



# Sinai Temple Bulletin

*Take Back Your Time:  
Rediscover Shabbat*

October 2015  
Tishri / Cheshvan 5776

## For Your Consideration

*Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro*

I like our agenda for the coming months. The Bishop is visiting. We are building a house with Habitat for Humanity. Adult Confirmation is underway. We are experimenting with a new format for Simchat Torah.

And while we are creating such "headline" kind of events, we are also doing quieter work that sustains Jews, Jewish souls, and Jewish minds over the long haul.

We are praying and learning regularly.

Every Friday night we come together to reflect on the past week and center ourselves during an hour or so of reflection and song. More than that, every Saturday morning we do the same.

This year we have fewer mornings occupied by Bar/Bat Mitzvah services which means we have many Saturday mornings when the agenda is as focused as it could be. At 10:15 a.m. Jews assemble, walk through some tried and true words from our tradition, and hear the Rabbi (that's me) search for contemporary wisdom in our tradition.

It's simple - especially on Saturday mornings. But it is also quintessentially Judaism. It's Sinai.

The same can be said for our learning.

Every Saturday morning at 9 a.m. congregants and I meet around several tables in the Oneg Shabbat Room and consider the weekly Torah portion. It is not esoteric. You do not need an advanced degree. We use English.

I'm the tour guide, as it were. Sometimes we look at a historic aspect of a given text. Some weeks we take a "mystical" approach. Sometime we go for poetry or literature. Sometimes I bring along a piece of music that might fascinate the group.

I also don't prepare the class until later in the week so that, if something has happened in the news, our Torah study reflects that.

Bottom line - Sinai does flashy stuff plus basic stuff. It is your synagogue.

I/We love to see your faces. Friends, you always look good on the High Holidays. I'm willing to bet you look just as good (if not more relaxed) on a regular Shabbat. Come visit. The doors are always open.

## Friday Evenings

### October 2 at 6 p.m. Happy New Month

Come early at 5:30 for snacks. One happy hour follows with our 6 - 7 p.m. service.

### October 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Wishing you a refreshing end of the week...  
Shabbat Shalom.

### October 16 at 7:30 p.m.

Celebrating Shabbat we take back our time and reflect on the week just gone.

### October 23 at 7:30 p.m.

Bishop Mitchell Rozanski will be our guest. Rabbi and the Bishop will dialogue on the bimah. See Page Three.

### October 30 at 7:30 p.m.

Hallowe'en comes tomorrow night. Could this be a spooky Shabbat?

## Saturday Mornings

### Torah Study at 9 a.m.

**Weekly Shabbat Service at 10:15 a.m.**  
**(Bar/Bat Mitzvah Services at 10:30 a.m.)**  
**Mazal Tov to Bat Mitzvah**

**October 3** – Marjorie Black, daughter of Richard and Kim Black

NOTE...SINAI IS PRINTING ONLY SIX BULLETINS THIS YEAR. COMING BULLETINS WILL BE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, 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.

## Message from Bruce Leshine

*Temple President*

This past month, Liz and I found ourselves on Corfu, a Greek island in the Adriatic Sea. We were wandering through the streets of the town, until we came upon the synagogue. No signs pointed you there, and unless you noticed the Star of David above the wooden door, you might walk right by it. But we did notice the Star of David, above the door of a small stucco building, which was 200 hundred years old if it was a day. And we knocked on that wooden door, and a man magically appeared from around the corner of the building, and opened a door for us into a world that I never imagined seeing on a Greek island.

Unexpectedly standing in that sanctuary, I tried imagining what it would sound like on Rosh Hashanah. I wondered what is "it" that links us here to the Jews of Corfu - what makes all of us Jews?

Many would say that Jews all practice the same religion. However, many people who would identify themselves as Jews do not believe in or practice much of this "religion" at all! Over half of all Jews in the United States don't belong to a synagogue. So, except for someone who has gone through the process of conversion to Judaism, being a Jew technically has nothing to do with what you believe or what you do.

Many say that being a Jew is to be one of the Jewish "people" or "nation." Indeed, the Torah proclaims that the Jews are like a "nation"--- meaning a group of people with a common history and destiny, sensing that we are all connected to each other. Throughout Jewish literature, the Jews are referred to as "the Children of Israel," the descendants of the Patriarch Jacob (Israel). So all Jews are part of Jacob's "extended family." Like a family, we expect the most of each other, because the failings of any member of the family may be held against all of us. We also come together in defense of those who attack us, and when members of our Jewish family suffer, we all feel their pain. And when a member of our Jewish "family" does something really significant, we are all quite proud.

So is being a Jew just practicing our religion, or are we a giant family, all descendants of Jacob and his sons and their sons? Or are we a "nation" now spread across the Earth, in places as far apart as Springfield, Massachusetts and Corfu, Greece, and worlds away from another in so many ways? A month after standing in that small sanctuary, with the sun streaming in through the glass of its old narrow windows, I think I know what I believe. What do you think?

Be well, my friends. Bruce

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The Sinai Temple Bulletin is published every other month by Sinai Temple, Springfield, Massachusetts. This is Issue Number 2 for 2015-2016.

Mark Dov Shapiro .....Rabbi  
Martin Levson .....Cantor  
Heather Sullivan .....Director of Education  
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Ron Weiss .....Cemetery Chair  
Maggie & Sarah Cohn .....Membership Committee Chairs

Visit our website: [www.sinai-temple.org](http://www.sinai-temple.org)

## I have children in college...No longer at home

### Learning...changing...Asking great questions

The Temple would like to stay in touch with our youngest alumni. They've grown up under our roof. They've begun to learn what being Jewish means. Now – in the crucial college years - we don't want to lose contact.

Students on the ALUMNI LIST will receive "care" packages and occasional messages from the Temple and the Rabbi. We want to reach out to students in their college years. Please send your child's snail mail college address to the office c/o [rblanchettegag@sinai-temple.org](mailto:rblanchettegag@sinai-temple.org)

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### Do you know someone who might enjoy being at Sinai Temple?

Maybe they are looking for a welcoming and vibrant Jewish spiritual home. Maybe they don't know what they are seeking. Maybe they don't feel they are seeking at all. Maybe they would be surprised by what they would find.

#### **You, the members of Sinai Temple, are the best ambassadors for our congregation.**

Think of co-workers, students and teachers and colleagues, fellow yoga attendees, parents of kids' friends, people in their 20s and 30s, and more!

There are many ways to connect at Sinai Temple.

#### **Sometimes all it takes is an invitation.**

Invite someone to consider connecting with Sinai Temple. Call the Temple and let us know if we can be of any support.

## The Rabbinic Search Committee

As of early September, The Sinai Temple Rabbinic Search Committee has received seven applications for the position of Interim Rabbi. We will be scheduling interviews in the next month. Please join us at our informational coffee on Thursday, October 8th, at 7:00, in the OS room for more information and to have your questions answered. Additionally, you can follow along in the process and submit questions or comments by visiting the search committee's webpage on the Sinai Temple website.

## **SIMCHAT TORAH RECREATED AND RECONSIDERED FOR 5776**

### **EREV SIMCHAT TORAH – Different than all other years**

**Potluck Dinner & Service all in the Auditorium  
Sunday, October 4 at 6:00 p.m.**

Have you ever seen an entire Torah scroll unrolled? This is your year! Simchat Torah is the time when we finish reading the Torah and start all over again, and we do it by unrolling a Torah around the Auditorium.

Come join the fun. Start with potluck dairy dinner. (Bring a main course, side dish, or just yourself if you wish.) Dinner will be followed by the big event with the Torah scroll. Plus much more. Parents and children of all ages are welcome.



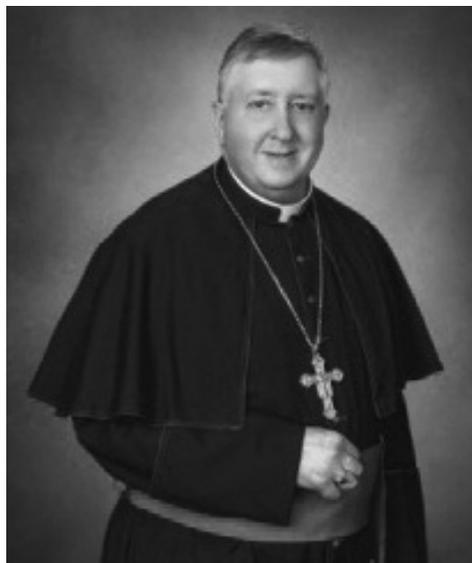
### **SIMCHAT TORAH/YIZKOR SERVICE Monday, October 5 at 10:30 a.m.**

Mark the conclusion and beginning of the Torah cycle and also conduct a memorial service. Caring Community Luncheon to follow. (See Page 4 to RSVP.)

## **THE BISHOP COMES TO SINAI TEMPLE**

**Friday, October 23 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Bishop Mitchell Rozanski of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield  
in Dialogue with Rabbi Shapiro**



Fifty years ago - October 1965 - the Roman Catholic Church issued the historic document - NOSTRA AETATE - IN OUR TIME - in which the Church opened the door to interfaith dialogue. The document addressed the role of Jews in the crucifixion of Jesus and began a total re-evaluation of the Church's relationship to the larger world.

On Friday, October 23, Bishop Rozanski will be our honored guest. The Bishop is Chair of the Secretariat of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. He is a delightful, warm person who will speak with the Rabbi and then be open to questions.

The Bishop also met Pope Francis on his visit to America. He will share parts of that story too!

## Adult Opportunities

**The Caring Community of Sinai Temple cordially invites you to attend**

**A Holiday Luncheon  
for Sinai Senior Members**

Monday, October 5 at Noon

(Following the Simchat Torah/  
Yizkor Morning Service)

During last April's Senior Luncheon, we toured the world of Rogers and Hammerstein.

Rabbi Shapiro will now take us to Camelot, Brigadoon, and My Fair Lady.

Time for Lerner and Lowe as we explore the "sound-track" of our own lives.

**There is no charge for this wonderful event.**

**Please RSVP to the Temple Office at 736-3619**

**Making David into Goliath: How The World Turned Against Israel**  
**Wednesday, October 28**  
**7:00 at Sinai Temple**  
**Featuring Author Joshua Muravchik**



During the Six-Day War of 1967, Americans favored the Israelis over the Arabs by overwhelming margins, while thin Europe support of Israel ran even higher. Fast-forward 50 years and Israel has become perhaps the most reviled country in the world. Although Americans have remained constant in their sympathy for the Jewish State, most of the world treats Israel as a pariah. What caused this stunning turn-about? *Making David into Goliath* traces this development.

Joshua Muravchik is the author of 11 books on American and world politics.

**Learn to Read Hebrew...Bless the Chanukah Candles in Hebrew...**

Eight one-hour classes for adults to learn to read Hebrew. Evenings at 7:30 p.m. at the JCC...Tuesdays, October 13, 20, 27, November, 3, 10, 17, 24, December 1. We will need a minimum of eight students. Our teacher will be Yehuda Ezry, a much beloved teacher from Heritage Academy. Fee is \$50. Send your check payable to Sinai to the Temple at 1100 Dickinson Street, Springfield MA 01108.

*When you come to class, please be sure to have ordered your text. Go to Amazon and order ALEPH ISN'T TOUGH.*

For more information, contact Laurie Weinberg, Adult Education Chair. [sagecitrus@aol.com](mailto:sagecitrus@aol.com)

"The average, healthy, well-adjusted adult gets up at 7:30 in the morning feeling just plain terrible."

*Jane Kerr, Please Don't Eat the Daisies*

**Monthly Morning Service**

**Wednesday, OCTOBER 7 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, November 4, December 2, January 6, February 3, March 2, April 6, May 4, June 1.

**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.

**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](http://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.



**Remember to drink fair trade coffee. It's just as good as any other coffee plus it's not just a cup of coffee. It's a just cup of coffee.**

## NOTES FROM THE CANTOR

I would like to once again thank the dedicated members of the 5776 Sinai Temple High Holiday Choir: Marilyn Amster, Judy Aronson, Margaret Cohn, Sarah Cohn, Bonnie Gibson, Cheri Haimowitz, Jack Henrie, Steve Kessler, Margie Klein, Sheri Levson, Bonnie Mikesh, Robyn Newhouse (as always, our indefatigable rehearsal accompanist!), Ed Radding, and Ann Rosenfield. My thanks also go to the many other singers, musicians, and Torah readers who participated during the Yamim Noraim. Your efforts and talents helped to enrich our worship services in so many ways!

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

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## Message from Heather Sullivan

*Director of Education*

I love how every year our Jewish school year kicks off with so much to do. Most families (Jews and non Jews) feel so crazy busy with sports and extracurricular activities gearing up as the new school year begins. But we Jews have just a bit more 'hustle and bustle' and also to celebrate. Every new school year means renewal and a fresh start. But we Jews do it just a bit better, as we also welcome a brand new year. Out with the old, in with the new, wash away our sins and look to make a fresh start. No better time to start a school year then, well, with a sweet new year.

Then it's onto Sukkot. For our kids at Sinai that means one thing, well, actually two. It means collectively creating our sukkah (learning about what a sukkah or "booth" is and why we have one) AND also the ice cream truck. Yes, it's now become tradition, here at Sinai, that we end our Sukkot services with ice cream! This year it's especially nice to remember the time of our ancestors, as we donate sandwiches and bagged lunches to a Springfield soup kitchen.

Next stop, Simchat Torah. Let's review with our Bar/Bat Mitzvah students where the Torah has taken us over the last year and where we are headed again this year. Let's welcome our newest members into the club we call Jewish education with consecration and celebrate our story in the Torah. Whether young or old, we all wave our Simchat Torah flags with the same Jewish pride.

Ah, what a great (and busy) time of year it is to be a Jew. I hope you embrace all that it all has to offer.

L'Shalom,  
Heather

## JUDAICA SHOP CORNER

For all the upcoming B'nai Mitzvah, we have a fine selection of tallises and many appropriate gifts, and wonderful engagement and wedding gifts too.

We're looking ahead to Chanukah (already!!) and finding new and exciting items - giftware, toys, games and specialty items.

Our current hours are Tuesday afternoons 2:00 to 4:30 PM and Sunday mornings 9:30 to 12 noon. We'll have more days and longer hours as we get closer.

Thais Fischel  
786-9577



## Sinai Temple is Going to Build a House We're Joining up with Habitat for Humanity

### Starting now...Breaking Ground Spring 2016

Sinai is joining forces with several other congregations in the Springfield area to build a home for a needy family. The house will be on Allen Street.

Many opportunities for involvement will be available.

We will need people who like to hammer and nail on weekends. We will need people who like to feed those who build. We will need donors because all of the congregations working together need to purchase materials for the house costing about \$150,000.

If you would like to learn more or volunteer some time, please let Robin in the office know. [rblanchettegage@sinai-temple.org](mailto:rblanchettegage@sinai-temple.org)

If you would like to contribute towards the cost of the house, please visit the Temple website where donations at many different levels are welcomed. [www.sinai-temple.org](http://www.sinai-temple.org)

### Thank you!! With your help, Sinai is Going to Build a House



## Message from Jack Henrie *President, Men and Women of Sinai (MWOS)*

I hope that this is not too late to wish you all a sweet, happy, and healthy 5776. On the Sunday between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, MWOS kicked off the Religious School year with a free BBQ for our Religious School students, parents, and our entire community. Thank you to all who pitched in to help in any way.

On October 4th, MWOS is having our first Sunday breakfast of the year. We are very honored to have a member of our Sinai Temple family and MA State Senator Eric Lesser speaking. Breakfast, consisting of eggs, bagels, lox, cream cheese, OJ, and coffee, is served at 9:30 and is free to MWOS members and \$5 for others. Senator Lesser will speak of his first year accomplishments, current issues facing the legislature, and his desires for the future. An opportunity for questions will follow. Hope to see you in the Oneg Shabbat Room on Sunday morning, October 4th! We promise other very engaging speakers for our Sunday breakfasts on November 8th, January 10th, and March 6th.

MWOS will have a meeting in the Temple library on Tuesday evening, October 6th. After light refreshments at 7ish, the meeting will convene at 7:30. MWOS needs your help to continue serving Sinai and our broader community as we have in years past. Please consider joining MWOS and actively participating in any, or all, of our events which will include our Hanukkah Shabbat dinner, Purim, our (springtime) evenings with the Rabbi and with the Cantor, the Snyder Award dinner with a special guest on April 15th, and for our May end of the Religious School BBQ.

I want to thank all of you who have already joined MWOS 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, both men and women of Sinai. We are looking forward to an eventful year in support of our Sinai community!!

Jack Henrie

*President, Men and Women of Sinai*



**Senator Eric Lesser to speak at Sinai  
Sunday morning, October 4  
Breakfast at 9:30 a.m.**

## **Have you got a LOAF; Have you got a FISH?**

### **We Could Use Your Help**

Every year Sinai Temple volunteers cook a few meals for the LOAVES AND FISHES Soup Kitchen held at Court Square. The menu is simple and preset. It's a casserole. If you would be willing to prepare a casserole (recipe is provided) once this Fall, please let Bobi Steingart know. The cooking can be done at your convenience and the casserole can be frozen weeks ahead.

To volunteer for LOAVES AND FISHES, call Bob at 413-896-9281 OR e-mail at [drblood50@comcast.net](mailto:drblood50@comcast.net). You can also call Robin in the office at 736-3619.

## **LEGACY WHAT WILL YOURS BE?**

What will you bequeath to future generations?  
How will the ideals you cherish *now* be sustained *then*?  
Who will articulate your principles for the sake of your grandchildren, your faith, your community and your country?

**There is an answer.**

With your help, Sinai Temple will endure as a powerful voice, sustaining those beliefs you hold dear. Now. And for future generations. To obtain more information about remembering Sinai Temple in your will or estate, please contact: Steve Sussman or Rabbi Shapiro

## **Where are you? May we talk?**

There are still some Sinai households "out of the loop." We can't communicate electronically. It's not efficient and it's not green. So...Please...Share the wealth.

One communication a week. It will be short and sweet and attractive too!

**Send us your e-mail right away.**

Best possible scenario: If there is more than one adult in your home, send us both e-mails. We really mean it and we really want it.

**Please e-mail your e-mail to Robin Blanchette-Gage, the Rabbi's assistant, at [rblanchettegage@sinai-temple.org](mailto:rblanchettegage@sinai-temple.org)**

# Finding Meaning at Sinai Temple

*During the August Board meeting, members of the Board took a few minutes to write about their feelings for our congregation. Here are some of their reflections.*

My wife, Nancy, and I are truly happy and gratified to be part of the Sinai Temple community. We have made new friends within our age group as well as belonging to a spiritual family.

People are very "user" friendly and the Rabbi and Cantor are two of the finest people we have met in our eight years of marriage. They are scholars with an ability to be kind and caring. Their teaching to the general congregation has truly enlightened and educated us in areas of Judaism that we had not encountered before.

## **Alan Goldsmith**

I am happy to be a member of Sinai because: I have a community I belong to. I have circles of friends and our children have their community too. I feel accepted and welcome at Sinai. I enjoy praying at services as a community, which I find very powerful. I enjoy giving back to the Sinai community by joining the Board and committees that make the Temple a better place for everyone.

## **Carol Tivoli**

I am happy to be a member because I have shared many celebrations at Sinai Temple. My daughter was named, attended Religious School and became a Bat Mitzvah at Sinai. I met my husband at Sinai and later we were married at Sinai. I have also shared sadness with my Sinai community holding a Shiva service for my Mother at the Temple. Sinai is a comfortable place to remember the past and celebrate the future.

## **Karen Mendelsohn**

I have been happy to be a member of Sinai Temple for the last quarter of a century. There have been so many wonderful life cycle events, all of which have been full of warmth, happiness and love, with a tremendous sense of community. Personally, there has been my daughter's Bat Mitzvah, my son's Bar Mitzvah, and the wedding of my daughter, Sharon, and Ohad Shatil. There is also the great sense of community through annual events such as our Chanukah Shabbat dinner and service, Purim dinner and service, the Rabbi Herman Snyder Award dinner and service, Men and Women of Sinai breakfasts with outstanding speakers. I am also proud of Sinai's social justice activities.

## **Jack Henrie**

Belonging to Sinai Temple is so important to me because it allows me to be part of a community of Jews, to build friendships with people who share my sense of Jewish identity, to learn, to help others learn, to attend services. Sinai is a Jewish home for my Jewish journey.

## **Laurie Weinberg**

Not being a longstanding member of the community, it is heartening to join the family of local Jews. At Sinai I can interface with people I wouldn't normally associate with. My learning is not only derived from spiritual and ethical questions but from important views and fellow congregants on topics of the day. Instead of just following the path of others, Sinai Temple helps us to push our boundaries. Here at Sinai Temple we are encouraged to think outside of the box and recognize the uniqueness of people and activities around us.

## **Rich Friedman**

I am pleased to be a member of Sinai because I always feel welcomed by whoever is here. I enjoy the warm and cozy vibes regardless of the purpose of my visit. I also enjoy the variety of activities and events that go above and beyond the wonderful services. There is always something going on and a myriad of opportunities to get involved with. I have learned so much about what it means to be a Jew that transcends my everyday life reaching beyond the walls of Sinai. As much as I have had new experiences, I also enjoy being able to count on what is familiar and comforting to me.

## **Sarah Shtrax**



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**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

## **Shoshana Maniscalco's Israel Trip**

This past summer my friends from Eisner Camp and I explored Eastern Europe and Israel. We began in the Czech Republic and Poland where we learned about the Jews of Central and Eastern Europe before and during WWII. Together as we toured the synagogues, ghettos, and concentration camps we formed a better understanding of what life was like for the Jews of Europe at that time.

After a week in Europe, our journey continued on to Israel. In the beautiful city of Jaffa, by the warm waters of the Mediterranean, we experienced our first taste of life in Israel. We camped for four days in the beaming sun of the Negev. At dawn we hiked mountains like Mount Shlomo and Massada to watch the sun rise. In the afternoon we snorkeled in the reefs near Eilat or floated in the Dead Sea.

With our sand filled shoes, we entered the Holy City of Jerusalem. Washed, fed and rested, we set out to learn about this historic city. We weren't clean long, though. At an archaeological dig south of the Temple Mount we sifted through the dirt uncovering pieces of our past. We crawled through the water tunnels carved under in the City of David, and prayed at the massive stones of Western Wall. Not only did our Hebrew greatly improve, but we gained a better understanding of Jewish History.

But for me, the highlight of the trip was not the rocks or sand, but the people I met and the new friends I made. My friend Or is a girl from Shoham. We are alike in many ways. She and I both have the same curly hair, a love for music, and sisters who are the same age. Every day since I have been home, I have been texting or skyping her. I cannot wait to go back to Israel to see her again. We realized that despite being raised 6,000 miles apart, we aren't very different after all.

