



Sinai Temple Bulletin

*Take Back Your Time:
Rediscover Shabbat*

November / December 2014
Cheshvan / Kislev 5775

For Your Consideration – Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro

Back on Kol Nidre night, I shared some of the stories which Sinai B'nai Mitzvah have told about their namesakes. I suggested that our allowing the children to connect to family histories in this way was a gift to them and their futures. I also proposed a list of 20 experiences that, I believe, could help create and inspire a Jewish child for a lifetime of Jewish living.

Here's the list. I would love to hear your responses.

1. Before he or she turns 18, every Jewish child ought to find out whom they are named after.
2. Every Jewish child ought to video grandparents or other older relatives telling stories from their past.
3. Light Shabbat candles. Jewish young people should experience Friday night dinner with candles, Kiddush, and motsi on some kind of regular basis while growing up.
4. A Jewish kid becomes acculturated when he or she feels comfortable in a service. That has to involve at least 36 Shabbat services over the years.
5. Jewish children need to experience the sights and sounds of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services for at least ten years before they head off to college.
6. Dress up for Purim and hear the Megillah at least ten times. Same for Simchat Torah – except costumes aren't required.
7. Cook something for a Jewish holiday or two with a grownup.
8. Little children need to be part of PJ Library. Older children need to be helped to stop by our Temple library to read at least an occasional Jewish book on any topic that suits them.
9. See Fiddler on the Roof.
10. Over the years, visit at least two Jewish museums of any kind.
11. Engage with tzedakah. Raise money for a project. Additionally, a child ought to know something about the kind of tzedakah his or her parents give.

Continued on page 2

November Friday Evenings

November 7 at 6:00 p.m.

Shabbat Around the Table...An experiment in community and conversation. See Page 3

November 14 at 6:00 p.m.

Tot Shabbat for STUFF – Sinai Temple under five families.

November 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Honoring John Gerry-Karajanes, our keyboard player and all-round liturgical gem.

November 21 at 6:00 p.m.

Kidz Kabbalat – For families with children in Kg, Grades 1 and 2.

November 21 at 7:30 p.m.

It's Shabbat – Every seven days. We're back! Shir Fun singing.

November 28 at 7:30 p.m.

Thanksgiving Shabbat

December Friday Evenings

December 5 at 6:00 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat sixty minute service followed by Shabbat Dinner. See Page 3.

December 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service including the choral music of Mak'hela, the Jewish chorus of Western Massachusetts.

December 19 at 6:00 p.m.

Shabbat Chanukah: Service, Bring your Chanukiah/Menorah, Dinner follows. See Page 5.

December 27 at 6:00 p.m.

Shabbat Service starting early at 6 p.m.

Saturday Mornings

Service starts at 10:15 a.m (15 minutes earlier)

EXCEPT for our Bnai Mitzvah mornings starting at 10:30 a.m.

November 1 – Alisa Goldberg, daughter of Andrew and Rachel

November 8 – Max Levheim, son of Deborah and Lisa

November 15 – Nicole Foster, daughter of Brad and Jodie

November 22 – Samantha Mustain, daughter of Jay and Cheri

December 13 – Jacqueline Frank, daughter of David and Diane

Please note – This bulletin is an eight week bulletin – covering November AND December 2014.

From the Executive Committee...

It's almost half past ten o'clock in the morning in the Golan Heights, although time doesn't seem to hold much meaning right here. We're in Katzrin, standing within the ruins of a synagogue built in the fourth century; forty of us from Sinai Temple in Springfield, Massachusetts. Some 1300 years ago, before it was destroyed in an earthquake, Jews who came before us read the Torah within these stone walls. And in just a few moments, our daughter Abigail will read the Torah, becoming a bat mitzvah within these same stone walls. An hour later, we leave Katzrin for a day of rafting on the Jordan River and a night of celebration on the Sea of Galilee. But Katzrin never leaves me...

Two days later I'm out for my regular Saturday morning run. But this Saturday morning and this run are both very different. Just before dawn, I've run down through the Kidron Valley and the Palestinian village of Silwan. Climbing back up the hills through the City of David, I pass through the southeastern gate to the Old City of Jerusalem. A giant orange sun is now rising, peeking over a great stone wall that, until now, I've only seen in pictures. I stop to take a breath, and I'm not sure whether it's because I've been running, or it's because of where I am right now...

Liz, Shelby, Abigail, Liz's mom Judy and I were part of that amazing Sinai Temple trip in July, 2007. I tell you this not because it was the journey of a lifetime (although it was!), but because it set me on another "journey" that I never would have imagined myself taking seven years ago. Before this, my participation at Sinai Temple consisted of paying our family dues, dropping kids off at religious school, high holidays and occasional attendance at Friday night services, and our friends' life cycle events. But after this, something changed for me. I was suddenly and overwhelmingly "hooked" on Israel—and this newly discovered and incredibly strong connection to Israel quickly grew into a desire to not just participate at Sinai Temple periodically, but to become "a part of Sinai Temple."

As you may know, we have formed a Long Range Planning Committee to explore and think about what Sinai Temple may be and should look like ten years from now and beyond that. Part of this long range planning involves potentially new and different governance models for Sinai

The Sinai Temple Bulletin is published every other month by Sinai Temple, Springfield, Massachusetts. This is Issue Number 4 for the year 2014-2015.

Mark Dov ShapiroRabbi
Martin LevsonCantor
Heather SullivanDirector of Education
Matt BertuzziYouth Director
Jeff CossinPresident
Bruce Leshine.....First Vice President
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Jack Henrie.....President, Men of Sinai
Ron WeissCemetery Chair
Karen Mendelsohn.....Membership Committee Chair

Visit our website: www.sinai-temple.org

Temple as we continue to change and evolve. Of course, creating new governance models (or just continuing the current model), requires new leadership for Sinai Temple, and more of our members moving from participating at Sinai to becoming a greater "part of" Sinai Temple. Are you ready?

For me, a trip to Israel was the moment that changed me. Of course, it may be something else or something entirely different for you. But whatever it is that keeps you at Sinai Temple, I'd ask you to think about what might "change" you to make Sinai Temple a bigger part of your life. And for some, making Sinai a bigger part of your life might include being part of Sinai Temple's leadership over the next ten years. Those of my generation might remember the Talking Heads and this line sung by David Byrne in 1980, "And you may ask yourself, well, how did I get here?" Well, I never thought that I'd "be here" seven years ago, but I am thrilled that I got here. How about you?

Bruce Leshine, First Vice President

Continued from page 1

12. Go to a rally for a good cause or write a letter to a public official advocating something important.
13. Attend a Seder. Learn the Four Questions. And remember the Hillel Sandwich? Learn five terrific, life-enhancing quotes said by this same rabbi called Hillel.
14. Do what you can to be sure every child is confirmed in Tenth Grade.
15. Attend a service at a Conservative or Orthodox synagogue with someone who belongs there. Try to learn how it works for them.
16. Go to Israel if at all possible. Or if not, plant a tree in Israel and watch an Israel movie with subtitles.
17. Join a Jewish youth group in High School.
18. Attend a Jewish summer camp.
19. If your child or grandchild has a parent or other family members who aren't Jewish, help your child or grandchild learn about those other beliefs. If the non-Jewish family members go to church, a Jewish child ought to go with them and ask lots of questions.
20. Speaking of questions, a Jewish child should be asking questions about God, prayer, what it means to be a Jew, and anything else that makes his or her mind tingle.

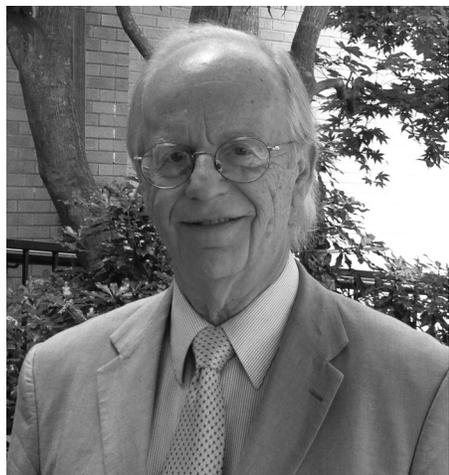
You Weigh A Lot

Open Pantry has told us that on Yom Kippur our food collection weighed in at 3,319 pounds! Congratulations and thank you to everyone who helped fill the Yom Kippur Food Van.

**Shabbat Around the Table
Something Brand New
Everyone has a place at the table
Friday, November 7 at 6 p.m.**

Almost like a Seder, Shabbat Around the Table will take place around tables in the auditorium. It will be a "service" where congregants see each other face to face.

There will be prayers but, like a Seder, there will be conversation. Only one "requirement." Please bring your own candlesticks and a kiddush cup too. We will be creating Shabbat face to face in community on November 7. We will also be celebrating the aufruf of Allison Hirschowitz & Matthew Bertuzzi (son of Joel and Betsy).



**Honoring John Gerry-Karajanes
Friday, November 14 at 7:30 p.m.**

**An evening for music, remembrances,
and thank you's!!**

John has played keyboard at Sinai Temple since 1986. Educated in New York and Illinois, he holds a bachelor's degree in music and master's degrees in sacred music and theology. On November 14, we will honor John and he will entertain us with some of his favorite solo piano works. Come listen to the master!

**Dinner's the Deal
Friday, December 5**



**That's right!
Dinner's the Deal
Friday, December 5**

End of the week. You don't have to cook.
No lines in a restaurant. Come to Sinai instead.

6 p.m. – Sixty minutes of song, prayer, and refreshment for your soul.

7 p.m. – Dinner (No Charge) is served, accompanied by commentary and song from Rabbi Shapiro and Cantor Levson.

Take back your time. Rediscover Shabbat.

RSVP through the website <http://www.sinai-temple.org/> or call the Temple at 736-3619 for a "lite" dinner and beautiful evening.

Adult Opportunities

Newspapers, Politics, and Controversy Reflections on the American Jewish Experience

**Featuring Gary Rosenblatt,
Editor of NYC's The Jewish Week
Thursday, November 13 at 7 p.m.**

Gary Rosenblatt writes weekly for New York's major Jewish newspaper, The Jewish Weekly. He is courageous, hard-hitting, witty, and also seems to know everyone in the Jewish world.



Having just published a book of his essays, he will be at Sinai for a fabulous conversation.

"Gary Rosenblatt has raised the practice of Jewish journalism to new heights," says Leon Wieseltier, literary editor of The New Republic. "For his profession and for his community, he is a treasure."



Voting for Israel: Reform Judaism in Israel

Followup to Rabbi Shapiro's Yom Kippur Morning Sermon

**Featuring Lawrence Englander,
Chair of ARZENU - The Umbrella**

**Organization of Reform Zionists Around the World
Wednesday, December 3 at 7:30 p.m.**

On Yom Kippur, Rabbi Shapiro invited our participation in elections that will create the American delegation to the next World Zionist Congress. This will be our chance to influence the spending of millions of dollars in Israel...our chance to ensure support for Reform Judaism in Israel.

On December 17, Lawrence Englander will be our presenter. He will have just returned from a week in Israel. He will bring us up-to-the-minute details on Israel as it is in December 2014. Englander chairs the organization linking all Reform Jews around the world from South America to South Africa, Australia, Europe, and the USA.

A Summer Family Trip to Israel...A Trip for First Timers Information Meeting...

Wednesday, November 19 at 7:30 p.m.

We are putting together the Sinai Temple trip to Israel. July 5 to 17, 2015. To learn more, contact the Rabbi soon AND come to the information meeting on November 19. If you are interested, you MUST let the Rabbi know no later than November 19. We need to start booking tickets etc etc...



Book Club

Wednesday, November 19 at 7 p.m.

Our tentative November book is "Snow in August" by Pete Hamill. It takes place in post WWII Brooklyn and deals with the relationship that develops between a Catholic Irish American boy, an altar server, whose father was killed in the Battle of the Bulge and a refugee rabbi and at one point a Golem. We haven't read the book yet but Frank McCourt, author of "Angela's Ashes," calls the book "A tender novel... When you finish that roller-coaster last chapter you'll wonder if the shade of Isaac Bashevis Singer whispered in his ear." We will meet November 19 at 7 p.m.

Monthly Morning Service

**Wednesdays, November 5 and December 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. Those who need to leave for the rest of the day are free no later than 8:15 a.m. Future "morning minyan" services will take place on Wednesdays, January 7, February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3.

Cantor Levson Sings with the Springfield Symphony Orchestra

Home For The Follidays

Saturday, December 6 at 7:30 p.m.

The symphony's annual "holiday" season begins with the SSO and over 150 amazing voices of the SSO Chorus. This year Cantor Martin Levson will also be present. Cantor has already met with Guest Conductor, Harvey Felder. For more details, see the Cantor's article in this issue of the Bulletin.

Buy your SSO tickets today.

TGIT...Thank God, It's Torah!

Come Learn Every Saturday at 9 a.m.

Exercise your brain. Enjoy the bagels. If you want to touch base with Judaism's basics, Torah Study is for you. Come once or come occasionally. Newcomers welcome. No prior knowledge necessary.

Saturday Morning Services

Every Saturday morning

A regular weekly Shabbat morning service. When there isn't a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, we meet at 10:15 a.m. in the Oneg Shabbat Room for the service complete with the Yahrzeit list. Bar/Bat Mitzvah morning services begin at 10:30 a.m.

CHANUKAH, CHANUKAH 2014

Light One Candle

Tuesday, December 16

Make your way over to the JCC as the sun sets for a community lighting of the first candle PLUS latkes.

Light Four Candles And Have a Great Evening Friday, December 19

At 6 p.m., service with Chanukah menorah lighting
At 7 p.m., congregational dinner with the biggest and best Chanukah program ever offered in Massachusetts.
For all ages.

For our whole community including a new contest

MAKE YOUR VERY OWN SONG

Reservations are required.

Thank you to Men of Sinai for preparing the meal.

\$7 per person or \$15 per family

A Contest –

Make Your Own Song

Friday, December 19

Who could imagine such a contest!?? Let your creative juices run wild. Your assignment as a soloist or with friends or as a family is to MAKE YOUR VERY OWN CHANUKAH SONG. Choose a melody and set your original words to it. Funny! Serious! Slow! Fast! Long! Short! Create your song and we'll have our CONTEST at the Chanukah Dinner of December 19. Bring your creation to Temple for a very special evening of fun. Prizes too!

Get On Board!

Do you have any children's board games or puzzles that could be given away to needy children? The Springfield YWCA is thrilled to have as many games, puzzles and Lego as we can give them. They have a shelter for women/girls who are victims of domestic violence and their children; teen programs; programs for women/girls who are victims of sexual assault and their children. Bring your gifts to the Temple any time before Friday, December 19.

Light a Candle for Tzedakah

Chanukah Tzedakah: Ner Shel Tzedakah

Don't buy presents on one of the Chanukah nights.

Give tzedakah instead. Love the latkes. Make a gift to the charity of your choice.

If the Kids are Grown Up, Do We Light the Candles Anyway?

A Chanukah Candle Lighting and "Gathering" for Baby Boomers with Empty Nests

Boomers...Last year we had a fabulous Chanukah Party. Stay tuned for the 2014 Chanukah Party of your dreams. For details, watch your snail mail and E-vents

Chanukah Questions and Answers

When is Chanukah?

Chanukah begins Tuesday night, December 16.

The last candle is lit Tuesday night, December 23.

How do we observe Chanukah today?

Chanukah is almost entirely a time for celebration, although it can be more than that. This year, for example, how about implementing the "tradition" of Ner Shel Tzedakah, which means dedicating one "ner/candle/night" to tzedakah.

How do we prepare the candles when Chanukah arrives?

Place the candles in the chanukiah (Chanukah menorah) from right to left.

How many candles are used?

On the first night of Chanukah one light is kindled. On the following night, two lights and so on until on the eighth night, eight lights are kindled. This does not, of course, include the shammas which is the candle used every night to light the other candles of the day.

Where does the chanukiah go?

If possible the chanukiah should go near or at a window.

In this way passersby can see the burning candles, which means according to Jewish tradition, that we have helped in the process of Pirsum Ha-nais—the Publicizing of the Chanukah Miracle and Story.

How do we light the candles?

Just after nightfall, say the blessings. The first two are said every night. The third is only said on the first night. After the blessings light the candles by going from left to right so that the additional light of each night is kindled first.

Do we do anything different on Shabbat - Friday evening, December 19?

Yes. On that night we light the chanukiah first and after that Shabbat candles are lit. However, for a really good time, don't light candles at home. Bring yourself and your candles to Temple for a 6 p.m. service followed by dinner, a song contest, and a sizzling program.

For a Great Summer....Eisner, Crane Lake, Six Points, & Israel!

Young people entering grades 2-12, from Reform synagogues throughout the Northeast, are now being enrolled for summer programs at our URJ camps (Eisner Camp, Crane Lake Camp, and 6 Points Sports Academy) as well as the "NFTY in Israel" summer travel experience. Eisner and Crane Lake are located in the Berkshire mountains (Eisner in Great Barrington, MA and Crane Lake in West Stockbridge, MA), and 6 Points is in Greensboro, NC

Contact the Eisner/Crane Lake office (212-650-4130, necamps.urjcamp.org), or 6 Points Sports Academy (561-208-1650, 6points.urjcamp.org) to find out more about these summer opportunities for your child or grandchild. Contact Rabbi Shapiro, Cantor Levson or Heather Sullivan for additional information.

Science and Technology Jewish Summer Camp Starting its Second Summer in 2015

Registration is now open for the Reform Movement's 14th summer camp. It's called

URJ 6 Points Sci-Tech Academy. It will take place this July on the campus of The Governor's Academy near Boston.

URJ 6 Points Sci-Tech Academy is for campers seeking high-level science and technology experiential and fun learning in the summer. Campers will work alongside instructors to design projects in areas such as robotics, video game design, environmental science, and digital media production.

"What will make our camp unique," says Greg Kellner, camp director, "is the combination of outstanding science and tech programming with Jewish learning and living in an intentional, fun and dynamic Jewish community. In addition to hands-on, immersive learning in science and technology, campers will also explore their Jewish identities and their connections to the Jewish community."

There will be two-week sessions. The Governor's Academy is 30 minutes north of Boston.

For more information about URJ 6 Points Sci-Tech Academy, please visit <http://www.urj6points.org/scitech>. Call Annette Powers, 212-650-4154.

Scholarships for Free

If your son or daughter is planning to attend any kind of Jewish program this summer, please take advantage of the Temple scholarship program. Thanks to the Joseph Emanuel, Rabbi Herman Eliot and Adele Biederman Snyder Memorial Fund, scholarships are available in small and larger amounts. We are also thankful to the family of Edna Simon and Judy and Michael Cohen who support summer scholarships as well.

Your confidential request should go to Rabbi Shapiro no later than March 1.

Are you receiving our weekly e-mail updates?

Lots is happening in our community. Especially because we've reduced the frequency of our snail mail Temple bulletin, our E-vents is the best way to know what Sinai is about from week to week. If we don't have your e-mail, you're missing out. It would be even better in households with two adults for the office to have both adults' e-mails. Thank you.

Send your information to Robin, the Rabbi's Assistant. rblanchettegage@sinai-temple.org

Ten Minutes of Torah From our Reform Movement The Union for Reform Judaism

Study that Matches Your Lifestyle – Sign up at <http://www.reformjudaism.org/sign-receive-ten-minutes-torah> for a brief daily teaching or reflection. Each day has a different theme:

- Monday** – Reform Ideas about the Weekly Torah Portion
- Tuesday** – Reform Youth Grouping
- Wednesday** – Israel Connections
- Thursday** – Celebrating Jewish Arts and Culture
- Friday** – Weekly News from around the Globe

Rabbi Shapiro's Sermons

If you would like to read any of the Rabbi's High Holiday sermons, please visit our website. www.sinai-temple.org The link for the sermons is under "Rabbi." Sermons and other writings from previous years are all found under that link.

You are cordially invited to A Social Hour

with hors d'oeuvres, wine, and Havdalah

Celebrating our New Members Saturday, November 15

4:00 - 5:30 pm

In the Temple's Oneg Shabbat Room
An activity for preschoolers will be available
Please RSVP through the Temple Office
Robin: 413-736-3619, extension 100

Notes from the Cantor

Please join us on Friday, November 14, as we honor our extraordinary accompanist, John Gerry-Karajanes, for his many years of dedicated service to Sinai Temple! (Don't panic... this is NOT a retirement service! God willing, John will be with us here for many more years!) John has been the accompanist here at Sinai Temple since before the days of Rabbi Shapiro, and he has taught piano many Sinai children, and even some Sinai grandchildren. Please join us on this Friday evening to show our appreciation to this kind and talented gentleman!

On Saturday evening, December 6, I will once again have the great honor of singing with the Springfield Symphony Orchestra and Chorus at the annual "Home for the Follidays" concert! This year I will be singing a Chaunkah song, *Unending Flame*, and the *Hal'luhu* of Cantor Benjie Ellen Schiller, which was last heard at Sinai Temple in June at the service celebrating conclusion of our fundraising campaign. I am honored to be able to bring a Jewish presence to this beloved annual Springfield event. Tickets for the concert are available on the SSO website, <http://www.springfieldsymphony.org>.

Just in time for Chanukah, Sinai Temple will welcome Mak'hela, the Jewish Chorus of Western Massachusetts, back to our sanctuary on Friday evening, December 12. Mak'hela is one of the jewels of Jewish life here in the Pioneer Valley, and I look forward to their participation in our service this evening. In addition to our Shabbat liturgy, Mak'hela will sing some wonderful choral arrangements of Chanukah songs to get us in the mood to celebrate.

Finally, on behalf of Sinai Temple, I would like to publically express my gratitude to the Men of Sinai (M.O.S.) for their generous donation of a second video projector to the Temple. In the past few years we have often had the issue of more than one group needing the projector at the same time. Thanks to M.O.S, there will no longer be any arguments over who gets to use the video projector!

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

Cantor Martin Levson

Chanukah Gift

A Chanukah gift to you from your JCC Family. Sinai Temple members are invited to join the JCC for only \$57.75 per month. Offer good for one year (new members only). Expires December 31, 2014. Contact Abbie Weiss, Membership Director, Springfield Jewish Community Center aweiss@springfieldjcc.org (413) 739-4715 x327

Message from Heather Sullivan

Director of Education

I love this time of year because there is so much hustle and bustle in our school. Not that our school is ever totally quiet but the fall time is particularly filled with all kinds of wonderful happenings.

What a beautiful night we had to listen to the sounds of nature, as we began our Sukkot holiday. It was nice to see so many religious school families participate in this joyous occasion. Congratulations to Rachael Maniscalco and Delaney Schragger, our two etrogim winners.

We were thrilled to officially welcome our new students at our Simchat Torah celebration: first graders, Ethan Halpern and Delaney Schragger & new kindergarteners, Emma Brunette, Avery Cartun, Sebastian Oliveira, Marisol Robinson, Maeve Stern, Rachel Sullivan and Gabriel Weinberg. Mazel Tov on your consecration!

On November 16th, our seventh grade students will travel to the Holocaust Institute on the UMass Amherst campus. They will get a chance to walk through the exhibit and meet with Arnold Friedmann, a holocaust survivor and volunteer docent at the exhibit.

Please be sure to join us for the Men of Sinai sponsored Chanukah service and dinner on December 19. (Yes, this service DOES count toward the service requirement for students in grades 3-7!) This year we will have a family "song" contest, in addition to our usual beautiful Shabbat service by chanukkiyah light.

Raffle tickets are now on sale in the main office and during Sunday school. Choose from a wide array of fantastic prizes, all to help support our scholarship fund and the Valley Opportunity Council fuel assistance program. Raffle prizes will be drawn at our Chanukah service.

In the Spirit of Warmth and Peace,
L'Shalom,
Heather

JUDAICA SHOP CORNER

Chanukah is coming!

The first candle is December 16.

We are ready to delight you with beautiful menorahs, candles, toys, games, giftware and so very much more.

Please call Thais for ideas, suggestions and longer hours.

Thais Fischel 786-9577

World Zionist Organization Elections

Rabbi Shapiro spoke about these elections on Yom Kippur morning in his sermon about Israel. The following FAQ's may help you make sense about these very important elections for the health of liberal Judaism in Israel.

What is ARZA?

ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America, is the Zionist arm and voice of the Reform Movement and an affiliate of the Union for Reform Judaism, serving 1.5 million Reform Jews in North America.

ARZA is the Reform movement's vehicle for the engagement of American Reform Jews with Israel.

How does ARZA help Reform Judaism in Israel?

ARZA provides the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism (IMPJ) and the Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC) with financial support generated through membership dollars. ARZA represents Reform Judaism in the World Zionist Organization thereby providing American and Israeli Reform Jews with a powerful voice in this world-wide organization.

What is the World Zionist Organization?

The World Zionist Organization (WZO) was founded by Theodor Herzl at the First Zionist Congress in Basel in 1897. Today it chooses representatives for The Jewish Agency for Israel, the Jewish National Fund, and other affiliates. The WZO utilizes the World Zionist Congress to establish its policies and internally elect leadership to the bodies which define executive policy, departmental direction, and budget decisions.

What is the World Zionist Congress?

The Zionist Congress is the World Zionist Organization's supreme institution and legislative body which meets every four years in Jerusalem. The Congress determines policy,

courses of action, and chooses the leadership of the World Zionist Organization. These decisions influence hundreds of millions of dollars in funding and paid portfolios. The Congress also makes decisions which affect the status of Reform Jews in Israel as well as the funding available to Progressive Jews in Israel.

What is Reform Jews 4 Israel?

Reform Jews 4 Israel is the campaign to encourage American Reform Jews to vote for the ARZA slate in the upcoming World Zionist Congress Elections. Voting begins on January 15, 2015 and runs until April 30, 2015. ARZA is managing the campaign on behalf of the Reform movement. You should pledge to vote at www.ReformJews4Israel.org

Why is this important?

The composition of the American delegation is important to Reform Jews in the United States and Israel because the American delegation of 145 delegates is the largest delegation from outside of Israel to the Congress. The decisions of the Congress influence hundreds of millions of dollars in funding, over \$4 million of which is currently allocated to the Reform movement each year.

What is the exact process for voting?

First, you should pledge to vote. By doing so, you'll receive all the information you need – when you need it – on how to vote.

Second, between January 15th and April 30th 2015, you must register with the American Zionist Movement. The registration fee is \$10.00 USD (\$5.00 USD for those under age 30), and goes directly to the AZM – not to ARZA.

Finally, as soon as you register, you can vote in the World Zionist Congress elections between January 15th and April 30th 2015.

NOTE...SINAI IS PRINTING ONLY SIX BULLETINS THIS YEAR. COMING BULLETINS WILL BE JANUARY/FEBRUARY, MARCH/APRIL, MAY/JUNE. THIS IS A VERY STRONG REASON FOR OUR WANTING TO STAY IN TOUCH VIA E-MAIL. PLEASE SEND US YOUR E-MAIL.

Thank you to:

Steve Roberts and Ron Feinstein for underwriting the costs to prepare and produce the visual service of Erev Rosh Hashanah. From screen to liturgical copy-right to musicians and sound system, we are most grateful to Steve and Ron.

Security at Sinai?

Within the next few weeks, the Temple will have a new system locking the corner office door. We will also enhance our phones to allow for a speaker system throughout the building. We are still trying to develop a sensible plan for the back canopy door when school is in session.

Thanks go to the **Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts**, which gave us a special stipend that allowed us to increase police presence during the holidays.

Message from Jack Henrie

Co-President, Men of Sinai

MOS coordinated the speakers, questions, room set-up and food for a major event on October 19th, in lieu of one of our traditional breakfasts. We had a Meet the Candidates Forum with Debra Boronski and Eric Lesser, the 1st Hampden and Hampshire Counties Republican and Democratic state senate candidates. We used a debate format with emailed questions, even from some who were unable to attend, and with audience questions, and had an outstanding moderator in Susan Goldman. Even though there was a conflict, which could not be helped with Rays of Hope, about 80 people attended. Michael Gordon videotaped it and portions will be abstracted for posting in Sinai Temple's website and the evolving Men of Sinai's Facebook page.

Our next breakfast will be on December 7th and, appropriately on the Day of Infamy, Sy Shotland will have a presentation on Veterans and War Memorials. We will be arranging evenings with the Rabbi and with the Cantor, and look to continue the support we provide to Sinai at Chanukah.

I want to thank all of you who have already joined MOS this year and all those who have pitched in to help us in any way. If you have not yet joined, we would love to have you. We are looking forward to continuing an eventful year for MOS and in support of our Sinai community!!

Jack Henrie
President, MOS

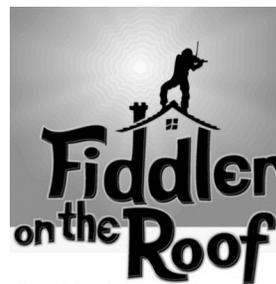
STUFF Welcomes in a New Year by Lindsey Weber, STUFF Mom

Our STUFF families have been busy during the past few weeks! We gathered for Shalom Sunday to learn about Rosh Hashanah. Cantor Bim Bam lead us in joyful music with both Hebrew and English verses. We read a PJ Library book, "Today is the Birthday of the World," and then the children used materials recycled from home to make apples and Rosh Hashanah napkins rings. We also reinforced the concept of tzedakah by bringing in food donations for children living in shelters in Holyoke.

At our Rosh Hashanah service, we welcomed more than 70 people! Rabbi Shapiro told a Jewish version of Goldilocks and the Three Bears as a lesson in repentance. Cantor Bim Bam led us in beautiful songs and amazed the children by blowing the shofar. We concluded our service with an apple juice Kiddush, challah, and apples from the farmer's market in Forest Park.

Our Yom Kippur service was equally well attended. Cantor Bim Bam showed his silly side by using a cranky stuffed cat to act out the part of the prophet Jonah as he told the story of Jonah and the whale. He captured the attention of both children and grown ups. Everyone enjoyed the upbeat song about Jonah and the whale while Cantor played his guitar. To end our high holiday services, Cantor amazed us once again by blowing the shofar.

Our STUFF coordinators design programs specifically for children under 5 years old and their families. We teach about Jewish traditions by incorporating music, hands-on activities, and stories. The atmosphere is very welcoming and laid-back. You don't need to be a temple member to join us. Please join us at our next STUFF program or pass along the information to someone you know with young children.



Auditions:

**Dec. 7 (3:30) and
Dec. 10 (7:00)**

***Ages 9 and older; males
who can learn to dance
(ages 14 - 35 are especially needed!)*

WHICH TASK IS THE BEST MATCH FOR YOU?

- ▶ Distribute audition fliers
- ▶ Help with auditions
- ▶ Cover windows upstairs
- ▶ Set up the auditorium for performances
- ▶ Be a back stage parent during a performance
- ▶ Help organize concessions
- ▶ Technical support (lighting, sound, etc.)
- ▶ Usher
- ▶ Sell concessions, tickets or Cast Connections on performance dates
- ▶ Help with publicity
- ▶ Set construction
- ▶ Donate snacks, water, or flowers
- ▶ Stage hand or assistant stage mgr.

HELP CELEBRATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BROADWAY PREMIER!

*For more information or to volunteer for a task,
contact Sheri Levson 413-567-5789
levsong@verizon.net*



Join Rabbi Mark Shapiro on Sinai Temple's Trip to **ISRAEL**

For First Timers, Adults & Families
July 5 - 17, 2015



THIS AMAZING TOUR INCLUDES:

- 2 nights at the Dan Panorama in Tel Aviv
- 1 night at the Dan Panorama in Haifa
- 1 night at Kibbutz Nof Ginnosar in the Galilee
- 6 nights at the Dan Panorama in Jerusalem
- All touring & sightseeing per an agreed upon itinerary
- Breakfast daily
- 7 Dinners
- Visit Tel Aviv's Independence Hall
- View the ancient aqueduct & Roman theatre at Caesarea
- Enjoy a visit to the Leo Baeck campus in Haifa
- Visit the mystical city of Safed
- Take a jeep tour of the Golan Heights
- Enjoy a kayaking adventure on the Jordan river
- Enjoy a walking tour through Jerusalem's Old City history
- Explore the Western Wall tunnels
- Tour Yad Vashem, Israel's memorial to the Holocaust
- Explore Latrun's Armored Corps Museum
- Enjoy a Jeep ride along the historic Burma Road
- Visit Herod's palace retreat at Masada
- Transfers included if arriving/departing with the main group
- Entrance fees as per itinerary & Portage

...AND SO MUCH MORE!

Tour Pricing	Full Cost (Credit Card)	Discounted (Check)
Israel Tour	\$3,630.00	\$3,524.00
Group Air	\$1,833.00	\$1,780.00

Land costs are per person, based on double occupancy.
For single occupancy, add \$1,235 or \$1,199 paid by check.
Triple reduction is \$660 per room
(\$220 per person in a triple - one person must be under 18)

Group airfare is non-stop on El Al Israel Airlines
\$1,190.00 base plus \$590.00 tax - Total: \$1,780.00

For assistance with any other air arrangements,
please contact Ayelet.

TRAVEL GRANTS

Trip participants are eligible for a \$1,000 travel grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

(This will reduce the basic land cost of the trip from \$3,524 to \$2,524.)

Itinerary and on-line registration available at:
www.ayelet.com/ShapiroJuly2015.aspx

Ayelet Tours, Ltd.

19 Aviation Rd. * Albany, NY 12205 * www.ayelet.com
(800) 237-1517 * (518) 783-6001 * FAX (518) 783-6003



Dear Friends -

I am excited to be planning our trip. As I review the itinerary, I find myself thinking how wonderful it will be to share these sites with you. Although the trip is designed for first timers, anyone who hasn't been to Israel in the last 5 to 10 years will be happy with what we do. Israel is always new. I haven't forgotten concerns for security. They will always be paramount.

In the meantime, register for the trip. (Should the trip cancel more than 91 days before departure, individual land tour & group air deposits will be refunded in full.)

-Rabbi Shapiro

Read the full itinerary and book online at: www.ayelet.com/ShapiroJuly2015.aspx



Tour does not include: Roundtrip airfare (listed separately) & departure taxes & fuel surcharges (subject to change). Participants arriving at other times (not with the group flights) are responsible for their own transfers. Ayelet Tours will be happy to arrange private transfers at an additional cost. Tour is based on a minimum of 20 participants. Supplement may apply for smaller group size. Tips to guides, driver & dining room waiters (\$15.00 per person, pre day-pre-collected), any border taxes or visa fees, travel insurance (HIGHLY RECOMMENDED), or items of a personal nature. Note airfare departure taxes and fuel surcharges are subject to change until ticketed. Full payment is due 61 days prior to departure. CANCELLATION POLICY: \$100 per person charged if cancelled once booked, plus any applicable airline penalties. \$250 per person charged if cancelled 60-31 days before departure, plus any applicable airline penalties. 100% penalties apply if cancelled 30 days or less before departure.

Disclaimer: Ayelet Tours, Rabbi Mark Shapiro & Temple Sinai act only as agents for the tour members in making arrangements for hotels, transportation, touring, restaurants or any other services in connection with the itinerary. We will exercise reasonable care in making such arrangements. However, we do not assume any liability whatsoever for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity to person and property because of an act of default of any hotel, airline carrier, restaurant, company, or person rendering any of the services included in the tour. The right is reserved to cancel or change itineraries or to substitute comparable service without notice. The right is reserved to decline to accept or retain any tour passengers should such person's health or general deportment impede the operation of the tour to the detriment of the other tour passengers.

Yes, I want to join Rabbi Mark Shapiro on Sinai Temple's tour to Israel in July 2015!

I am sending this form with my \$500 per person deposit!

*One form per person. Please include passport copy with registration
Passport must be valid for 6 months PAST return travel date

Land Only

Land & Air

Name as it appears on passport: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Passport No.: _____ Expiration: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Pay by credit card: Mastercard Visa Discover AmEx# _____ Exp: _____ SecCode: _____

Single room (adds supplemental cost) **OR** Sharing with another registrant. Name: _____

If submitting multiple forms, please check this box to apply the CC information above to cover all registration deposits in your family

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Yom Kippur Morning Torah Reading

Lulav and Etrov on Sukkot

