



Sinai Temple Bulletin

Take Back Your Time:
Rediscover Shabbat

October 2016
28 Elul 5776 - 29 Tishrei 5777

Yelamdeinu Rabbeinu, Let Our Rabbi Teach Us...

Rabbi Howard Kosovske

"The holidays are late this year," they are saying.

"No they aren't," I rejoin. "They always come at the same time. Rosh Hashanah is always on the first of Tishrei, and the rest of the Tishrei holidays always follow suit on their respective dates during the month. It never changes."

And then there is the old joke: It's not that the holidays are late. Rather, it's October. October is early this year!

Okay, let's get serious. There is a certain rarity in all the holidays occurring in October. In fact, since 1900 (and counting this year), this has only happened 16 times.

But that wouldn't have been the concern of our ancestors. Says Leviticus, "These are the festivals of the Eternal One, holy convocations, which you shall proclaim in their appointed seasons." (Lev. 23:4) Whenever the holidays fall, that's when they fall. Agronomists and farmers our ancestors were. Their concern was in celebrating the relationship of holy days to the seasons of the year. And even though fairly early on we moved from living in the country to living in the city, I think the connection is still present in our psyches. Let me elaborate.

Fall has messages. It's the time when nature winds down. That to me suggests taking a look at what our lives are all about. Who are we? What are we? What should we focus on? What should we try to be? Those, it seems, are the questions (and answers) of the Tishrei festivals.

Rosh Hashanah: stop and look at yourself. Take stock. At the piercing blast of the *shofar*, listen! An alarm is sounding. We don't have an unlimited amount of time here. Have we fallen short? Are there ways we can do it better, ways to improve ourselves and our lives?

Yom Kippur: forget about your finitude. Don't eat. Don't drink. (Some say don't sleep either unless you are one of the prayer leaders, but that isn't our practice.) Instead, just say, I'm sorry! And say, through my afflicting myself, I'm resolving, *really* resolving, to try to do it all better. Yes, I know, it doesn't feel good (and if you are a coffee drinker, you will very possibly get a headache from the caffeine withdrawal). In fact, it downright hurts. But no pain, no gain.

Sukkot: but now consider the greatest life-symbol of them all, the

Continued on page 3

Friday Evenings

October 7 – 6:00 p.m.

October 14 – 7:30 p.m.

October 21 – 6:00 p.m. (special Shabbat welcome and Sukkot evening, details to follow)

October 28 – 7:30 p.m.

Saturday Mornings

Torah Study: Every Saturday at 9 A.M.

Shabbat Services on October 8, 15, 22, & 29th at 10:15 A.M.

Kol Nidre

Tuesday, October 11 at 8:00 p.m.

Yom Kippur Day

Wednesday, October 12

Morning Service.....10:00 a.m.
Musical Interlude12:30 p.m.
Study Options.....1:30 p.m.
Family Service2:00 p.m.
Afternoon Service.....3:00 p.m.
Yizkor Service.....5:00 p.m.
Neilah/Closing Service5:45 p.m.
Break the Fast6:30 p.m.

Erev Sukkot

Sunday, October 16 at 6:00 p.m.

Sukkot Day

Monday, October 17 at 10:30 a.m.

Erev Simchat Torah

Sunday, October 23 at 6:00 p.m.

Simchat Torah/Yizkor

Monday, October 24 at 10:30 a.m.

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

What an exciting time for Sinai Temple—so much going on and so much to look forward to! Now I hear some of you saying, “Has the temple president gone meshuge? Oy vey, so many balls in the air, and so much change all around us!” Well, yes, there is incredible change; however, it is all change that is creating a Sinai Temple that will be refined and recharged for the years ahead of us.

About our Religious School: With Project Solel, we are building community in a new way here in Springfield by bringing the children from Sinai Temple and Temple Beth El together in a new educational enterprise. And as we prepare to bring the students of Sinai Temple and Temple Beth El together for Jewish learning, we believe we have a golden opportunity: instead of simply merging our existing schools, we will “break a new path”—the meaning of Solel—and create a different way of Jewish learning that suits today and the future. In creating Solel we hope to innovate in such a way that students and their families will experience Jewish learning as a creative, engaging and very active enterprise. Our vision: Solel will inspire our students to love Judaism as a source of wisdom and a way of life. Within a pluralistic, caring and inclusive community, our students will learn to think Jewishly and live Jewishly. Our next step—that of hiring a new religious school director—has begun.

About our Clergy: Rabbi Howard Kosovske is now part of our Sinai Temple family, and his wealth of experi-

ences, spanning 45 years on the pulpit in North America, Europe and Asia, are certainly a treasure and will be invaluable to us in the coming year. Together, Rabbi and Cantor Levson make a “spectacular team” and we look forward to their leading us in prayer, in song, in spirit, and kehillah.

As I conveyed to you a month ago, the Temple’s Board of Directors has approved the formation of a “Clergy Planning Group” in order to research, investigate, communicate with our own congregation, discuss, and then present findings and recommendations to the Board as to how the composition of our clergy should change over the next two years in order for Sinai Temple to best serve our Congregation into the future. The Clergy Planning Group, comprised of current Temple officers and directors, members of the Long-Range Planning and Rabbi Search Committees, and former Temple presidents, has also begun its work. Assisted by Rabbi Kosovske and Cantor Levson, the Clergy Planning Group’s report and recommendation should be made before next Spring. In the meantime, the Rabbi Search Committee will be on “stand-by,” awaiting the Clergy Planning Group’s report, before it proceeds.

About our Campaign: Finally, all of our congregants continue to demonstrate their wonderful financial support of Sinai Temple through our Celebrate Today Create Tomorrow Campaign begun almost three years ago. Almost \$1,000,000 has been generously given by you as part of this annual gifts campaign to help Sinai Temple “Create Tomorrow.” Thank you all, and stay tuned for “tomorrow!”

Be well...Bruce

Celebrate Sukkot as Sukkot Is Supposed to Be Celebrated!

The Sinai Temple sukkah is your sukkah, not just to look at but to use and celebrate in! So on the weeknights during the festival of Sukkot, dine in the sukkah. That’s right: come on down to the Temple, and bring a picnic supper with you, and enjoy your repast in the sukkah. There will be a table and chairs there, and it will be a lot of fun too. But to insure we have enough table space, call Robin at the Temple office or email her (rblanchettegaga@sinai-temple.org), and let us know what day(s) and at what time you are coming. The sukkah will be waiting for you. See you there!



Message from Heather Sullivan

Director of Education

Shalom, Chaverim! Happy 5777!

We had such a nice September being back at Sinai and getting back into the swing of things.

The workshop with Rabbi Lavy Kosofsky was a great experience for our 8th and 9th grade students and parents on September 27. The workshop was courtesy of the Stahl fund, for family education.

Looking forward to a wonderful (and busy) October.

All are welcome to join us at 10:00 on Sunday, October 16 to decorate the Sukkah. Then return that evening at 6:00 for a service and special (cold) treat!

This year we will continue with our Simchat Torah potluck dairy dinner at 6:00 on Sunday, October 23. Please be sure to call Robin in the main office to make a reservation and let her know if your family will be bringing a dairy/parve entrée or side dish. *It is important to make reservations this year because we ran out of table space last year.* Thanks for your cooperation.

L'Shalom, Heather

NOTES FROM THE CANTOR

"I'm a spiritual person, but I don't believe in 'organized religion.' I can find all the spirituality I need on the beach or in the forest." As a Cantor, I hear this kind of thing all the time. And I would never discount the intense 'spiritual' experiences that these places can evoke within us. But what these places cannot evoke is a sense of structure; an organization of the passing of time. As Gretchen Rubin said, "The days are long, but the years are short." One of the things I love best about our Jewish tradition is that, once a year, the haunting sounds of the shofar force us to ask ourselves the challenging question: "Am I a better person than I was one year ago?" The beach and the Redwoods, much though I love them, will not demand an answer to this question every year. Only Judaism will demand from me an answer to this existential question.

One of my favorite phrases from the High Holiday liturgy is "Chadeysh yameinu kekedem." The common translation of this phrase is: "Renew our days as of old." A wonderful teacher whose name I, alas, cannot remember (I am absolutely certain it was Elijah the Prophet in disguise) translated the phrase this way: "Don't indulge in phony nostalgia; make these days the ones you will want to remember!" Together, let us make 5777 a wonderful Jewish year that we can all look back upon and be proud of **one year from now!** In the words of a late 20th century Prophetess, "These are days you'll remember." Sheri, Alec, Liz, and I would like to wish our Sinai Temple family a "Shana tovah u'mitukah," a New Year filled with goodness and sweetness! Make these days the days that you'll remember!

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

Rabbi message continued from page 1

sukkah. The sukkah is the symbol of life. It's temporary. In fact, one good wind and it all blows over, like just one breath separating someone from being and not. But temporary or not, we do everything that we can to make it as full and rich as we can. And when we sleep in it and eat in it and see the stars peering through its covering, we recognize how wonderful it is to be able to have a place in the vastness of this universe. But it doesn't stop there. On Sukkot pick up a *lulav* and *etrog*, those totally natural species of vegetation ranging from leaves to fruit, and go off and have a good time with them. That's right. Go play. Even though nature is winding down and the gloominess of winter will soon be here, remember nonetheless to have fun. Life isn't all serious.

Finally, Shemini Atzeret – Simchat Torah: before it's over, remember that there is something important that makes us survive and endure as a People. It's what has kept us alive for centuries and is the one thing that links us to the past and to the future. I speak of Torah. And yes, to respond to what you might think as we begin the book all over again, I know "We've read it before." But we haven't even begun to exhaust its messages. It's got so much more to say. And it will continue to spark us, as it always has, to discover new things about ourselves and the world.

So at this season, as we begin to ponder all of this as a community, I wish you and your dear ones a *shana tovah u'm'tukah*, a good and a sweet new year. May this year be for you one of health and happiness, and within it may all your hopes be realized and all your dreams fulfilled.

L'shalom,
Howard A.Kosovske

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.

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 rblanchette-gage@sinai-temple.org

A CELEBRATORY 90TH ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

With Scholar-In-Residence Rabbi Donniel Hartman

NOVEMBER 4-5, 2016



SAVE THE DATE FOR A WEEKEND OF INSPIRATION AND COMMUNITY WITH RABBI DONNIEL HARTMAN

Acclaimed author and educator, prominent essayist,
blogger, and lecturer on Israeli politics
and contemporary Jewish life.

**“Eminently readable,
constructively controversial
and profoundly spiritual.”
- THE JERUSALEM POST**

RABBI DR. DONNIEL HARTMAN is President of the Shalom Hartman Institute. The author of *Putting God Second: How to Save Religion from Itself*, Rabbi Hartman has founded extensive training and educational programs for scholars, educators, rabbis and lay leaders in Israel and North America.

For more information
please contact Michelle Everett:
Meverett@JewishWesternMass.org
413-737-4313



The Jewish Federation
OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS
Serving Hampden, Hampshire & Franklin Counties



SHALOM HARTMAN INSTITUTE
מכון הרטמן שלום

The Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts
welcomes the participation of interfaith couples and families,
and people of all abilities, backgrounds and sexual orientations.

NOTE: HELP US BE THERE FOR YOU!

Rabbi Kosovske wants to be present in your life both during happy moments and in times of need. But, alas (!), he is not clairvoyant. So if there is a joyous occasion in your life, or if, God forbid, you are in the hospital or in a convalescent facility, please let the office know (or make sure one of your family members or friends lets the office know) so our rabbi can be there for you.

Also, if you move to a new address, or change your email address, or get a new phone number, or get a new cell phone number, please let the office know that too so we can keep our records up to date.

VOLUNTEERS VOLUNTEERS

This Is Our Community! Working together is what makes things happen! There is an endless variety of ways to be involved in Sinai ranging from a one time commitment for an event, to joining a committee, to attending a meeting or two to share your thoughts, to taking photos at an event, greeting at a service, sharing a ride, or participating in a way that we have not thought of but you have! We would love to hear from you! Please contact a committee chair or simply let Robin in the Temple office know that you would like to speak to someone about joining in the work of our community.

Sinai Temple Yom Kippur 2016 Ticket Policy

Ticket Requirements

- Tickets will be required for admission to each service.
- Tickets will be checked at the Temple entrance.
- Each member of the family should have his/her own ticket.

Tickets will be mailed automatically if any of the following are satisfied:

- A minimum of 2/3 of this year's dues, plus any past due amounts, have been paid.
- A payment schedule has been arranged with the treasurer or financial secretary.
- Arrangements have been made for credit card payments.

Childcare

- Please see page four.

30 and Under membership category

- In order to open the Temple as much as possible to young Jews, we gladly welcome members who are 30 years of age or under.
- Individuals 30 or under may become members at no cost.

Out of Town Guest policy

- Members of other congregations affiliated with the URJ should ask for a seating request from their home temple for seating at Sinai Temple.
- Members may request complimentary tickets for out of town guests by completing a request form obtained from the Temple office. Guest's home addresses must be supplied.
- Households new to the Western Mass/ Northern Connecticut area, not affiliated with a synagogue, may receive complimentary High Holiday tickets once upon request.

You may note additional police presence during the High Holidays.

The additional security was made possible by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts to help ensure the safety of our congregation during services.

Notes about Yom Kippur

Prayers and Blessings for Your Home

Yom Kippur begins at home with family meals. Get the appropriate blessings for each holy day. Starting September 1, our website will have everything you need in English, Hebrew, and transliteration. www.sinai-temple.org

Music for Your Home

High Holiday melodies will be on the website too, starting September 1. www.sinai-temple.org

And Don't Forget the Kids...

For Young Families

If you have children 7 years and younger down to infancy, something special for you in the Magen David Room with Rabbi and Cantor.

Babysitting for Children through Kindergarten

Babysitting for small children ages two through Kindergarten (no infants) will be available during the 10 a.m. services on Rosh Hashanah morning and Yom Kippur morning. Please reserve a spot...736-3619.

Child Programming for Grades One & Two

An age appropriate program for children in Grades 1 and 2 during the 10 a.m. services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Reserve a spot...736-3619.

Children in Grades Three & Four

On Yom Kippur morning, a service/program for this intermediate age group. Too old for a children's program; often too young for the full adult service. (Time to be announced)

Children in Grades Five & Six

We will NOT be offering a service/program for this age group. Experience from previous years and conversations with parents indicate that most parents believe their 5th/6th grader can attend the adult services.

For Young Families - Yom Kippur Afternoon at 2 p.m.

Children 7 years and younger down to infancy in the Oneg Shabbat Room.

For Young Families...FOR ALL SINAI PEOPLE...All Ages!!!

Later on Yom Kippur Afternoon around 6:15 p.m.

Bring your kids (all ages) to the Neilah/Concluding Service. Although the service will begin around 5:45 p.m., be there around 6:15 p.m. as the service comes to a close. There will be a new moving conclusion to the Yom Kippur Service and we will call all children present (with their grownups) onto the bimah for the final shofar.

ADULT OPPORTUNITIES

BOOKS YOU MIGHT ENJOY THAT SINAI READERS WILL DISCUSS ON THURSDAYS AT 7 P.M.

Sinai Readers meet monthly on a Thursday evening at 7 p.m. , everyone is welcome. Our library will have a copy of each book and the Storrs Longmeadow Public Library will have several copies reserved for us about a month before our meeting date.

Thursday, October 20 – 7PM

Sinai Temple, Library

"Forbidden Love in St. Petersburg", a thriller by Israeli former Mossad member, Miska Ben-David

Thursday, November 17 – 7PM

Sinai Temple, Library

"The Extra" by Israeli novelist A. B. Yehoshua, humorously touches on some of life's most compelling and troubling issues in a way that is both very Israeli and very universal.

Thursday, December 22 – 7PM

Sinai Temple, Library

"In the Land of the Armadillos", by Helen Maryles Shankman, interconnected and very personal stories take place in a small Polish town during the Holocaust.

Thursday, January 26, 2017 – 7PM

Sinai Temple, Library

"Bread Givers", by Anzia Yezierska, novelist and professor born in Poland in 1880 and brought to the U.S. as a young child; set in the Lower East Side of the 1920's.

Tba – 7PM

Sinai Temple, Library

"The Seven Good Years: A Memoir" by Etgar Keret, contemporary Israeli author whose intense and irreverent style goes to the heart of Israeli experience.

JUDAICA GIFT SHOP CORNER

We are ready for all the celebrations coming up: B'nai Mitzvah, engagements, weddings and more. The shop has a beautiful selection of talises, Kiddush cups, candle holders, jewelry and so very much more. Do come by and browse.

We are starting our Chanukah ordering and are finding different, new fun toys for everyone - old and young.

Our hours are back to Tuesday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:30 and Sunday mornings from 9:30 to noon, and we're always available for special appointments.

Thais Fischel 786-9577

SOMETHING NEW!!! SOMETHING NEW!!! SOMETHING NEW!!!

Mark your calendars now for four, once-a-month Saturday night happenings. It's our new gathering opportunity called

HavDeli!!!

That's right, and it's not a misspelling.

HavDeli!!! Say it again:

HavDeli!!!

So what is **HavDeli!!!?** **HavDeli!!** is

- 1) havdalah, followed by
- 2) a deli dinner followed by
- 3) a movie, all on a Saturday night, and all for the modest cost of just \$12 per person!

The time? **Always at 6:30 PM**

Date 1: Saturday, November 19th

Date 2: Saturday, December 17th

Date 3: Saturday, January 14th

Date 4: Saturday, February 4th

Mark your calendars now.

Details, movie titles, and registration opportunities will follow.

But remember, it's **HavDeli!!!**





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Our Clergy: Rabbi Kosovske and Cantor Levson during Installation Ceremony