

# Sinai Temple

## BULLETIN



*Sinai Temple's 75th Anniversary*

## For Your Consideration

Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro

I loved The Da Vinci Code - except I didn't!?!

I "loved" the book because I always enjoy suspense novels. Even if the heroes of such stories don't eat or sleep for days and somehow escape a thousand improbable brushes with death, I accept the genre for what it is and have a good read.

That is why I "loved" The Da Vinci Code, although I also disliked it because the book presented a misleading vision of how religions develop. The "Code" suggested that Christianity, as it exists, is the result of a trick. Those who knew the "truth" about Jesus deliberately suppressed it.

In fact, reading between the lines, The Da Vinci Code implies that all religious traditions are suspect because you never know who lied or squelched someone else to make their view of religion triumphant.

Here's what is unhelpful with that notion. It reduces the real drama of history to conspiracy theory. If you accept the "Code's" idea that someone is always trying to eliminate someone else's ideas even when they may be right, you end up being suspicious of just about any received tradition. You also fail to appreciate how fabulous and awesome the development of Christianity and, for that matter, Judaism really is.

How do we have Christianity today? How do we have Judaism in its present form? In both cases, we are the heirs of human beings who in their time struggled to understand reality. To be sure, those human beings disagreed. Early Christians had many ideas about Jesus and the road to salvation. (Witness the appearance of The Gospel of Judas.) Early Jews also understood God, Torah, and the future in many different ways. Some Jews did try to quiet the views of others. Some Jews incorporated the views of others.

But did our ancestors or early Christians "conspire" to hide the truth? To me, that sounds foolish. There is no hidden "code." On the contrary, our tradition enshrines "the four questions" in order to teach us that knowledge is not hidden. No secrets. As Hillel taught, we are welcome to learn. The Torah and our world are an open book.

## Saturday Services

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

May 6—Spencer Locke  
Son of Karen & Paul Locke

May 13—Sarah Breslau  
Daughter of Sharyn & Greg Breslau

May 20—Max Haberman  
Son of Lori & Hal Haberman

Mazel Tov to Bnai Mitzvah

## Saturday Torah Study

Torah Study  
Every Saturday  
Bagels at 9 a.m.

## A 75th Anniversary Event

May 7  
Sinai Splashes for Springfield  
Tzedakah & the 75th Anniversary  
At the JCC 11:30 - 2 p.m.

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

**FAMILY SERVICE at 7:00 p.m.**

**May 5**

Shabbat Ha-Moreh - TEACHER APPRECIATION. Plus Happy Birthday to Israel. Make your own cupcakes!

**KABBALAT SHABBAT at 6:00 p.m.**

**May 12**

Veggies and snacks at 5:30 p.m. Sixth Grade participating.

**Confirmation at 8:00 p.m.**

**May 19**

Please help honor our finest High Schoolers. Plus the Aufruf of Melissa Sobey & Dan Radin.

**FRIDAY NIGHT CLASSIC at 8:00 p.m.**

**May 26**

Welcome Shabbat with prayer and peace.

## Message from President Steve Weiss

Sometimes events that we hold at the synagogue have unintended (but positive) consequences.

On April 9th the temple had a breakfast for new members. Ironically, there were more long term congregants than new members in attendance. During the course of the breakfast, Jeff Cossin, the chair of our Committee on Membership/Synagogue Community, asked Rabbi Shapiro, Cantor Mekler, and several committee members to describe a little bit about what we do. As I listened to presentations from the Social Action Committee, the Ritual Committee, the religious school, the Brotherhood, and others, it served as a timely reminder to all of us "old" members about how much is going under Sinai's roof. Here's a small sample of what's going on: We've recently raised \$6,000.00 for the Springfield School Department for the construction of a playscape at the Washington Street School; we've got an ongoing relationship with the Alden Baptist Church; we have a Caring Community that provides assistance to members of our congregation who need help; and our World Crisis Fund raises thousands of dollars as the need arises, most recently for victims of Hurricane Katrina. In between everything else, we find time to educate our children, to have Purim festivals, Sukkot hayrides, Showcase Shabbat, Torah study, and a 75th anniversary celebration.

We all have a tendency to let the fast pace of modern life obscure the daily blessings that are a part of our Sinai life, and it made me both proud and thankful to be a part of Sinai. I hope you share these feelings as well.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR  
CONFIRMATION 2006/5766  
FRIDAY, MAY 19, AT 8:00 P.M.  
AT SINAI TEMPLE

WE WOULD LOVE TO SHARE OUR LEARNING WITH YOU!

Christina Barbieri, daughter of Laura Barbieri  
Rebekah Ehrlich, daughter of Sharon and David Ehrlich  
Elliott Gordon, son of Elizabeth and Michael Gordon  
David Grayboff, son of Cathy and Brian Grayboff  
Lauren Karas, daughter of Iris and Barry Karas  
Joseph Katz, son of Barbara Fitzgerald and Matthew Katz  
Madeline Miller, daughter of Joan and Bryant Miller  
Rebecca Morissette, daughter of Andrea and Steven Morissette  
Richard Sobey, son of Esta and Tony Sobey  
Matthew Weiss, son of Carol Daigle and Steven Weiss  
Samuel Wenc, son of Karen Goodwin and David Wenc

Published Monthly, September through June, by Sinai Temple  
This is Issue Number 9 for the year 2005-06.  
Sinai Temple  
Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro  
Cantor Emily Sleeper Mekler  
President Steven Weiss  
1100 Dickinson St.  
Springfield, MA 01108

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# Shavuot

## Erev Shavuot

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

Tikkun Lail Shavuot –

The Zohar...Mysticism...And Madonna

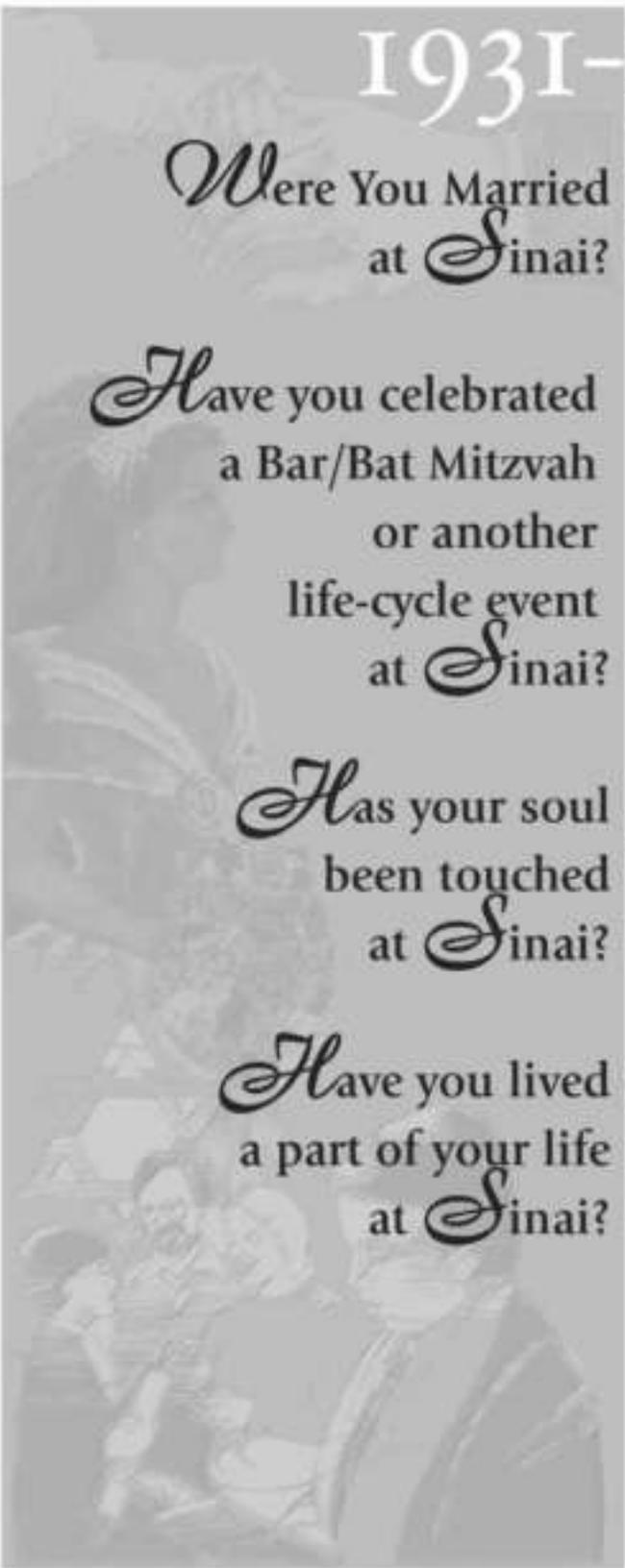
Rabbi Shapiro will lead a study session exploring the world of Kabbalah (Jewish mysticism.) It's more complicated and fascinating than Madonna's public conversion would ever suggest.

Delicious food & wine will be served.

## Shavuot Morning

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

A beautiful morning service with Yizkor followed by lunch.



1931-2006

Were You Married  
at Sinai?

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

Has your soul  
been touched  
at Sinai?

Have you lived  
a part of your life  
at Sinai?

Celebrating  
**75** Years!

You are invited ...

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

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

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

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

## Can YOU Relate To These Changes?

With Great Vision and Excitement for the Future, the Sinai Temple Board of Directors on March 30, 2006, unanimously approved major new initiatives to address one of the Union of Reform Judaism's major focuses for the next several years: **Life-long Synagogue Membership**.

Sinai Temple wants to *encourage Jews between the ages of 25 and 34 to join our congregation* and to *extend membership as full adults to all of our Temple "alumni"* and those in the community between the ages of 18 and 24. Our evaluation of our Temple's membership has led to *innovative ideas to increase our Religious School's enrollment* in the early grades. As a corollary to all of the above, the Board has totally changed our approach to the High Holidays. Our *new policy for High Holiday tickets* will be creative and compassionate and as a result our current members will be proud to be part of their Sinai Temple community. This will be a three year pilot program. A summary of the initiatives follows:

- Membership will be complimentary for those between the ages of 18 and 30. Their responsibility will be to forward their email and permanent addresses to the Temple annually. By being full members of Sinai Temple they will benefit from Temple membership which includes High Holiday tickets at any URJ Reform Temple in North America. Our hope is that this group of young adults will become a community unto themselves with leaders from the "alumni" group. This plan will eliminate the gap in Temple membership between High School and the time that these young adults typically join a temple (when their own children enroll in Religious School).
- Those members between the ages of 31 to 34 will see that their dues will start off quite low and gradually increase to the full amount at age 35.
- Any Jew who is new to the Western Massachusetts/Northern Connecticut community will be offered complimentary High Holiday tickets and will be on our mailing list for one year. Membership will be offered at the end of that year.
- Any Jew who is not new to the Western Massachusetts/Northern Connecticut community and is not affiliated with a synagogue will be offered complimentary High Holiday tickets once and will be on our mailing list for one year. Membership will be offered at the end of that year
- All current members of Sinai Temple will be offered complimentary High Holiday tickets for their guests if requested.
- There will be no tuition for Kindergarten for current Sinai members.
- Unaffiliated Jewish families will be offered complimentary admission to Kindergarten and then offered membership in Sinai Temple at the end of the year.

The members of the Board of Sinai, the Religious School Committee and the Committee on Membership/Synagogue Community are very excited about the potential that these initiatives can have on transforming Synagogue life. We are now in the process of implementing these ideas and hope that you will spread the word to potential new members whom you know. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at PHOhead@aol.com.

Jeffrey Cossin, Chair,  
Committee on Membership/Synagogue Community

## Nominating Committee Report

Pursuant to the Sinai Temple By-laws, President Steve Weiss appointed the following individuals to serve on the 2006 Nominating Committee with him: Linda Kay, Geoff Berman, Diane Friedberg, Glenn Markenson, Sharon Ehrlich, and Rabbi Mark Shapiro.

At the March meeting of the Sinai Temple Board of Trustees, the Nominating Committee submitted, and the Board approved the following slate of candidates for election at the June 6, 2006 Congregational Meeting:

Executive Committee positions commencing June 1, 2006 through May 31, 2007:

President: Steve Weiss  
Vice President: Rina Miller  
Vice President: Elliot Greenberg  
Vice President: Roberta Gang  
Treasurer: Dave Roberts  
Financial Secretary: Bobi Steingart  
Recording Secretary: Ann Jacobs

Board position commencing June 1, 2006 through May 31, 2007:  
Joel Bertuzzi

Board position commencing June 1, 2006 through May 31, 2008:  
Howard Kalodner

Board positions commencing June 1, 2006 through May 31, 2009

Jeff Cossin	Elaine Nathan
Laura Klein	George Dickstein
Andy Chaet	Charles Reiter

*Pursuant to Article V, Section 3 of the Sinai Temple Bylaws, notice is hereby given to the members of Sinai Temple that this slate will be presented for election at the annual meeting of the Congregation on June 6, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. to be held at Sinai Temple. Additional nominations may be made in writing at least 14 days prior to this meeting by petition of at least 20 persons entitled to vote at meetings of the Congregation who are in good standing.*

## Sinai's BIG SPLASH

It's almost here! NOW is your last chance to register for Sinai's BIG SPLASH on Sunday, May 7th. Rabbi Shapiro is challenging all Sinai members, from 75 weeks old to over 75 years old! Swim against the Dead Sea Divers: Rabbi Shapiro, Andy Chaet, Harry Kalodner and Shaina Gootzit. You won't want to miss the fun of this sensational celebration of swimming, tzedakah and silliness. This is an ALL SINAI event sponsored by the 75th anniversary social action committee. The focus is on FUN as well as swimming, with lunch, wacky relay races, and even a Super-Soaker Battle (bring your own) with the Rabbi! Swimmers will get pledges to sponsor their participation, with all monies raised going to fund swim lessons at Springfield pools. Every donation of just 75 quarters (\$18.75) will provide (1) child with (2) weeks of swim lessons.

Sinai Religious School will have all grades early session that day, so that everyone will be able to participate. Hosting the festivities will be our own Channel 40 Sports Director, Scott Coen. All activities will take place at the JCC, where we'll start off at 11:30 with lunch, then teams of 4 will race and splash in the pool, while "little ones" will be creating pool crafts and having kiddy pool fun. Bring your own super soaker for a wet and wild water gun battle! The day will culminate at 2:00 with a trophy presentation to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams as well as the largest trophy going to the team that's raised the most dollars for Springfield pools. All this will be capped off with a 75th anniversary cake for Sinai. Spectators are welcome to join us for lunch and to watch the fun for the nominal donation of \$7.50. You may register as an individual and will be placed on a team, or teams of 4 (2 high school age or older; 2 middle school age or younger) may sign up. Hurry and register NOW by going online to [www.sinai-temple.org/bigsplash.html](http://www.sinai-temple.org/bigsplash.html) or call Betsy Bertuzzi at 567-3524. Don't miss out!

### Judaica Shop Corner

For the spring B'nai Mitzvah, come and see our selection of tallisim for boys and girls.

There are many appropriate gifts for showers, weddings and all occasions.

For May (and Mother's Day), we are having a sale on selected fine jewelry.

Thais Fischel 786-9577  
Bobbie Cossin 565-9970

## We Have a Mission Statement— Almost!!!!

At its March meeting, the Board of Trustees voted approval of our Temple Mission Statement. Over 180 voices were heard in creating the text. We hope to make the Mission Statement "official" by voting its acceptance at our Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 6. Here is the statement as it now stands -

Sinai Temple is a welcoming and inclusive Reform Congregation where our members pursue a continuing journey of Jewish growth. We are guided by the history and traditions of the Jewish people as we encounter the challenges of the modern world. We encourage participation in prayer, life-long Jewish learning, and social justice within a joyful, creative, and compassionate community.

## Interfaith Outreach at Sinai Temple

*On Tuesday, March 21, Rabbi Shapiro hosted over 50 Christian clergy and educators at Sinai. The occasion was Sinai's Annual Clergy Institute, an event that was founded over 50 years ago by Rabbi Herman Eliot Snyder. This year's institute was underwritten by Mary and David Licht with partial support from our Temple Brotherhood. Rabbi Shapiro received a number of thank you letters. One of them follows:*

Dear Mark,

Just a note to say how grateful I am for the seminar for the Clergy Institute on Passover and the seder. I also speak for other colleagues who asked me to tell you how helpful your teaching was.

Your ministry of outreach to all of God's people has HUGE positive impact in the Springfield area. I hope you know how important that work is. Many, many thanks.

Sincerely,

Rev. Tim Carlton,  
Union Church of Christ  
Ludlow, MA

## Thank you for Friday Night Live Sponsorship!

For several years, our Friday Night Live services have meant enhanced music. The funds that have allowed us to bring instrumentalists into the Temple on a regular basis have come from The Jack & Pauline Freeman Foundation, Inc. Thank you for the support!

**Living as a Jew: How much of a sacrifice? Saturday, May 6 9 – 10 a.m.**

Guest teachers from Israel will be with us for May 6's Torah Study. Over the ages Jews have made many "sacrifices" in many ways to live as Jews. How obligated do we feel when it comes to continuing this tradition? Come hear how Israelis answer this historic question.

**Dying for God: Jihad and Judaism with Rabbi Asher Lopatin An Evening of Facilitated Group Study and Lecture The Springfield Rabbinic Fellowship Presents Tuesday, May 9 7:30 PM Jewish Community Center**

Every day we hear reports of Islamic militants threatening world jihad and sending suicide bombers to their deaths with the promise of heavenly rewards. Where are the origins of this ideology in Islam? Can they be traced to similar ideas in Judaism? Join us for an evening with Islamic expert Rabbi Asher Lopatin. Local rabbis will facilitate text study of Jewish and Islamic literature followed by a lecture by Rabbi Lopatin.

Rabbi Asher Lopatin was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University in Islamic Thought. He is the Rabbi of Anshe Sholom B'nai Israel Congregation in Chicago.

**Israel: After the Election, New Directions for Better or Worse? Wednesday, May 24 at 7:30 p.m.**

Come join Carolyn Toll Oppenheim and Joel Dansky, members of the Western Mass chapter of Brit Tzedek v'Shalom (Jewish Alliance for Justice and Peace), who will lead us in a discussion of the dilemmas posed by the new post-election political environment in Israel. You are invited to explore avenues that American Jews might take to promote steps towards justice and peace for both peoples. This program will be an open forum for community dialogue on Israel.

Brit Tzedek v'Shalom/Jewish Alliance for Justice and Peace is a national organization of American Jews committed to Israel's well-being through the achievement of a negotiated two-state solution to the long-standing Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

**Monthly Morning Service Wednesday, May 3 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.

The next "morning minyan" will take place on Wednesday, June 7.

**First Thursdays: Lunch and Learn Thursday, May 4 12:00 – 1:15 p.m.**

Bring your lunch to the Oneg Shabbat room for a discussion of contemporary Jewish concern with Rabbi Shapiro. The next Lunch will take place on June 1.

**39 Sinai Members on Their Way to Israel July 16 - 28, 2006**

We have almost filled the bus. If you're still interested in joining our travelers, now is the time to contact Rabbi Shapiro.

**Wanted: Used Furniture and Household Items**

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



Co-Chairs Mark Stone and Sue Chanin welcome your donations!

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

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

## 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 \$50,000 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	\$5,000
Pillar	\$2,500
Benefactor	\$1,000
Sponsor	\$ 500
Sustaining Member	\$ 250

If you have questions or want to join the program, please call me at 567-5952.

Shalom,

Martin Lesser,  
Sustaining Member Chair

## Prospective New Members

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 Mike Bader, Chairman of the Membership Committee. Mike has been helping new members for over thirty years. He has the information they need and can answer their questions. He can be reached weekday mornings at 737-3139 OR nights and weekends at 786-0319.

## Hybrid Cars: Toyota, Honda, Lexus, Ford

See them, touch them

A special program on "greening our world"

From Balise Motor Sales and our Social Action Committee

On view in our Temple parking lot

Sunday, May 21

9 – 10:30 a.m.

*What's a hybrid car? How does it work? Do hybrids really make a difference? And, by the way, is there a way to do lawn care without killing the environment?*

Come to the Oneg Shabbat Room on May 21 for the Social Action Committee's GREEN DAY. Rabbi Shapiro will open the morning with a commentary on Judaism and the environment. Representatives from an

environmentally safe

lawn care company will

speak. Representatives from Balise

Auto Sales will then explain hybrid

technology. After that, we'll head

out to the parking lot to see the cars

themselves on display.



## Do You Like Teenagers?

## Would You Like to Work with Some Wonderful Teenagers?

Sinai is looking for a youth group advisor to our high school and middle school youth groups. The person chosen will need to be someone who likes working with teenagers and has resources of enthusiasm, organizational ability, and leadership training ability.

The Sinai youth group advisor will, of course, be privileged to work with our two youth groups: SPFTY (Grades 9 to 12) and JOY (Grades 7 - 8).

If you are interested OR if you know someone who might be suitable for this position, PLEASE contact Bonnie Thomas (732-6206) or Rabbi Shapiro. This is a great job.

### Farmer's Market

The Farmers' Market at the X will begin its 9th year on Tuesday, May 2nd, at 12:30 PM. The market will be in a new location this year - in the Trinity Church parking lot on Sumner Avenue. The market will be open from 12:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesdays, May through October.

## The Maccabiah 2005 World Games – USA Field Hockey By Sydney Greenberg

It's hard to say where I should begin in trying to express everything that last summer's Maccabiah experience gave me. To be able to play at an international level of field hockey has been invaluable to my game, but what I gained off the field is so much greater. Being in Israel was a dream come true, seeing all of the monuments that we are taught about in religious school from the Western Wall to the Dead Sea, and everything in between. The greatest part of the trip though is by far all of the people I met. Sure, I always knew that there were millions of Jews in the world, but to see over 7,000 of them all together at once was something unfathomable to me.

At opening ceremonies it was amazing to hear country after country called in, with each one my awe growing. I got to meet athletes from Switzerland, Germany, the Netherlands, Great Britain, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Australia, and China, and that's not even the complete list. What made it even better was that it was like each person you met was immediately your friend simply because we had the bond of Judaism. The girls on my team became like all the big sisters I could ever ask for.

I still talk to them all today and I know that I could count on them for anything. What makes it even better though is that unlike most of my friends, they can understand my religion because it is theirs too. Sure my friends at home are great and will listen when I say something about Passover or reminisce about bat mitzvahs, but they couldn't empathize or laugh as hard at a Jewish joke as my teammates could.

My experience has continued even after the closing ceremonies ended. I feel that playing in Maccabiah has allowed me to connect to my religion as I hadn't before, these games became a source of Jewish pride for me. I smile every time someone asks me about my trip to Israel as I get to explain to them my wonderful Jewish experience.

*If someone were to ask me what the best experience of my life was, it would not take me even a second to answer that it was my Maccabiah one.*



STATE OF  
**ISRAEL BONDS**  
Development Corporation for Israel  
Member NASD, SIPC

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

as the

Western MA State of Israel Bonds

pays tribute to our own

Marlene & Jim Gordon

at a  
Cocktail Buffet

with guest speaker Professor Stephen Berk

Thursday, June 8, 2006 6 P.M.

at Chez Josef in Agawam

*Invitation to follow*

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

## The Cookie Dough Fundraiser Was A Success!

Thank you for your support.

Over \$2000 was raised for the Religious School  
Mason Dunn-McDonagh sold 47 buckets of cookies.

Other top sellers were:

Ryan Mortman  
Casey Lu Plumb  
Jacob Freedman  
Spencer and Becca Locke  
The Gibson Family  
Jennifer Hurwitz

A special thank you goes to Robin Dunn who coordinated the fundraiser.

## A Message from Sheila Shear, Director of Education

Shalom Chaverim,

Before beginning to think about next year, there are many people who are responsible for having helped make Religious School special this year.

The first thank you goes to all of the dedicated teachers and madrikhim who work hard each week to not only instruct but also work to motivate the children of Sinai to continue their learning and connection to Synagogue, and to Rabbi Shapiro, Cantor Mekler, and Karen Mernoff who, through their knowledge, commitment and dedication have guided me, and supported student learning throughout the year.

On this list of thank yous is a group of people who have financially supported special programming in the religious school. So, thank you to Leah Gottlieb for her support of the special art program through the Andy Berger Fund, to William and Irving Horowitz for their support of the Madrichim training program, and to the Berman-Snieder families for their support of the Yachdav program. (Yachdav is a program for Fifth Graders that brings them into mail, computer, and phone connection with Fifth Graders in Israel.)

Finally, thank you goes to the fund raiser committee chairs and their committees, who worked hard to raise the extra funds needed to support the education of the children of Sinai Temple, Donna Comstock (rummage sale), Joanne Brunell (auction), and Robin Dunn McDonagh (cookie dough).

We are all very proud of Maddie Cohen who had an article published in Babaganuz magazine. Good for you Maddie!

As we move into our planning for next year, I anticipate, with excitement, our 75th anniversary projects, our new 8th and 9th grade programs and continuing plans to make learning at Sinai exciting and beneficial for our students.

## Sinai Awarded Plaque for Gift to Washington School Playground

On April 6th, Sinai Temple was awarded a plaque by the Springfield School Committee. This was in recognition of Sinai's donation of \$6,000 to purchase playground equipment for Washington School as one of the 75th anniversary social action projects. Jackie Neiman and Betsy Bertuzzi were on hand to accept the plaque on behalf of Sinai Temple. The playground equipment has been ordered and is scheduled to be installed in May. A beautification day and grand opening ceremony will follow (dates TBA).



*"Certificate of Appreciation to Sinai Temple in recognition of your donation to the Washington School to help build a new playground. We appreciate your generosity and your support of our school system. On behalf of the citizens of Springfield and the children at Washington School, we thank you. Charles Ryan, Mayor"*



*Jackie Neiman holds the plaque awarded to Sinai Temple by the Springfield School Committee.*

## Regarding Our Jewish Funeral Home

The Harold R. Ascher & Son Memorial Chapel, Inc. was founded by Harold and Jeanette Ascher in 1954 to serve the needs of the Jewish population of Greater Springfield. In 1972, their son, Robert, became the second generation to participate in the family business. Prior to Harold Ascher's death in 1990, Robert Ascher invited Robert Zimmerman to join him at the funeral home. He has been a valued member of the community and the Ascher Family ever since. In 2000, Ryan Ascher followed in his family's footsteps, becoming the third generation to serve the needs of families at Ascher Memorial Chapel.

With the retirement of Robert Ascher and Jeanette Ascher, Ryan Ascher and Robert Zimmerman have assumed ownership of the business. As a result of the newly formed partnership, the funeral home will now be known as Ascher-Zimmerman Funeral Home, Inc.

**M**azel Tov to Phyllis Katz's fifth-grade class on their appearance in the Youth Magazine, BabagaNewz. The fifth graders were featured in a conversation on Torah and some of their like and dislikes in the world of Judaism.

**T**hank You To:

Joel Cohen for underwriting the Passover University in memory of Marilyn.

Tina deMeza and Mike Solon for a generous gift helping to underwrite the coming year of Caring Community programming.

### **A Note From Suzy Awad**

On behalf of my entire family, I would like to thank the Caring Committee for the wonderful job they did while I was in the hospital. The outpouring of generosity and good wishes that we received was overwhelming. It was comforting to know that my family was receiving meals so that the adults were able to give their attention to our boys. We feel very fortunate to be a part of the Sinai Temple Community. I would also like to thank everyone for the prayers that were extended to me. I was very lucky and am happy to report that I am feeling great. Thank you also to all of the people that visited me in the hospital. Seeing the familiar faces helped to make it a less frightening experience. Hopefully, with time this will all become a distant memory.

# Sinai Temple

BULLETIN

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Shabbat Ha-Moreh....Teacher Appreciation Shabbat is coming on Friday, May 5. Please be there to thank our teachers.