



Sinai Temple Bulletin

*Take Back Your Time:
Rediscover Shabbat*

September 2016
28 Av 5776-27 Elul 5776

Yelamdeinu Rabbeinu, Let Our Rabbi Teach Us...

Rabbi Howard Kosovske

July 29th was a double circle-day on my calendar, and each circle meant something rather large.

The first: July 29th was my half-birthday. Not that half-birthdays in and of themselves are days I make celebrations on. But they are days on which I ask myself, "Are you making the most of each day?" The answer this year turned up a resounding "Yes!" After all, I am serving now as the rabbi of Sinai Temple (albeit for a short time), and serving as a congregational leader is something that not only gives me intense satisfaction and pleasure, but also presents me with the opportunity to continue doing what my life's work is all about: insuring Jewish survival not only now but for the future as well.

The second: July 29th was the day that, finally (!), I downloaded Windows 10, the latest Windows operating system, onto my computer. That might not seem like such a big deal, but to me it is. And it has major Jewish implications to boot.

Now why did I download Windows 10 onto my computer on July 29th? Well, to be blunt, that was the last day I could get the download for free! After that, I would have had to pay for it.

But why did I wait so long in the first place to get the download when Microsoft (via a little app on my computer) told me for over a year that I ought to say good-bye to Windows 7 and upgrade to Windows 10? Well, the answer lay in something I learned as a chaplain in the army right after I was ordained: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!" Windows 7 was working just fine. So why leave it for something that a) I'd have to learn anew in order to operate my computer; and b) who knows...maybe Windows 10 wasn't going to be any better at all?

Well, as to the a) part, it took me, thanks to Windows 10 for Dummies, all of an hour to be able to know enough to navigate the new system. And the b) part? Well, it turns out that there is so much in the new operating system that I didn't have before that each day I become more and more astounded by it all.

But more than about a computer operating system, the whole upgrade exercise reminded me of something very Jewishly important. While what we do within the world of the Reform synagogue might have worked just fine for the last 200+ years (Well, maybe for the last 50+ years anyway), it isn't working fine now! Witness: the shrinking number of people who attend services today as against the number who attended services 50 years ago. Witness: the decreasing number of people in their thirties who belong to our synagogues today as against the number we had, say, twenty-five years ago.

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Friday Evenings

September 2, 6:00 service

September 9,

Rabbi Installation Service and Dinner:
5:45 nosh; 6:15 service; 7:30 dinner

September 16, 6:00 Tot Shabbat,
7:30 service

September 23, 7:30 service with "Shir Fun!"

Saturday Mornings

September 3, 10:15 service

September 10, 10:15 service

September 17, Synaplex services, 10:15

September 24, 10:15 service, Selichot
service 7:00 P.M.

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Sunday, October 2

Evening Service at 8:00 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah Day

Monday, October 3

Children's Service.....8:30-9:15 a.m.

(For families with children infant to 7 yrs.)

Congregational Service.....10-12:30 p.m.

(Childcare & program 10-12:30 p.m.)

Tashlich, Laurel Pond4:00 p.m.

Cemetery Memorial Service

Sunday, October 9 at 1:00 p.m.

At the Sinai Temple Cemetery

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COMMUNITY BBQ PICNIC September 11 - 11:30 AM

Not just for children this year! Let's catch up after the summer and meet Rabbi Kosovske, if you have not yet had a chance to do so, all over burgers, hot dogs, salads and dessert. As always, volunteers appreciated, contact Buff Maniscalco (rmmaniscalco@tighebond.com). We eat inside so we will picnic, rain or shine. Please register with the office to help us plan.

Message from Bruce Leshine

Temple President

My Friends,

I hope that you and your families have enjoyed your summer. It has been a very busy summer for Sinai Temple: our Rabbi Mark Shapiro has retired, of course, and is now our Rabbi Emeritus—after one fabulous party that I continue to smile about two months later. And Rabbi Howard Kosovske has joined us. If you haven't yet met Rabbi Kosovske, I urge you to come to one of our scheduled coffees and conversations with the Rabbi, or stop by the Temple and drop into his office for a chat—you are in for a treat...

Of course, Rabbi Shapiro's retirement is merely one event in Sinai Temple's evolution, an evolution that we must continually think about and plan for as our community and our Congregation both evolve. Four years ago, a group of past Temple presidents and current officers of the Board of Directors met in order to discuss the financial situation facing Sinai Temple, the financial forecast for the Temple, and ideas for planning for the future of Sinai Temple. This group agreed that the underlying fiscal issue of the Temple is that although expenses are only moderately rising (we have done an excellent job in this area), membership dues income, over the long-term, continues to decline. So we must solve the underlying issue: income and expenses must be brought into balance. Short-term measures such as campaigns and fundraising may bring short-term "relief" but these only defer addressing the issue: we have maintained, generally, the same expense infrastructure that we've had for thirty years, which was appropriate for a congregation of 600 households; however, our Congregation now numbers 380 families. So out of those meetings was born the Sinai 2015 Planning Group: formed to research, speak with experts in the field, investigate what other Reform congregations were doing in connection with similar issues, communicate and discuss thoughts and ideas with members of our own congregation, and then present findings and recommendations to the Sinai Temple Board of Directors in 2014.

Following the very successful Celebrate Today Create Tomorrow campaign, in which you have all graciously pledged over \$1,400,000, and contributed over \$900,000 to date, the Board approved the formation of the Long-Range Planning Committee to take the next steps in the Sinai 2015 Planning Group's work. The Long-Range Planning Committee has completed its work and made its report and recommendations to the Board this past July. In its report, the Committee made the following findings:

- Following our use of the Celebrate Today Create Tomorrow campaign funds, the Temple's annual operating deficit, without structural change, will easily exceed \$200,000 per year by 2023;
- The Temple must make significant changes in order to extend the "life" of our Temple;
- Such changes may reduce the programs and change other aspects of what we have done at Sinai;

- Change may be difficult for our Congregation, but the Temple will ultimately benefit by evolving into a financially stable model;
- Neither inaction nor short-term measures are an option any longer.

In concluding its work, the Long-Range Planning Committee has determined that Sinai Temple, without significant change to its expense infrastructure, will be financially "insolvent" in 2023 and would then need to liquidate its endowments in order to pay its bills in the short-term, but still forces us to close our doors within ten years after that. The Board does not believe this to be an acceptable option. In this light, the Sinai Temple Board of Directors has accepted the Committee's recommendation and has approved the implementation of structural changes to our non-clergy employed staff, to be effective beginning July 1, 2018.

Additionally, the Long-Range Planning Committee has recommended that a congregation of our size and financial resources cannot continue to employ two full-time clergy; that is a model that just does not generally exist within congregations of less than 450 households. Therefore, the Board 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 report and recommendation of the Clergy Planning Group will likely be made before next Spring.

I look forward to hearing from you over the next year, as we plan Sinai Temple's future. Thank you.

Be well, Bruce

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Kol Nidre

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

Yom Kippur Day

Wednesday, October 12

Morning Service	10:00 a.m.
Musical Interlude	12:30 p.m.
Study Options	1:30 p.m.
Family Service.....	2:00 p.m.
Afternoon Service	3:00 p.m.
Yizkor Service	5:00 p.m.
Neilah/Closing Service.....	5:45 p.m.
Break the Fast	6:30 p.m.

Erev Sukkot

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

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NOTES FROM THE CANTOR

In the middle of July, I once again had the wonderful, exhausting, and sacred opportunity to serve on the faculty of URJ Crane Lake Camp in West Stockbridge, MA. During this time, I helped to lead numerous educational programs for campers of all ages, serve as the Faculty liaison (“Dean”) to the camp, and help campers to prepare to lead Shabbat services. I also sang to campers as they went to sleep in their bunks, lead a Scooby-Doo themed morning service for the youngest unit (really!), and fully engaged in the controlled chaos and absolute magic that is Jewish Summer Camp.

During the annual Stakeholders Meeting for the camps, I was joined by some members of our Executive Board as Sinai Temple was honored for sending 20 campers to Eisner Camp, Crane Lake Camp, and 6 Points Sci-Tech this summer. (This figure did not even include our Sinai campers at Kutz Camp and URJ Mitzvah Corps!) As a congregation, we can be justifiably proud that we have such a high percentage of our young people attending URJ camps, and Sinai Temple (and the Jewish people) will continue to benefit from the experiences these youngsters have had this summer.

As many of you know, I can easily talk at length about Jewish camping, but I am thrilled that three of our “senior” campers have written brief articles about their experiences this summer. Please read the essays by Sumner Lewis, Shoshana Maniscalco, and Hannah Wald found in this month’s bulletin. Their passionate words say more than I ever could about the importance of Jewish camping.

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

THE LAND IS FULL: ADDRESSING OVERPOPULATION IN ISRAEL

Tuesday, September 20, 7:00 PM
Temple Beth El

Ben Gurion University Professor, Alon Tal, will present his book, *The Land is Full: Addressing Overpopulation in Israel* that analyzes Israel's unprecedented social and environmental crises such as poverty and inequality, burgeoning pollution levels, dwindling natural resources, and biodiversity collapse. The fundamental cause of Israel's most acute problems is something that few Jews or Israelis are willing to openly discuss: overpopulation.

Based on years of research, Alon Tal's book will change the discourse about Zionism and Israel's future, redefining the most pressing challenges confronting the Jewish State.

Co-Sponsored by the Springfield JCC and Temple Beth El

Cost: FREE JCC and Temple Beth El members with Pre registration, \$5 at the door, \$5 general public with pre-registration, \$8 at the door

Rabbi message continued from page 1

Witness (This is a big one): the dwindling number of member households we have in our synagogues today as against the number we had even five years ago!

Something clearly isn't working. And given the fact that outside of our Movement there are synagogues that are growing (and whose sanctuaries are filled), there obviously are ways for us to do it better. And they are ways not only to let us survive for now but also to insure our survival (and, yes, growth!) moving on into the future.

I think, after decades in the rabbinate and these last years serving as an interim rabbi, that we need to redefine ourselves, our synagogue, and our Movement big time. Clearly, what attracted people to the Reform synagogue at the start of my rabbinate, just doesn't attract them anymore. In other words, I think we need to create a whole new operating system.

It's not that we need to ditch what does fulfill real needs of many of our members. In other words, we aren't going to stop conducting services. Or celebrating holidays. Or running a religious school for our kids. But, at the same time, we need to start looking for new ways to fulfill the needs that we aren't fulfilling; need, for instance, to create a set of practices that at the same time are authentic and meaningful and exciting to those of us whose practices right now are minimal at best. Or ways that will draw far greater numbers to taste the sweet waters of the sea of the texts of our tradition.

So what this means is that our time together will be one of exploring and experimenting. And in the end, we will have a new operating system, not one that will be static or the last word, but which will, continuing on into a future, be able – just like the new Windows 10 – to add newer and even better applications to the richness of our sacred tradition as Sinai Temple goes forward.

And even though the task won't get finished, the words of Rabbi Tarphon will still, for all of us, continue to apply: “Yours is not to complete the task, but neither are you free to desist from [continuing to work at] it.”
(Avot 2:16)

L'shalom,
Howard A. Kosovske

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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.

A Rare Occurrence!!!

Join with us for a very special Shabbat celebration on Friday, September 9th, when

Rabbi Howard Kosovske

is installed as Rabbi of Sinai Temple.

The installing clergy person will be

Cantor Elana Rozenfeld,

inspired and inspiring cantor of

Congregation Shirat Hayam, Swampscott, Mass.,

(and chevruta (study partner) of our rabbi)

The schedule of the evening:

5:45 - 6:10 PM, Nosh Time

6:15 - 7:30 PM, Shabbat Service and Installation

7:30 - ?, Shabbat Dinner and Celebration.

Make your reservation for dinner, a Shabbat chicken dinner (with vegetarian option), at the cost of \$10 per person (children under the age of Bar/Bat Mitzvah free).

RSVP with number of people for dinner by September 1st, by check (or online), or call Robin at the Temple office.

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

This message is different from those I have done in the past. The Board of the Men and Women of Sinai voted to take a hiatus for at least this year. We will still be involved in the beginning and end of the Religious School year barbeques, but they will not be free events provided by MWOS. We will also help with several breakfasts. We anticipate continuing to coordinate the Chanukah Shabbat and the Snyder Award dinners and presentation. We would love to return to a very active calendar of events, but will need much more participation, if we are to do so. Many thanks to those who have participated in the Men and Women of Sinai!

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.

Message from Heather Sullivan

Director of Education

Shalom, Chaverim!

What an exciting start to a new school year and our new Jewish year together...

Rabbi Kosovske has been such a welcome addition to our planning team, with Cantor Levson and me. There's so much in store for this upcoming year. Just a quick reminder that all students in grades 3-7 have a service requirement to complete as part of the B'nai Mitzvah requirement for our Temple. This year, any unfulfilled service requirements will be added to the subsequent school year's requirement. Please reach out to me or any school committee member with any questions.

Make sure to check your school calendars and the Sinai website for the most up to date information regarding events. I look forward to seeing you all during the high holidays and opening events for school.

L'Shalom,


Heather

SAVE THE DATE

SINAI TEMPLE'S SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE has participated in organizing the following event:

WESTERN MASS CHAPTER

BEND THE ARC
a Jewish partnership
for justice



COME TO
SH'MA KOLEINU:
Hear Our Voices

A program supporting
Criminal justice reform.

Featuring live
VOICES FROM INSIDE (VFI)

VFI is an organization of formerly incarcerated women. Hear their moving stories.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS and others will be discussing **criminal justice reform.**

SUNDAY, SEPT. 25, 3-5 PM

Jewish Community Center,
1160 Dickinson St., Springfield MA

Free and open to the public

For general information: bendthearc.us, voicesfrominside.org
For event information: call **Ronnie Leavitt** at 413-567-0558

Program presented by:

BEND THE ARC "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."
— Martin Luther King, Jr.



Try a Synagogue Offers Temple Membership

**\$365 a Year:
A Dollar a Day**

As an incentive to grow our membership, Sinai is joining with Temple Beth El and Congregation B'nai Torah for a unique offer.

For those who have not belonged to a synagogue in any of the last three years.

Join a synagogue this year for \$365.

Share the news with a friend. Bring a friend.

Help grow Sinai.

Who Is Rabbi Howard Kosovske?

Rabbi Howard Kosovske is one of a handful of rabbis in the world today who have led congregations on three continents. And in his having served as a rabbi in many different situations, he has developed a unique, very eclectic style of rabbinate.

Rabbi Kosovske brings a veritable wealth of rabbinic experience to Sinai Temple, his fifth interim rabbinic position. He has had a truly illustrious rabbinic career that has carried him far and wide.

Rabbi Kosovske's focus is on people, and people describe him as extremely caring. In the course of his rabbinate, he has touched the lives literally of thousands of individuals, each of whom is extremely important to him. He is equally at home interacting as rabbi with someone on the street or in a living room as he is speaking from the pulpit. While he has served as advisor to governors, mayors and corporate presidents, he is most comfortable and fulfilled interacting with people simply as they walk through the journey of life, whether that be in times happy or sad.

It is hard to label where Rabbi Kosovske comes from religiously, harder still to pin him down. A scholar extremely knowledgeable in all aspects of the Jewish tradition, he brings elements from the far reaches of Judaism to his own observance. Probably the best word to describe his religious style is "*heimish*," or homey, with a very Jewish flavor. And his worship services are always as involving and participatory as they are spiritually stirring.

An ordainee of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Rabbi Kosovske was awarded by the seminary a Doctor of Divinity degree, *honoris causa*, after twenty-five years of distinguished service as a rabbi to the Jewish People. He is the father of Rabbi Riqi, the spiritual leader of Congregation Beit Ahavah in Northampton; and of Dr. Yonit Lea, a performing harpsichordist who teaches at the University of Limerick, Ireland. He has four wonderful grandchildren over whom he *kvells* non-stop, and for the last three years he has had the joy of sharing his rabbinate and everything he has experienced within it with Janet Kramer, his life partner.

Sinai Temple High Holiday 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.

Notes about the Holidays

Prayers and Blessings for Your Home

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur begin 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

Rosh Hashanah Morning at 8:30 a.m.

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.

High Holidays 2016-5777

Selichot

Saturday, September 24, starts at 7:00 p.m.

Enhance your High Holy Day observances through our Selichot experience!

Join with us as we contemplate and begin to prepare for the coming High Holy Days by observing the tradition of reciting Selichot, the penitential prayers that set the tone for the coming Days of Awe.

Our theme this year will be the whole notion of repentance, or, to put it into the language of 2016, getting it together with our lives.

The kick-off will be the showing of the movie, "The Jazz Singer," but not in either of the two modern versions you might have seen. Rather, we will see the original version, the one starring Al Jolson, the not-so-politically-correct flick that revolutionized the motion picture industry back in 1927 as the first full-length "talkie."

Following that and after partaking of a refreshment or two, we will take part in what for us is a new tradition, the congregational changing of the dress of our *sifrei torah* to its white High Holy Day mantles. Then we will join with Rabbi Kosovske and Cantor Levson in reciting the moving Selichot liturgy.

Tashlich – For Everyone – An Outdoor Rosh Hashanah Celebration!

With kids...without kids....with grandchildren!

October 3 at 4:00 p.m.



Tashlich is a totally festive, happy opportunity. Based on the custom of "casting our sins" away, we gather at Laurel Pond in Longmeadow for 30 informal minutes. Rosh Hashanah in jeans and with a large smile. We sing. Original prayers and poems. Challah dipped in honey. Tashlich is an active, joyful way of celebrating Rosh Hashanah outdoors. Come taste what's in store for you Rosh Hashanah afternoon, Monday, October 3 at 4:00 p.m.

Adult Opportunities

Melton Courses

A Close Look at the Book of Exodus

Part One (September – December): From Slavery to Sinai (10 lessons)

This class taught by Rabbi Amy Katz covers the Egyptian narrative from “Pharaoh’s Paranoia” and “Moshe’s CV” to the dramatic story of rescue and survival during “Into the Sea” and “Manna from Heaven.” Leadership, bravery, faith, and doubt define some of the critical moments in these texts.

Part Two (February-April 2017) From Revelation and Revolution

Dates: Thursdays, starting September 15, Part One

Time: 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Location: JGS Lifecare, 770 Converse Street, Longmeadow

Cost: \$250 plus \$45 for the book. Financial assistance is available; please contact Rabbi Katz at rabbikatz@tbespringfield.org or 733-4149.

Registration: Registration for this class only will be handled directly through the Melton website. Please visit www.events.org/meltonspringfield.org to register. For questions about registration, please contact Jody Hyman at the Melton school at (847) 714-9843 x308 or jhyman@meltonschool.org. Please note that there is a 15 student minimum for this class.

The 70 Faces of Torah: Hasidic Texts Shine a Light on Torah

We will study the shared history and wisdom in Hasidic texts in their search for God. Hasidic masters encourage students to develop a sustained awareness of God in daily life that leads toward awareness of God’s presence in the world.

This 10-week class will be taught by Rabbi James Greene, a recent addition to the Springfield Jewish community, and the Assistant Executive Director of the Springfield Jewish Community Center. All texts will be studied in English, with the Hebrew provided as a reference for discussion.

Dates: Mondays, starting September 12

Time: 9:30 – 11:00 am

Location: Springfield JCC, 1160 Dickinson Street, Springfield

Cost: \$225, plus a \$25 materials fee. Financial assistance is available; please contact Rabbi Katz at rabbikatz@tbespringfield.org or 733-4149.

Registration: Contact Lisa in the TBE office at llaudato@tbespringfield.org or 733-4149. There 12 student minimum for this class.

Jewish Book Group and More

This 10-week class, taught by Rabbi Devorah Jacobson, will explore the theme of “Journeys” through different media. The books, all National Jewish Book Council award winners, include: *All Who Go Do Not Return*, by Shulem Deen and *Through the Door of Life: A Jewish Journey Between Genders* by Joy Ladin. We will also read selections from *Kaddish: Women’s Voices*.

In addition, we will listen to several fascinating podcasts, and watch the movie *The House on Garibaldi Street* from the book by Isser Harel.

Dates: Wednesdays starting on September 28

Time: 6:15 – 7:45 pm

Location: JGS Lifecare, 770 Converse Street, Longmeadow

Cost: \$225 (purchase books on your own). Financial assistance is available; please contact Rabbi Katz at rabbikatz@tbespringfield.org or 733-4149.

Registration: Contact Lisa in the TBE office at llaudato@tbespringfield.org or 733-4149. There is a 12 student minimum for this class.

Greatest Hits From the Talmud

This 10-week class, taught by Rabbi Devorah Jacobson, will focus on discussions of the ancient sages as recorded in the Babylonian Talmud.

Dates: Thursdays, beginning September 22

Time: 9:30 – 10:45 am

Location: JGS Lifecare, 770 Converse Street, Longmeadow

Cost: \$225. Financial assistance is available; please contact Rabbi Katz at rabbikatz@tbespringfield.org or 733-4149.

Registration: Contact Lisa in the TBE office at llaudato@tbespringfield.org or 733-4149. There is a 12 student minimum for this class.

Synaplex – TWO worship options following Torah Study this morning!

September 17 - 10:15 am

A “classic” informal minyan in the Oneg Shabbat Room with Cantor Levson, and, for the adventurous, a meditative Shabbat experience with Rabbi Kosovske in the Kehilah Room. The two groups will come back together at the end of the services for Mourner’s Kaddish and Kiddush.

Adult Opportunities

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

Thursday, September 22 – 7PM

Sinai Temple, Library

"Ally: My Journey Across the American -Israeli Divide", by Michael Oren. American born Israeli historian and author, Israel's ambassador to the U.S. 2009-2013

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 short stories take place in a small Polish town during the Holocaust, different from most Holocaust literature.

Dear Congregation Members:

Link to Libraries was most honored to receive the many beautiful baskets of new books donated to our organization at Rabbi Shapiro's retirement party. We have many children who will be delighted to receive this generous donation and school libraries who will have readers enjoy the books for years to come.

Thank you for being so generous and community minded.

Sincerely,

Susan Jaye-Kaplan, Link to Libraries President

Roberta Hillenberg-Gang, Link to Libraries Board Chair

GIFT SHOP CORNER

Starting on Sept. 11th, we'll be open Sundays from 9:30 to noon, and Tuesday afternoons from 2:30 to 4:30, and always available for special appointments.

For the fall B'nai Mitzvah, we have a lovely selection of tallises, yarmulkas, and many appropriate gifts.

For the fall weddings, we have candlesticks, Kiddush cups and so very much more.

Thais Fischel 786-9577

CONVERSATION WITH DAVID GREENE, NPR HOST MORNING EDITION

Thursday, September 29, 7:00 PM Springfield JCC

David Greene has hosted NPR's "Morning Edition," the second-highest rated talk show in the US since 2012. Prior to that, he was an NPR foreign correspondent based in Moscow, and covered the White House during President George W. Bush's second term. He will have a conversation with NEPR Morning Edition host, Henry Epp, who will discuss David Greene's insight into one of the most controversial elections in US history, in addition to other topics in the news.

He will also be bringing his first book, *Midnight in Siberia: A Train Journey Into the Heart of Russia*, which will be available for purchase and which David will be available to autograph.

Co-Presented by The Springfield JCC and New England Public Radio

Cost: General Seating:

\$8/JCC members, \$15/general public

Reserved Seating:

\$12/JCC members, \$20/general public

Tickets can be purchased at the Springfield JCC, 1160 Dickinson Street

Contact: Carlin Trietsch, ctrietsch@springfieldjcc.org, 413.739.4715 ext. 329.

Loaves and Fishes You Cook Great!

Many thanks to those congregants who prepared meals this past year when Sinai served dinner at Loaves and Fishes.

Elaine Blake-Shusterman

Sally Schneider

Claire Cohen-Stelzer

Laraine Shore-Suslowitz

Robin Dunn

Carol Skiest

Nancy Friedman

Barbara Stechenberg

Pat Gootzit

Bonnie Thomas

Beth Green

Jane Rothschild

Lindsay, Ryan, Will and

Laurie Weinberg

Taylor Hanford

Trina Weiswasser

Ann and Paul Jacobs

The Confirmation Class

Phyllis and Steve Katz

of 5776

Belle Rita Novak

and Bobi Steingart

Gayle Rediker

(who organized everyone!)

ESSAYS FROM SINAI CAMPERS

This summer, I had the amazing opportunity to return to Eisner Camp after spending my last summer in Israel. I was in the Machon program, which is a four week intensive leadership training program that is followed by a three week internship as a counselor.

During the first four weeks, my days were full with programs about leadership skills and counselor training. I worked with different age groups at camp for short periods of time, and completed many community service projects. I learned how to write meaningful programs for children of different ages, and how to tie in Jewish values in ways that campers may not even realize.

The counselor internship portion brought a change that I had been expecting since my very first summer at camp ten years ago, but happened so suddenly. The next thing I knew, I was a counselor. I spent my three weeks as a counselor for Chalutzim campers (going into 6th grade) as well as an adventure specialist. When I wasn't with my bunk of 18 campers, I was belaying at the climbing wall or leading a group through the low ropes course. The transition from camper to counselor was simultaneously challenging and easy.

I had many staff perks such as days off, the ability to leave camp, and having my cell phone, while still being in an environment that accepted the fact I was still learning. Staff mentors and Machon community advisors helped me and gave me direction. Upon completion of the Machon program, I can confidently say that next summer I will be a better counselor, and in the future I will be a better Jewish leader.

Shoshana Maniscalco

One of the three volunteer sites Urban Mitzvah Corps participants work at during the summer is Play SAFE. Play SAFE is a camp for underprivileged children, many of who don't know when their next meal will be and don't always have someone to watch them during the day at home. There are 15 Play SAFE sites in New Brunswick to support around 2,000 children, ranging in age from 6 to 12. UMC participants help support four of these sites – three schools and a park. For the kids who attend these camps, Play SAFE is their summer and is what they look forward to.

An average day at Play SAFE consists of different scheduled activities, including art, reading, board games, movies, dance, and playing outside. The kids get so much enjoyment out of these activities. Play SAFE also provides its campers with lunch and a snack. These lunches may be the only meal the children eat all day, and the snack they receive may be their breakfast for the next morning. In addition to these essentials, Play SAFE takes the children on field trips, such as to the pool. They really look forward to these all summer.

The kids at Play SAFE love all of us from UMC. We put smiles on their faces, and they look forward to seeing us everyday. While there, I worked with 6 and 7-year-old girls. The girls looked up to me as a role model and saw me as their friend. It was such an amazing experience to go to work everyday and to make their days brighter. The other UMC participants had very similar experiences; their kids looked up to them as well.

During my time at Play SAFE, I saw the difference I can make in children's lives. It gives me an idea of what I want out of my future career working with children. Working at Play SAFE has been an amazing experience; it has taught me what I want to strive for every day in the future.

Hannah Wald, Urban Mitzvah Corps 2016 Participant

ESSAYS FROM SINAI CAMPERS

This summer at Kutz, Rabbi Jonah Pesner and Joy Friedman from the RAC visited for a day. I, luckily being in the Social Action major, got to spend 2 hours with them during my day.

They came to us with the idea of a story, a story of your why. Why do you choose to do social action? Why are the topics you are most passionate about important to you? I struggled with this question of finding a story to pinpoint my why. Don't get me wrong, I have several stories about my life, but none really stood out to me screaming this is why you love social action!! I challenged myself to find an answer to this question of why, why exactly, what story makes me so passionate about my views?

The evening program was the perfect opportunity to answer it. Earlier in the week, the programming office asked if any participants wanted to help write an evening program on racial justice. Considering myself to be somewhat knowledgeable on the subject, I was one of seven teens who signed up to come up with a good format to set the mood and engage our peers in this centuries long issue.

But then I had a dilemma. What could I bring to the table for these Jewish teens? There was so much to teach but not enough time.

I have a unique perspective on racial justice. I was raised in a town where the majority was the minorities (63% to be exact) but then I moved to a community made up of mainly affluent whites.

I started to see that my experiences growing up versus here were vastly different.

I decided for my part in the program to simply stand there and talk. My peers had stations with activities and handouts and the safety of a table to stand behind. But I wanted the maximum impact for the stories I was about to tell. I pulled from my own experiences and my friends' to create "Everyday life in the Inner City For People of Colour." While, yes, my old town wasn't exactly the city, it may have well been. The border between the two didn't exist.

I was definitely scared to start at first. Here I was, standing, talking about how we had more lock-downs than fire drills during the year, trying to get my point across that the situation is real and it is dire. One by one people started coming over out of curiosity. And to my surprise they stayed! I soon had a massive group listening to me talk about my life for 15 minutes when they could have chosen any of the other wonderful stations my peers had created. As I went on my passion showed more and more not only through my stories about the education gap in my school but through my voice and my tears.

I wish I could tell you all of my stories for you to see how powerful it is to realize that the reason they don't come through with police dogs looking for drugs is because they would end up suspending over half the school.

It was important that people were willing to listen to my tale. What I said weren't just stories. I lived through each and every one. Afterwards, people who didn't even come to my table told me they had heard their friends talk about the impact I had and that they too wanted to listen to my narrative.

I realized then that this is my why. All of these single stories created the bigger story that is me. I knew this before but I thought that only local, physical changes mattered. But I was able to do something more.

I got a public who normally wouldn't relate, to stop and really think about people who live differently from them in the world. Even their neighbors or their best friends. My words were powerful enough to touch a mind and a heart, to change an outlook on the world.

That night at our closing circle, the seven of us were chosen to speak. We answered the question 'what does racial justice mean to you?' really, 'why is racial justice important to you?' We went around and in that room full of Jews, I proudly stated "I'm black."

Submitted by Sumner Lewis, a senior at Longmeadow High School

NOTE...SINAI IS PRINTING ONLY SIX BULLETINS THIS YEAR.

COMING BULLETINS WILL BE OCTOBER, 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.

DONATIONS

To My Sinai Temple Family,

I want to thank you all for your kind words, cards and condolences, for attending the wake, funeral and/or shiva for my Mother. I am so appreciative. I am so blessed to be a part of this Sinai family.

I am truly home!

Robin

The Memory of the Righteous is a Blessing

All of us at Sinai Temple extend condolences as we remember the following. Their memories are precious to their relatives, their friends and to each of us who form the community of Sinai Temple.

We remember those who have passed away from June 16 to present:

- *Marion Dumont*, Beth Chafetz's mother.
- *Annette Gelfand*, Shari Cooper's grandmother.
- *Jeanne Blanchette*, Robin Blanchette-Gage's mother.

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Howard A. Kosovske.....Rabbi
 Martin Levson.....Cantor
 Heather Sullivan.....Director of Education
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 Jack Henrie.....President, Men & Women of Sinai
 Ron Weiss.....Cemetery Chair
 Maggie & Sarah Cohn.....Membership Committee Chairs
 Mark Dov Shapiro.....Rabbi Emeritus

Mazal Tov to:

- **Wendy Webber** whose grandson, was born on July 8. His proud parents are Jamie and Eric Polep.
- **Lori and Richard Chase** are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter Carly to Peter Kunze.
- **Carol and David Tivoli** on the marriage of their daughter Leah to Brian Reeves in Seattle, Wa.
- **Ila Shebar** on the engagement of her son Alex to Shamaine Watson in London.



This High Holy Day Season, stand up for Israel. Invest in Israel Bonds.



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Attending Services on the Telephone

Do you know someone who misses out on High Holiday Services because they are physically unable to attend? This year it will be possible to hear live Sinai Temple services by telephone from home or even from a hospital room. Sinai's Caring Community and TRZ Religious Services will be making this wonderful opportunity available.

This service is free of charge to members and will not be limited to the High Holidays. It can also be used to listen in on any service (i.e. Bar/Bat Mitzvah, wedding or funeral) that Rabbi Kosovske and Cantor Levson lead from the bimah. (Please call the Temple Office for further details.)



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Sinai Temple at URJ Crane Lake Camp!

Back Row: Jesse Cohen-Lindfors, Josh Lesser, Cantor Martin Levson.
Middle Row: Jackie Frank, Rachel Freedman, Leah Burstein,
Sheri Levson, Laura Burstein. Front Row: Margie Black, Hayden
Steinberg, Zach Landon



Sinai Temple at URJ Eisner Camp!

Cantor Martin Levson with Session 1 Campers: Sarah Metsch
and Rachael "Louise" Maniscalco, Max Levheim, and Shoshana
Maniscalco. Session 2 Campers not pictured: Tia Hurwitz, Lily Stern