

Sinai Temple

BULLETIN



For Your Consideration

Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro

I'm writing these words as Passover comes to a close. When the sun sets on Passover's seventh day, some congregants will very happily reintroduce themselves to bread, pizza, and pasta. Others will carry on business pretty much as usual because, aside from a piece of matza at the seder, their diet hasn't changed during Passover.

Someone suggested to me that we could help people observe Passover by publishing a mini-collection of Passover recipes next year. A few simple desserts. Some suggestions for easy, tasty lunches. Plus seven dinner recipes for seven nights.

Someone else had a more interesting insight. "The issue," she said, "isn't that people can't find dinner recipes without chametz/leavened products. Chicken, fish, and vegetables make a pretty straightforward meal that perfectly suits Passover. The real issue is that people aren't eating dinner together no matter what the recipe is."

But since everyone gets hungry around the same time every day, don't families end up eating dinner together anyway?

Maybe not.

If mom has to work late, if dad goes to the gym on his way home, if daughter has a track practice, and if son finally got a part-time job at CVS, then maybe nobody is even home for the evening meal. The refrigerator contains just enough Lean Cuisines, frozen pizza, and yogurt for everyone to grab what he or she wants on the way to the computer screen whenever they get home.

Maybe the Seder is so popular among Jews all across America because it really is unique. The Seder is a family meal par excellence. No matter what you eat or how you pray that evening, the Seder might just appeal to so many of us because it feels good to have the ones you love around a single table.

Statistics even indicate that households which do eat together are healthier in a number of ways. If you're interested in learning why family dinners are more than good nutrition, visit www.CASAFamilyDay.org. You'll find information there on all the reasons why eating together is as important as your heart already tells you.

Saturday Services

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

May 5— Joshua Feinberg, son of Lori Feinberg

May 12— Ben Levenson, son of Lewis & Melanie Levenson

May 26— Mara Rockowitz, daughter of Michael Rockowitz & Jill Laufer-Rockowitz

Jewish Mysticism & Madonna

In honor of Shavuot
Tuesday, May 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Torah Study

Every Saturday
Bagels at 9 a.m.

Sustaining Membership Program

You're invited to join the Sustaining Membership Program this month just before the new fiscal year arrives in June. See page 5 for details.

FRIDAY EVENING SERVICES – 76-88

FAMILY SERVICE at 7:00 p.m.

May 4

Rikudiyah – Dance Festival featuring all our kids PLUS
Shabbat Ha-Moreh – TEACHER APPRECIATION. Plus Happy
Birthday to Israel. Make your own cupcakes!

KABBALAT SHABBAT at 6:00 p.m.

May 11

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

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE at 8:00 p.m.

May 18

Special music and rhythms for Shabbat.

FRIDAY NIGHT CLASSIC at 8:00 p.m.

May 25

Welcome Shabbat with prayer and peace.

Nominating Committee Report

Pursuant to the Sinai Temple Bylaws, President Steve Weiss appointed the following individuals to serve on the 2007 Nominating Committee with him: Linda Kay, Dave Roberts, Glenn Markenson, Diane Friedberg.

At the March 22, 2007 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 14, 2007 Congregational Meeting.

Executive Committee positions commencing June 1, 2007 through May 31, 2008:

President: Dave Roberts
1st Vice President: Rina Miller
Vice President: Roberta Hillenberg-Gang
Vice President: Jeffrey Cossin
Treasurer: Joel Bertuzzi
Financial Secretary: Bobi Steingart
Recording Secretary: Ann Jacobs

Board position commencing June 1, 2007 through May 31, 2009:

David Frank Rickie Leiter Jackie Neiman

Board position commencing June 1, 2007 through May 31, 2010:

Mel Chafetz Joel Solomon
Marlene Gordon Mark Stone
Steve Katz Laurie Weinberg
Belle Rita Novak

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 14, 2007 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.

MEET THE NOMINEES:

David Roberts, President (2007 – 2009)

A member of Sinai for over 10 years, Dave has most recently served as Treasurer, First Vice President, and as Chairman of the Cemetery Committee. He has a B.A. degree in Sociology and Political Science and an MBA degree with a

concentration in Accounting. Retired, Dave is a former Senior Vice President of Fannie Mae in Washington, D.C. where he managed a staff of over 460 and an annual operating budget exceeding \$50 million. Dave grew up on a farm in Indiana and is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, serving in Texas, Turkey, Berlin, and at the National Security Agency. Dave is a former pilot, an avid reader, and a golf enthusiast. He lives in Somers with his wife, Carol.

Rina Miller, First Vice President (2007 – 2009)

Rina, her husband, Joe Hershon, and their two children (David, 18, and Ariel, 16) have been members of the Sinai Temple community since 1981. Rina currently serves as one of the Temple's three Vice Presidents. Among other responsibilities, she has been a Member of the Board of Trustees for six years, Project Coordinator of the Scroll of Life Memorial Plaque, and Chairperson of the Personnel Committee.

In addition to her volunteer work at Sinai Temple, Rina has been involved with the National Council of Jewish Women, the Young Women's Division of the Federation, the J.C.C. Maccabbi Games, and the Western Massachusetts Collaborative Practice Group. A practicing attorney in Springfield, Rina specializes in family law and collaborative law.

Roberta Hillenberg-Gang, Vice President (2007 – 2009)

Roberta, her husband David Gang and sons Jonathan and Nicholas have been members of Sinai Temple for 15 years. Roberta has served on the Board of Trustees for the past six years, the Executive Board for the past two years and, previously, produced the Sinai bulletin. Roberta also serves on the Hadassah Chapter of Greater Springfield Board and the Western Massachusetts Community Advisory Committee of Planned Parenthood. She serves as a Go-FIT mentor, has chaired the Rays of Hope Walkathon, developed the design concepts for the < st1:PlaceName>Hatikvah Holocaust Center's permanent exhibit, served as Co-President of the Springfield League of Women Voters and was a board member of the George Walter Vincent Smith Art Museum's Art Rental Gallery.

Roberta is a graphic designer who holds a B.F.A. in Fine Art from Carnegie Mellon University and the San Francisco Art Institute and a B.F.A. in Design from Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, Calif. She worked as a corporate designer for Corning Glass, an Art Director for the Polaroid Corp., a Design Director for Springfield College, and ran her own design consulting business with a focus on college and private school admission and alumni marketing.

Jeffrey Cossin, Vice President (2007 – 2009)

A member of Sinai Temple since he was a student in the Religious School "many years ago." Jeffrey has served on the Board of Trustees for several years. He currently is Chair of the Committee on Membership/Synagogue Community and Co-chair of the Shalom Committee. He has served on the Religious School Committee and is currently on the Ritual Committee and Sustaining Membership Committee. Jeffrey can be found every Saturday morning at Torah Study! A physician, he is married to Robin, and they have three children, Elizabeth, Talia, and Zev.

The Sinai Temple Bulletin is published monthly by Sinai Temple, Springfield, Massachusetts. This is Issue Number 9 for the year 2006-2007.

Mark Dov Shapiro Rabbi
Emily Sleeper Mekler Cantor, Music Director

Officers

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

Visit our website: www.sinai-temple.org

Joel Bertuzzi, Treasurer (2007 – 2009)

Joel has been a member of Sinai Temple with his wife Betsy and children, Matthew, Jared and Jillian since 1996 when they relocated to Longmeadow from Arizona. He works for a local real estate investment firm, Aspen Square Management, and handles condominium development opportunities, property sales, real estate taxes and insurance for the company. His business experience meshes well with his Treasury duties at Sinai Temple. Joel also participates in the temple adult education committee and is a regular at Torah study on Saturday mornings.

When he's not at Sinai, Joel enjoys sculling on the Connecticut River, scuba diving and traveling. Joel was a Lieutenant in the US Navy where he was a nuclear engineer on a submarine. He has many interesting stories about secret submarine activities . . . which he can't share with us!

Bobi Steingart, Financial Secretary (2007 – 2009)

Bobi and her husband Richard have been members of Sinai for over 20 years. Their children have been Bar and Bat Mitzvahed with Cantor Mekler and Rabbi Shapiro. Bobi has been active with the Social Action Committee and organized the cooks and servers for Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen as well as organized the Summer Food Drive for the Open Pantry. Bobi is a former teacher, having retired from teaching at the JCC Preschool. She is active in the Red Cross and enjoys spending time with her family, walking in half marathons, reading and learning through travel.

Ann Jacobs, Recording Secretary (2007 – 2009)

Ann has been a member of Sinai Temple for 18 years and has served as recording secretary for the last two years, having served on the board for several years before that. Previously, she has served as chair of the Shalom Committee and the Second Night Seder Committee and worked on numerous other committees.

Ann received her bachelor's degree in journalism from Marquette University and is a copy editor at The Republican in Springfield. She enjoys antiquing, quilting and reading in her spare time. She lives in the Forest Park section of

Shavuot

Erev Shavuot

Tuesday, May 22 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

Wednesday May 23 at 10:30 a.m.

A beautiful morning service with Yizkor followed by lunch.

Springfield with her husband Paul and is the mother of Ben, 26, and Alison, 23, who both went through Sinai's religious school and completed Confirmation.

David Frank, Board of Trustees (2007 – 2009)

David and his wife Diane have been members of Sinai for 15 years. His parents, Edward and Iris, as well as his grandparents, Helen and Irving Roth, were longtime Sinai members. David grew up in Longmeadow and had his Bar Mitzvah at Sinai. He has a BA Degree in Sociology from Westfield State. For the past 25 years, he has been employed selling Orthopedic Devices and Med/Surg Products. David was recently promoted to Asepsis Specialist Northeast Region at 3M Healthcare. David coached football at LHS in 1992. He, Diane, a nurse practitioner with Vascular Services of Western New England in Springfield, and their daughter, Jacqueline live in Longmeadow. Jacqueline, who is five years old, is currently in JCC Pre School and will attend Kindergarten at Heritage Academy this fall.

Rickie Leiter, Board of Trustees (2007 – 2009)

Rickie, currently the chair of the Ritual Committee, has been involved in other synagogue activities since joining Sinai. In addition, Rickie is an elected member to the National Board of Hadassah and chairs its Young Judea Alumni Relations Department. She has been a moving force in National Hadassah's Pikuach Nefesh initiative, encouraging organ donor awareness among the Jewish community especially.

Rickie grew up in Western Massachusetts, involved in her community. She attended undergraduate school in Israel and received her Masters of Social Work from the University of Connecticut. Rickie worked for the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in its Jimmy Fund development office in Western Massachusetts and works part time in her husband's dental office. She enjoys designing and creating jewelry, which is sold in local stores and galleries in Florida. Rickie is married to Jeffrey Leiter. Their son, Adam, was active in Sinai's youth programs & served as a Religious School teacher.

Jackie Neiman, Board of Trustees (2007 – 2009)

Jackie, her husband Michael and their children Aaron (12) and Madeleine (10) have been members of Sinai Temple for six years. During that time Jackie has been active in a wide variety of temple activities and projects including co-chairing the 75th Anniversary Social Action Committee, co-chairing the Washington School Playground Building Project, serving on the Estate Sale Committee and most recently chairing the 75th Anniversary Student Art Project (the large tile mosaic hanging in the Oneg Shabbat room). Jackie can sometimes be seen fulfilling her lifelong love of performing (or perhaps it is her love of public humiliation) in recent Purim plays. However the moment that made Jackie feel most connected to Sinai Temple was when she became a Bat Mitzvah this past December as part of the adult B'not Mitzvah class.

Jackie and her family have been residents of Longmeadow since 1999

where her children attend public school. Jackie has been very involved in both community and school organizations serving first as vice-president of Longmeadow Newcomers Club and then as President of both Center School and Blueberry Hill Schools' PTOs.

Jackie is a speech pathologist by profession, having earned her B.S. from the University of Wisconsin (go Badgers!) and her M.A. from Northwestern University in Chicago. She currently works as a therapist in an early intervention program and occasionally moonlights as an adjunct professor at Elms College. In her free time she enjoys making jewelry, reading, traveling and enjoying life with her husband and children.

Mel Chafetz, Board of Trustees (2007 – 2010)

Mel has been a member of Sinai Temple since 1985. During that time he has served on the Religious School Committee, Board of Directors, Executive Committee and has been vice president and president of the Temple. He co-chaired Project Soul with Steve Weiss. He and his wife, Beth, co-chaired the first Israeli Art Show and are co-chairing it again this fall. Mel has also served on the Springfield Federation Board and was chair of its education committee. Mel and Beth live in Suffield, Conn. He is currently the principal of the McAlister Intermediate School in Suffield. His daughter, Jessie is graduating this spring from the Massachusetts College of Art and his daughter, Elana, is finishing her second year of teaching eighth grade with the Canton, Conn. schools. Beth is also an eighth-grade teacher with the Suffield Schools.

Marlene Gordon, Board of Trustees (2007 – 2010)

A member of Sinai for 22 years, Marlene has most recently served as co-chair of the Mission Statement Committee, a member of the Membership committee, and as a member of the Board of Trustees. She has also previously served on the Executive Committee as Financial Secretary and Vice President. Marlene has a B.A. degree in Elementary Education and a M.Ed. in Learning and Behavior Disorders, and currently teaches pre-school at the Jewish Community Center. Marlene and her husband, Jim, are both

originally from Louisville, Ky., and have lived in Longmeadow for 25 years. They have three daughters, each of whom attended Religious School, became a Bat Mitzvah, and was confirmed at Sinai.

Steve Katz, Board of Trustees (2007 – 2010)

Steve has been a member of Sinai for more than 15 years. He lives in East Longmeadow with his wife, Phyllis, a teacher at the Religious School, and their children Samantha (22), Nicholas (19), Theodore (15) and Andrew (10). He holds a B.A. in English/History, a M.A. in Journalism, and a law degree. He has been a lawyer at MassMutual for the past 25 years, specializing in bankruptcy/"workout" matters. He grew up in Queens, New York, and remains a passionate supporter of the Mets and Jets. Steve has been a volunteer for Rachel's Table for more than 13 years, and has participated in several volunteer projects for Habitat for Humanity and the Mass. Association for the Blind. He enjoys running, travel, reading, community theater, fishing and coaching kids sports.

Belle Rita Novak, Board of Trustees (2007 – 2010)

Born in New York, Belle Rita moved to Longmeadow at age 7. She attended Longmeadow schools through high school and Boston University for 1 ½ years. She married Leonard Novak at Sinai Temple in March 1961 and moved to Manchester, NH. Belle Rita has three children, David, Jeffrey, and Jennifer. Lenny died in 1973. Belle Rita moved to California in 1976, returning to Longmeadow in 1981. She moved to Springfield in 1984 and graduated from UMASS in 1986.

Belle Rita has been involved in many volunteer activities. She has worked as an insurance agent, and several other jobs over the years. For the past 10 years she has had her own business, Your Fairy Godmother, where she says, "I'll do anything for anyone as long as it's legal and I want to do it." She is the proud grandmother of Alex and Evan Novak.

Joel Solomon, Board of Trustees (2007 – 2010)

As a third generation member of Sinai, the temple has been a big part of Joel Solomon's life. His grandparents, the late Rebecca and Herman

Steinberg, were founding members of Sinai Temple. Joel has been a life-long member of Sinai. In addition to attending Sinai Temple's Religious School, he was Bar Mitzvah'd and Confirmed at Sinai. Joel and his wife, Lynn, were married at Sinai Temple in 1994. Joel has served on the membership committee in 2001, has been on Sinai's Religious School Committee since 2003 and has chaired the Single Session Sunday School Sub-Committee and served on the House Committee from 2002 - 2006. He is also a member of the Occasional Sinai Band. Joel is President of Superior Industrial Products Corp., a distributor of industrial maintenance supplies in West Springfield. Joel, his wife Lynn, and his children Abigail (9) and Dena (5) live in Longmeadow.

Mark Stone, Board of Trustees (2007 – 2010)

Mark has been a life-long member of Sinai Temple and represents the third generation of his family to belong to the congregation. His involvement at Sinai includes being a member of the Religious School Committee, Co-Chair of the Sinai Temple Furniture Sale and serving on several sub committees. Mark attended UMASS at Lowell where he received his BS in Management Information Systems. He is the President of Northeast System Design, Inc. a computer and network integration company located in East Longmeadow that he started 19 years ago. Mark currently lives in Longmeadow with his wife Melanie and his children Andrew, 11, and Lauren, 9.

Laurie Weinberg, Board of Trustees (2007 – 2010)

Laurie Weinberg has been a member of Sinai since 1985. She and her four children have all had Bar or Bat Mitzvahs at Sinai, beginning with Waverly in 1991 and ending with Laurie in 2006. She is currently chairperson of the Adult Education Committee. She has taught an adult Hebrew class, and co-chaired the 2006 Women's Torah program. Laurie is a clinical psychologist in private practice in Longmeadow and lives in Wilbraham. She has four children Waverly, Jesse (now Oren), Lane, and Courtney and two grandchildren. Laurie loves to read and dabble in piano, knitting and quilting

Message from President Steve Weiss

One of the signs of Spring (at least for Temple Presidents and Boards) is the annual determination of our budget and dues structures for the new fiscal year that starts on June 1st. I think it's important for congregants to know where Sinai stands financially, and what we're trying to do to ensure Sinai's financial security.

First, there's some good news for the current fiscal year. Our first furniture and accessories sale in August was more successful than we anticipated; it raised \$17,000 for the temple. Our dues and sustaining membership figures held relatively steady, and our expenses are coming in slightly less than we budgeted (thanks in no small measure to a very mild winter). So for this year, it looks like we'll break even. And our endowment income is growing, especially now that the funds from endowment campaign from several years ago are starting to become available. All of us owe a debt of gratitude to Rabbi Shapiro and to the leaders of the endowment campaign; we're the beneficiaries of their foresight.

With a renewed emphasis on large fundraising projects and with the continued of our members who contribute so generously to the Sustaining Member Program, the Board of Directors has agreed to raise base dues only two percent for the next year. Why do I say "only" two percent? For a lot of reasons. First, the costs of running the temple will likely grow by more than that amount, because of "cost of living" salary increases, plus increases in health insurance, fuel and other necessary expenses. Second, a two percent increase in the dues does not result in a two percent increase in revenue, because not everybody is paying at the full dues rate; historically, our dues income increases by about half of the dues rate increase. So with a two percent increase, we're actually projecting a modest operating deficit for next year; fortunately, income from the endowment funds will enable us to cover this loss.

Third, and maybe most importantly, the Board continues to be concerned about the "high price of being Jewish", and the long term effect on individual members and Sinai as a whole. We know that many congregants struggle to pay the full dues. Some members request abatements; others, we're afraid, leave altogether rather than submit to the abatement process. Over the next year or more, we hope to take a careful look at our dues structure and process to see whether we can make them more efficient and equitable. During this examination, the Board believes that it makes sense to keep dues increases as low as possible while continuing to be fiscally responsible. The Board believes a two percent dues increases balances these competing pressures fairly, and we hope that you will understand the decision. We also welcome your input and comments about how we can improve the dues structure.

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

Message from Cantor Emily Sleeper Mekler

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, is celebrating its 95th Birthday!! Part of its mission statement is "to strengthen its partnership with Israel promoting the unity of the Jewish people and thus ensuring Jewish continuity." It was my honor to have been asked to deliver the D'var Torah at the 2007 Springfield Chapter Donor Dinner last month. I spoke about Jewish continuity.

My sabbatical experience at Judaica Sound Archives (about which I reported in the April Bulletin) is one of many ways we Jews are keeping a major part of our heritage alive. JSA is doing their part through the aural preservation of thousands of Judaic recordings. There are, of course, many other ways to take care of our Jewish treasures for the future.

In our Jewish neighborhood, so close to us in Amherst, we are fortunate to have the National Yiddish Book Center. We can easily avail ourselves of their vast and valuable Yiddish archives. Check out their website, if you do not already receive their brochures; become a member. There are wonderful programs to attend especially on many Sunday afternoons. Most are appropriate for families.


Another related not-for-profit organization devoting itself to traditional Yiddish arts called Living Traditions is "dedicated to promoting innovative methods of maintaining continuity in the transmission of Yiddish folk culture from generation to generation." One of the main things they do is plan, program and run "KlezKamp: The Yiddish Folk Arts Program" which is now in its 22nd year. During my sabbatical this past December, I was privileged to attend. If there is any doubt that Yiddish music, language and culture are alive and well, you should consider attending one of these fabulous annual events. This one was held in the Catskills (where else?!) and was attended by 400-500 people from all over the nation and some from other countries as well. The attendees were of ALL ages and all walks of life. One could hear young parents speaking to their children in the dinner hall in Yiddish! There were classes of ALL kinds about instrumental/klezmer music, singing and performing in Yiddish, Yiddish culture, etc. and separate programming called "KidsKamp" for teens (especially instrumental) and younger children. In the wee hours of the morning one could find pick-up klezmer groups performing in various corners of the large lobby and there were concerts and activities every night for adults. By the way, I learned that there is a KlezCanada and also one on the Pacific coast. Maybe even more elsewhere! KlezKamp is an amazing event!!!

Speaking of continuity, next year the State of Israel will celebrate its 60th anniversary. Look for information about events and festivities and join in celebrating this happy milestone for our Jewish homeland.

Our own Sinai Temple's history spans 75 years and has proudly represented the Reform movement of Judaism in Springfield and Western Massachusetts. Sinai Temple proudly stands as a shining example along with 800 Reform congregations nationally and internationally of the vibrancy of the Union of Reform Judaism. In the V'ahavta, from our liturgy, (the original source is from the Torah in the Book of Deuteronomy) it says "you shall teach [G-d's mitzvot] diligently to your children." We, at Sinai, have learning opportunities for every age. Take a couple of steps in the door. Exercise your mind "with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might." Actively help to preserve all that Reform Judaism has to offer at your own Sinai.

"Kol Yisrael aravim zeh ba zeh", "Every Jew is responsible one for the other." Each of us, in whatever ways we can, must do our part to help Judaism remain vibrant and strong. Lend a hand, get involved, contribute and help in anyway you can to support these and other organizations, like our own Sinai Temple, whose mission is to ensure Jewish continuity. It's up to each of US to preserve the Judaism we want to pass on to our children, grandchildren and those who come after us.

Every person is crucial. In a choir, band or orchestra one can't wait for someone else to sing or play their instrument. It takes EACH of us to "play" our OWN part in order to make the music TOGETHER!



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

Judy & Michael Cohen

at a

Cocktail Buffet

with guest speaker Dr. Kenneth Stein

Tuesday, June 5, 2007 6 p.m.
at Chez Josef in Agawam

Invitation to follow

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

**The God Delusion by Richard Dawkins -
Two evenings of conversation
Wednesdays, May 9 & 16 at 8 p.m.**

Dear Friends -

Richard Dawkins' book, *The God Delusion*, is a very good book. Dawkins' atheism is provocative, disturbing, and worth much consideration.

So...If you've ever wondered about God, this is the book for you.

Buy it and read Chapter Four. After that, you will almost certainly want to read the rest! You'll also want to join the conversation about the book on May 9 and 16.

See you there.

Happy reading.

Sincerely and "faithfully,"

Rabbi Shapiro

(For comments or questions, contact me at: markdov@sinai-temple.org).

**Monthly Morning Service
Wednesday, May 2
at 7:30 a.m.**

We meet on the bimah for a service of 20 minutes. Breakfast follows. Those who need to leave for the rest of the day are free no later than 8:15 a.m.

Our next "morning minyan" service will take place on Wednesdays, June 6.

**First Thursdays (mostly):
Lunch and Learn
Thursday, May 3
12:00 – 1:15 p.m.**

Bring your lunch to the Oneg Shabbat room for a discussion of contemporary Jewish concern with Rabbi Shapiro. Our next discussion is June 7.

**Over 30 of Sinai's Best are going to
Israel
July 1 - 13, 2007**

If you've got questions or a very last minute desire to jump on the plane, call Rabbi Shapiro immediately. The daily itinerary with details on registration is available on the Sinai Website (www.sinai-temple.org).

Judaica Gift Shop

We're looking ahead to all the spring celebrations, and offer beautiful B'nai Mitzvah, engagement and wedding giftware and much more.

For Mother's Day there will be a selection for the youngsters to surprise Mom and Grandma. They may shop before or after class.

The Passover season was good and everyone was delighted with what we offered.

Thais Fischel 786-9577
Bobbie Cossin 565-9970

Mazal Tov to:

Steve Sussman on being United Way Volunteer of the Month as a tutor at the Holyoke mentor program.

Morton and Susan Lynn on the engagement of their daughter, Allison, to Michael Dahlie.



nccj The National Conference
for Community and Justice

**The National Conference for Community and
Justice of Connecticut and Western
Massachusetts, Inc.**

invites you to join us for the
Human Relations Award Banquet
A Celebration of Diversity
Honoring



**Rabbi
Mark Dov Shapiro**
Sinai Temple

NCCJ's Annual Human Relations Award Banquet
June 6, 2007
Chez Josef Agawam, MA

Reception 6:00 PM * Dinner Program at 7:00PM

Individual Tickets - \$125

Contact the NCCJ at 860-683-1839 for more details.

May 2007

Dear Friends,

This past year Sinai Temple Religious School successfully implemented a new Ivrit (Hebrew) program, a new 8th grade program and a new 9th grade program. We are very pleased that student, parent, and teacher/facilitator feedback for these changes has been both positive and encouraging. We are now ready to embark on the most exciting change for the 2007-2008 school year: Single Session Sunday.

Single Session Sunday has been in the planning stages for just about a year now. Planning began with Temple professionals examining the current state of education in our school and thinking about whether there was a better way to teach our children. A subcommittee of the Religious School Committee then researched various models currently utilized in other Reform congregations and after a series of meetings came up with a plan. The plan was then presented to the teachers, to both the Religious School Committee and the Board of Trustees and finally in two open parent meetings. At each stage, comments and suggestions were considered and became part of the planning.

Here is the plan. Starting this September, students from Kindergarten through 7th grade will attend Religious School for one "single session" at the same time, on Sundays between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. Students will be offered the best of our current program and a chance to learn even more with expanded offerings. Students will not just learn about being Jewish, students will learn as, and be part of, a Jewish community. Students will have choices about some of the learning activities in which they will participate and more time for learning Hebrew will be integrated into Sunday mornings in addition to our weekday Hebrew program. Our informal "clubs" will now be integrated into the religious school day so that we can focus on building community. And best of all, students will have a chance to engage in the type of learning that we hope will encourage them to remain lifelong Jewish learners.

We are pleased to be able to introduce this plan to the entire congregation and look forward to answering any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Steve Weiss
President

Robin Dunn McDonagh, Chair
Religious School Committee

Mark Dov Shapiro
Rabbi

Sheila Shear
Director of Education

SINGLE SESSION SUNDAY

Goals

To Enhance Community
To Enrich Our Children's
Learning
To Offer Convenience

CLUBS

Our children will have regular time
for having fun inside their Temple.

Club Alef/Bet for 1st and 2nd Grades

Club Gimel/Dalet for 3rd and 4th Grades

Club Hey/Vav for 5th and 6th Grades

Plus...JOY for 7th and 8th Grades

Schedule

9:00- 9:20	Ivrit (Hebrew)
9:20-10:45	Talmud Torah (Religious Study)
10:45-10:55	Snack (provided by the parent)
10:55-11:40	Enrichment/Chugim
11:45-12:00	T'filot (Services)

Chugim

Something Brand New

Single Session Sundays will include enrichment activities such as;
Art, Jewish Sports, Music, Current Events, Book Clubs, Junior Choir, and
even more Hebrew!

From the Director of Education Sheila Shear

Shalom Chaverim,

It is hard to believe it is almost the end of another busy and wonderful year. It is the time of year that I assess the programming, the learning that has taken place, and the accomplishments of our students. It is also that time of year when I remember all the wonderful people that made the year a tremendous success. First on that list is the dedicated teachers and aides who share their knowledge and love of Judaism with the children of Sinai Temple. When you see them around the temple, these are the people to thank: Our Hebrew teachers; Maggy Cohn, Gita Gilad, Yael Hoffman, and Andy Chaet, our Hebrew aides; Allyson Mackler, Jill Mackler, and Josh Fisher, and our Hebrew volunteers; Scott Sherman and Judy Aronson. Our Sunday teachers; Stacey Osowsky, Norma Garde, Bonnie Gibson, Harlene kleiman, Andy Chaet, Phyllis Katz, Matthew Bertuzzi, and Dawn Tamarkin, and our Sunday Aides; Lauren Karas, Atlee Chait, Sarah Chaet, Tyler Morissette, Mason Dunn McDonagh, Celia Gibson, Ted Katz, Cydney Winer, Danielle Dickstein, Kyle Thomas, Julia Brenker and Elliot Gordon. And, our Middle and High School week day program facilitators; Gita Gilad, Alina Bricklin, Phyllis Katz, Erica Brunette, Larry Tillman, who works with our madrikhim (aides) through the year, and of course Rabbi Shapiro.

Next on the list are the wonderful people who contribute funds that underwrite many of our programs: The Family Education Fund in Honor of Shirley and Buster Stahl that helped pay for several special projects throughout the year including joint programming for our 7th and 8th graders, and special gifts for our consecration families; A generous donation in honor of Paul and Laraine Shore-Suslowitz, along with funds from the Year Round Experience grants from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation helped to underwrite the 9th grade trip to the Religious Action Center in Washington, D.C., and the Marcelle Horowitz Memorial Fund supported by Irving and William Horowitz which underwrites the Madrikhim Training program for our teacher aides. A huge Toadah Rabah to these wonderful supporters of our religious school programs. Finally I would like to thank the Brotherhood for their special contributions during Chanukah and Purim.

I hope we will see you at our May Family Service on May 4th at 7:00 p.m. when our annual Rikuya and teacher appreciation evening will take place. We will also be celebrating Israel's 59th birthday with a special treat during the Oneg Shabbat! See you then.

B'Shalom
Sheila Shear

ANDY BERGER ART CONTEST AND THE WINNERS ARE...

GRADES K – 3

1 st Place	Kayla Mernoff
1 st Place	Shoshi Wintman
2 ^d Place	Sam Freedman
3 ^d Place	Josh Lesser
Honorable Mention	Rachel Freedman Rebecca Osowski Aubrey Davieau

Grades 4 &5

1 st Place	Taylor Adelson
1 st Place	Hannah Gordon
2 ^d Place	Casey Lu Simon-Plumb
2 ^d Place	Andrew Katz
3 ^d Place	Mattie Neiman
Honorable Mention	Jacob Freeman

Middle School

1 st Place	Jenny Hurwitz/Taylor Gordonstein
2 ^d Place	Sam Weinberg
3 ^d Place	Megan Hurley

High School

1 st Place	Ted Katz
2 ^d Place	Ariel Miller

THANK YOU TO LEAH GOTTLIEB WHO BEGAN THIS CONTEST IN MEMORY OF HER SON ANDY BERGER AND CONTINUES TO SUPPORT IT AND OTHER ART PROGRAMS HERE AT SINAI TEMPLE.

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 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.

Welcome to Sinai!

We're so glad the following people have decided to join Sinai Temple in the last several months:

Elizabeth Land with Sabina, Jonah, and Zachary
Robert and Jodi Ditusa with Jordan and Noa
David and Amy Corriera with Benjamin and Joshua
Earl and Phyllis Winer
Miles and Melissa Stern with Karena and Lillian
Selma Paroshinsky
Morgan E. Terres and Lauren Harvey
Todd and Manuela Adelson with Taylor and Emma
Alan Goldsmith and Nancy Gladstone
Gordon Snider and Sarah Everett
Alisha and William Snow
Christopher and Brenna Sullivan with Kalia

Prospective New Members: Help Build Sinai Temple

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

The Club Scene at Sinai Stacey Osowski, Program Director

This year the clubs at Sinai were busy. Bagels and Blocks learned about the holidays by singing songs and doing a craft. Club Alef-

Bet enjoyed making tee-shirts and jumping in a bounce house to list a few. Club Gimel-Dalet practiced self-defense and most recently took the role of detective with Mad Science.

Club Hey-Vav participated in making Halloween goodie bags for the children

at the YMCA of Springfield, danced until their feet fell off at a Chanukah party and enjoyed tubing at Butternut Ski Resort.

Look for more exciting clubs next year!!



Pictures from left to right are: Nate Sullivan, Stacey Osowski, Josh Lesser, Abby Simon-Plumb

Our Environment -----

We Can Make A Difference

View these and other easy-to-do steps you can take at <http://www.climatecrisis.net/takeaction/>

Replace a regular incandescent light bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb (cfl)

CFLs use 60% less energy than a regular bulb. This simple switch will save about 300 pounds of carbon dioxide a year. If every family in the U.S. made the switch, we'd reduce carbon dioxide by more than 90 billion pounds! You can purchase CFLs online from the Energy Federation.

Move your thermostat down 2° in winter and up 2° in summer

Almost half of the energy we use in our homes goes to heating and cooling. You could save about 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide a year with this simple adjustment. The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy has more tips for saving energy on heating and cooling.

Clean or replace filters on your furnace and air conditioner

Cleaning a dirty air filter can save 350 pounds of carbon dioxide a year.

Install a programmable thermostat

Programmable thermostats will automatically lower the heat or air conditioning at night and raise them again in the morning. They can save you \$100 a year on your energy bill.

Choose energy efficient appliances when making new purchases

Look for the Energy Star label on new appliances to choose the most efficient models. If each household in the U.S. replaced its existing appliances with the most efficient models available, we'd eliminate 175 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions every year!

Wrap your water heater in an insulation blanket

You'll save 1,000 pounds of carbon dioxide a year with this simple action. You can save another 550 pounds per year by setting the thermostat no higher than 120 degrees Fahrenheit.

Use less hot water

It takes a lot of energy to heat water. You can use less hot water by installing a low flow showerhead (350 pounds of carbon dioxide saved per year) and washing your clothes in cold or warm water (500 pounds saved per year) instead of hot.

Come celebrate Sinai volunteers at the Annual Meeting and join us to say . . .

Thank you!

A Congregation-Wide Barbecue & Tribute to ALL Our Adult and Youth Volunteers.

Thursday, June 14

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Barbecue Picnic

7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Annual Meeting and
Special Tribute
to Volunteers

PRIZE DRAWINGS!!

We'll celebrate together as a community.

No Cost for the event! No work required on your part. Please RSVP to the Temple by May 30, 2007. (*Leadership is doing all the work this night—you only need to let us know that you will attend.*)



Please drop us a note and tell with us what you have done as a volunteer. What compelled you to volunteer? What did it mean to you? What have you gained from your experiences? How has it connected you to the Sinai community? Share anecdotes, wit and wisdom with us. Email Roberta Gang at: Hillenberg-GangDesign@comcast.net or send to Sinai Temple c/o Annual Meeting Celebration.

RSVP by May 30, 2007 by filling and sending in this form to Sinai Temple, 1100 Dickinson Street, Springfield, MA 01108 or call 413-736-3619.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Number attending Annual Meeting Congregation-Wide picnic: _____

**'PEOPLE TO PEOPLE' PRIZES FOR A DRAWING AT THE JUNE 14 ANNUAL MEETING
CELEBRATION OF SINAI VOLUNTEERS**

JOIN THE FUN !!!

Give a prize of your time to another Sinai congregant.
Think about your interest or specialty to create a gift.

Examples of possible prizes are

- Help in Preparing for A Jewish Holiday
- Help in Organizing a Closet or Pantry
- A Lesson in Bridge or Maj Jong
- Transportation for A Family Member To An Activity
- A Lesson in Wine Selection
- Discussion of Favorite Jewish CD's or movies
- A Lesson in Spreadsheet Preparation or Quicken Budgeting
- Help in Cleaning A Garage
- A Hebrew or Piano Lesson
- A Tutoring Session
- A Guided Museum Tour

Sign up below!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

YOUR PRIZE _____

Email your response to Carol Roberts at CarolR108@cox.net, or

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

Come to the celebration and enter the drawing to win a "people to people" prize for yourself! The drawing will be held at the close of the Annual Meeting.

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You are also encouraged to visit: www.israelbonds.com

This is not an offering, which can be made only by prospectus. Read it carefully before investing to fully evaluate the risks associated with investing in State of Israel bonds. Issues subject to availability.



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The Abe and Edna Simons Camp Scholarship Fund

Edna Simons established a camp fund as a meaningful way to honor the life of her husband Abe after his death in 1992 at the age of 92.

Both Abe and Edna were very active in Jewish affairs and devoted time and energy to many Jewish organizations. Abe was one of the founders of Sinai Temple, and both Abe and Edna served on many boards.

Edna always loved children and strongly believed that what was imprinted upon children's minds in their early years, helped to determine their actions throughout life.

She believed that camp was an important experience for children. Not only does camp provide a place where children can have a fun and wholesome experience while interacting with their peers, a religious camp exposes them to the wonders of their religion and helps them derive a better understanding and love for their heritage.

By offering scholarships through this worthwhile fund, Edna's dream of making Jewish camps available to young children who might otherwise be unable to attend was and continues to be fulfilled.

Edna Simons died in 2006 at age 94.

Rabbi Snyder Award Dinner



Left to right: Cantor Mekler, Ben Rosenfeld, Rabbi Shapiro



Left to right: Cantor, Mekler Michael Gorfin, Bonnie Gorfin, Rabbi Shapiro

Sinai Temple



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

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8th Graders learning with Sinai Seniors on Tuesday evening's this semester