

Why Judaism is Important to Me

During the month of February, "Buff" Abaron Maniscalco became Jewish. These are the remarks he shared with those present as he became Jewish.

Twelve years ago, on a bimah, on the edge of the wilderness of Maine, my friend Marisa stood before a congregation of Jews and proclaimed herself to be Jewish, just as I will soon do. Within that tiny gathering, our mutual Jewish friend Lois stood beside me to watch the event. Afterwards Lois turned to me and said, "I don't understand why anyone would want to join something that I've been trying to hide from all my life." In my heart I knew the answer. But everyone must choose their own time to come out of the wilderness. Today it is my turn to come home.

For forty-three years I have meandered in the wilderness looking for a spiritual home. In those forty-three years I have learned and forgotten many things, proving Lois' point that you don't need to be Jewish to live. But more importantly, I have learned from Marisa that Judaism makes living worthwhile. To put it another way, the meaning of life isn't to be Jewish, but rather Judaism brings meaning to life.

First and foremost, Judaism creates desperately needed breaks in our hurried life. The tranquility of Shabbat is more than just a goal to look forward to after a week of hard work. It is a time for inward thoughts and self-nurturing. Shabbat peace allows for self-reflection, self-assessment and growth. These pauses are not limited to once a week. We are asked to reevaluate ourselves throughout the year not only at Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot, but also on Purim, Passover and the whole month of Elul. It is an important piece of being Jewish.

Secondly, Judaism shows us the oneness of creation. Just as the Shema says, there is only one G-d and G-d is one. We are connected to everything and everything is connected to us. When we sit in the sukkah and look through the cornstalks out into the night sky we can feel that connection. The world around us is alive, and we, a critical part of that web of life.

But most importantly to me, Judaism is a living faith. It is not run by creeds or decrees from a foreign land or a distant time. By commanding each and every one of us to study Torah, we discover ourselves in the text. Just as Moses learned at Meribah (Numbers 20), we must be patient under pressure and not strike-out when gentle words can yield the same results. From that same story, we learn that the results of our thoughtless actions can lead to serious consequences. These are two of the many lessons we can draw out of the stories when we study Torah. Through studying, each person and each generation can use the lessons that they discover within their own lives.

I have been standing on Mount Nebo long enough. It is time for me to carry the lessons I have learned in the wilderness onward. I will carry this Torah with me not as a burden, but as a beacon, lighting my way ahead. The Torah is not a history book, it is a living book. We should not look upon the words and ask "What happened back then?" Instead we should ask "What does this mean to me now?" The Torah is a tree of life, and its message grows as we grow.

Now please excuse me as I step down from this mountain. I am going home.

The Memory of the Righteous is a Blessing

All of us at Sinai Temple extend condolences as we remember the following. Their memories are precious to their relatives, their friends and to each of us who form the community of Sinai Temple.

We remember those who have passed away from February 1, 2011 - April 6, 2011:

- Judy Kantrowitz, Harry Auerbach's sister.
- Albert Midas, Elaine Geha's father.
- Irving Hochman
- Shirley Mustain, Jay Mustain's mother
- Helen Radner, Bill Radner's mother
- Bernard Cohen, Michael Cohen's brother
- Ida Berman Orr, cousin of Bonnie Thomas and Elaine Shusterman

Have We Got A Date? Getting Ready for Next Year's Engagement Calendar

Every year for over 50 years Sinai Temple has produced a calendar for your desk that presents the year week by week and includes all the Jewish holidays plus much more.

Our "Calendar Committee" is hard at work right now preparing the 2011-2012 calendar and we need your help. If you know of any individual or company that might like to advertise in our calendar, please let our Temple office know immediately.

If you would like to offer support to the calendar, you may do so by becoming a "friend" of Sinai for as little as a donation of \$18. You can also list special events such as birthdays or wedding anniversaries. It's all part of creating a calendar that embraces our community and is, by the way, an excellent fundraiser for the congregation.

Thank you for taking the time to make a date with the Calendar.

Please call the Temple office with your questions and support. 736-3619.

Make donations through Sinai ONLINE!!!

www.sinai-temple.org

You learn about someone's success or someone's sadness. You want to make a contribution but it's so much trouble to write a check.

Now you can skip the check and the snail mail.

Go to Sinai's website www.sinai-temple.org and make the donation to any one of our funds ONLINE.



**ACHIEVE YOUR
ACADEMIC GOALS**

with an interest-free loan from the
Hebrew Free Loan Association

Federal loans can only cover a fraction of the cost of college. Most students need additional education funding to help bridge the gap between their financial aid package and the total cost of their education

For information on our education loans contact:

**The Hebrew Free Loan Association
of Greater Springfield**
1160 Dickinson Street, Springfield, MA 01108
Elaine Geha, HFLA Executive Director
(413) 736-6573



Sinai Temple

BULLETIN



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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SPRINGFIELD, MA
PERMIT NO.537

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

***A "Taste" of Sinai Breakfast
Designed for You and Your Unaffiliated Friends
Sunday – May 15th – 9:30am to 11:00am***

**Bagels, Lox, Whitefish, Blintzes, Kugel, Cream Cheese, Tomatoes,
Rugelach, Fruit, Herring, Juice, Coffee, Desserts, and more ...
a delicious Jewish breakfast!**

(see page 3)