

# Sinai Temple

## BULLETIN



*Sinai Temple's 75th Anniversary*

## For Your Consideration

August 4, 2006

Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro

The images are everywhere. The news is always on. It's hard to complain seriously that we've got it bad because of triple digit temperatures, when our brothers and sisters in Israel leave their homes by the thousands and spend weeks in shelters.

The images are everywhere. CNN can't seem to stop showing pictures of the Lebanese who are victims of this war. What happened in Kana seems to be the ultimate indictment of Israel.

But the images on television don't tell the whole story, and we Jews must not forget that. We mustn't forget that, only one day after Kana, Israel's papers and airwaves were filled with anguished debates about the moral implications of what had happened. In Israel's largest daily, the lead editorial proclaimed: "In a national sense, we are all guilty, because small nations are nations of collective responsibility. This killing is on the head of all of us." And it went on to say that what Israel must do is take responsibility and ask forgiveness.

Imagine hearing those words from either Hezbollah or Hamas? It wouldn't happen and it hasn't happened.

This war is tragic. This war is painful because it was initiated by Hezbollah and Hamas after Israel had evacuated the land both groups claim as their own.

But this war is also a struggle that Israel will not lose and cannot lose. It is a battle in which our people affirm their simple right TO BE. It is a battle during which we have to say again and again - Am Yisrael Chai - The People of Israel has a right to be. Israel is alive!

*(Dear Friends - Every one of us has surely been inundated with news and views about the war. During the last few weeks and on into September, I will be placing some materials I value on our website. Check what is there. [www.sinai-temple.org](http://www.sinai-temple.org). Some of it will be material you haven't seen. Amidst all the hoopla, I hope what you find on the website will offer some clarity.)*

### Saturday Torah Study

Saturday Mornings  
Torah Study  
At 9 a.m.  
Every Week

### Saturday Services

Services at 10:30 a.m.

Mazal Tov to our Bnai Mitzvah

September 2—Sarah Greenberg  
Daughter of Marge and Peter Greenberg

September 9—Clark Kadis  
Son of Karen and Todd Kadis

September 16—Irina Smith  
Daughter of Ellen Smith

September 30—Charles Dorison  
Son of Cathy and Joe Dorison

### SELICHOT THEATER AND SELICHOT SERVICE

Saturday, September 16  
At 8:00 p.m.

We Join Together With Temple Beth El  
At Temple Beth El.

### Friday Evening Services — Remember how to "remember" service times — 76-88

**FAMILY SERVICE at 7:00 p.m.**

**September 1**

August and September birthdays too.

**KABBALAT SHABBAT at 6:00 p.m.**

**September 8**

Only a few days after Labor Day, but you deserve a break. (Veggies and snacks at 5:30 p.m.)

**FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE at 8:00 p.m.**

**September 15**

Music with a special style plus honoring our Seventh Grade.

**EREV ROSH HASHANAH at 8:00 p.m.**

**September 22**

L'shana Tova - May you be inscribed for a Good Year!

**SHABBAT SHUVA at 8:00 p.m.**

**September 29**

Shabbat Shalom with a focus on teshuva/repentance.

# High Holidays 2006 - 5767

## SELICHOT THEATER AND SERVICE

**Saturday, September 16 at 8 p.m.**

Sinai Temple and Temple Beth el join together at Temple Beth El for an evening of drama followed by a worship service led by the rabbis and cantors of both congregations. Refreshments will follow.

## EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Friday, September 22

Evening Service ..... 8:00 p.m.

## ROSH HASHANAH DAY

Saturday, September 23

First Service..... 8:45 a.m.

Second Service..... 11:00 a.m.

Tashlich ..... 4:30 p.m.

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday, October 1

Sinai Temple Cemetery ..... 2:00 p.m.

## KOL NIDRE

Sunday, October 1

Evening Service ..... 8:00 p.m.

## YOM KIPPUR DAY

(Times approximate)

Monday, October 2

Morning Service ..... 10:00 a.m.

Musical Interlude ..... 12:30 p.m.

Study Options ..... 1:30 p.m.

Afternoon Service ..... 3:00 p.m.

Yizkor Service ..... 4:45 p.m.

Neilah/Closing Service..... 5:45 p.m.

The Sinai Temple Bulletin is published monthly by Sinai Temple, Springfield, Massachusetts. This is Issue Number 1 for the year 2006-2007.

Mark Dov Shapiro..... Rabbi  
Emily Sleeper Mekler..... Cantor, Music Director

### Officers

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

The publication of the Sinai Bulletin is made possible in part by a gift to our Endowment Fund from Ruth and Fred Weiss.

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

## Selichot Theater and Service

Saturday, September 16 at 8 p.m.

At Temple Beth El

### What's "Selichot Theater?"

This year's Selichot evening begins with a reading of THE GATES ARE CLOSING, a play by Merle Feld set in a synagogue on Yom Kippur. The action follows ten main characters as they grapple with issues of identity, meaning, loyalty, betrayal, and forgiveness. The play has been presented in over 200 synagogues and college campuses across the USA and Canada.

Our version of the play will be staged and read by members of Temple Beth El and Sinai. Our Sinai readers will be Bob Cohen, Dan Cohn, Bob Kay, Beth Chafetz, and Reva Kleppel.

### What brings Sinai and Beth El together?

Every year for the last several years our congregations have come together as the holiday season begins for an evening of sociability and setting the mood for the New Year. Our rabbis and cantors as well as our "actors" hope to see you for this challenging evening just before Rosh Hashanah.

## BE A PART OF

## THE GREAT SHOFAR BLAST

Sunday, September 17, 2006

1:30 PM

Marsh's Rest Gazebo, Forest Park

(near the Zoo, across from baseball fields)

Rain location: Springfield Jewish Community Center

Contact Cantor Mekler 736-3619, ext. 14 for time for training session in preparation for the Blast.

New participating households: Sign up by September 1st and receive your own genuine shofar, free of charge (one per household, while supplies last)!

The Program Is Free And Open To The Public

A program of the Jewish Federation of Greater Springfield  
Sponsored by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation

## Mission Statement

Sinai Temple is a welcoming and inclusive Reform Congregation where our members pursue a continuing journey of Jewish growth. We are guided by the traditions of the Jewish people as we encounter the challenges of the modern world. We encourage participation in prayer, life-long Jewish learning, and social justice within a joyful, creative, and compassionate community.

## Sinai Temple High Holiday 2006 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.

### 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 and, therefore, receive High Holidays tickets plus all other membership benefits.

### 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 their adult children and/or 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. Households in the Western Mass/Northern Connecticut area who have been unaffiliated from a previous synagogue for more than one year may also receive complimentary High Holiday tickets once upon request.

### Childcare

- Children under 5 must be left with babysitting services provided by Sinai Temple.
- Reservations are required.

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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 Shapiro and Cantor Mekler lead from the bimah.

### Allergy-sufferers Request

Please refrain from excessive use of perfumes and colognes when attending services and events at temple especially on the High Holidays.

Those with allergies can be adversely affected and become uncomfortable when exposed to strong scents.

When purchasing bima flowers for special occasions please be considerate of allergy-sufferers and order only non-scented arrangements.

Thank you so much for your understanding.



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## Notes about the Holidays

### Two Rosh Hashanah Morning Services

8:45 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

11:00 a.m. to 1:20 p.m.

*Although the first service is definitely NOT going to be a Family Service, it will be a service that welcomes school age children because it will be briefer. The second service will be identical to our usual holiday morning services with Rabbi, Cantor, choir, and the full liturgy.*

### Babysitting for Children through Kindergarten

Babysitting for small children ages two through Kindergarten (no infants) will be available during Rosh Hashanah morning and Yom Kippur morning services.

### Child Programming for Grades One & Two

An age appropriate program for children in Grades 1 and 2 will be available during both Rosh Hashanah morning services and Yom Kippur morning. (The program is being offered parallel to the first Rosh Hashanah morning service for parents of these young children who do not think the children would feel comfortable even in the shorter first service format of 90 minutes.)

### Children in Grades Three through Six

On Yom Kippur morning, we will be offering a service designed for this intermediate age group. Too old for a children's program; often too young for the full adult service. More information will follow.

## The Mitzvah Habit:

### Help us feed the hungry

You can't miss it! Every time you enter the Temple, you see the box for THE OPEN PANTRY on the floor outside the Temple office. Sometimes the box is full; sometimes it's fairly empty. But every week the Open Pantry truck comes by to scoop up whatever the box contains and take it back to the Open Pantry.

You can help keep the box full. Here's how. Whenever you go shopping, buy an extra non-perishable food item. Then whenever you come to the Temple, bring along your food item and drop it in the box. If you're coming to a meeting or services, if you've got business in the office, if your child is coming to Religious School, start a new MITZVAH HABIT. Bring some food along and place it in the box for the OPEN PANTRY.

## Sukkot and Simchat Torah 5767

### EREV SUKKOT

Friday, October 6

Starting at 7:00 p.m.

We start the evening earlier than usual in order to meet outside and decorate the outdoor sukkah. After that, the harvest celebration continues at 7:30 p.m. with a Sukkot Family Service in the sanctuary.

### SUKKOT DAY

Saturday, October 7

At 10:30 a.m.

It's time to give thanks for the natural world around us. Lulav and etrog. Kiddush in the sukkah.

### SUKKOT DAY – CONTINUES...

Saturday, October 7

At Noon

Our Annual Fall Seniors Luncheon will take place after services. The Caring Community will host Sinai's Seniors. Invitations will follow in the mail.

### EREV SIMCHAT TORAH

Friday, October 13

At 7:00 p.m.

The entire congregation is invited to one of the year's great celebrations. We will consecrate our First Graders and then march and dance with all five of our Torah scrolls. Special music! Special festivities! You will not want to miss this simcha.

### SIMCHAT TORAH/YIZKOR SERVICE

Saturday, October 14

At 10:30 a.m.

We will mark the conclusion and beginning of the Torah cycle and also conduct a memorial service. Mini-luncheon to follow.

### Shalom Sukkah Save The Date

Sinai Temple, The Women's Division of the Jewish Federation of Greater Springfield and Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts are sponsoring a Shalom Sukkah (Sukkah of Peace) at Sinai Temple on October 12, 2006 from 7 to 8 PM. The October event weaves together the Jewish themes of Sukkot with National Domestic Violence Month.

For more information, please call the event coordinator is Hermine Levey Weston , 566 5330.

## This Chanukah Give Yourself the Gift of Hebrew (And Celebrate Sinai's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Too!)

As part of Sinai's 75th Anniversary Celebration, the Adult Education Committee is launching a unique project for Hebrew learning. *In our 75th year, we want to involve at least 75 adults learning Hebrew.*

Classes will be offered at different levels at different times beginning over a ten-week period starting October 1, 2006. Please register by filling out the form on this page!

\*Schedule of Hebrew Classes for Fall 2006 on the following dates:

	Sunday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Saturday
<b>October</b>	1, 8, 15, 22, 29	3, 10, 17, 24, 31	4, 11, 18, 25	7, 14, 21, 28
<b>November</b>	5, 12, 19	7, 14, 28	1, 8, 15, 29	4, 11, 18, 25
<b>December</b>	3, 10	5, 12	6, 13	2, 9

*Please enter your first and second choices in the "Choice" columns.*

Choice	Day	Time	Teacher	Choice	Day	Time	Teacher
<b>Beginner Hebrew – For those starting out. Learn to identify Hebrew letters and begin to put words together.</b>				<b>Advanced Beginner – Refresher course. Review the alphabet; improve basic reading; then on to reading &amp; understanding basic prayers.</b>			
	Sun	9:00 – 10:00 am	Carolyn Clini		Sun	9:00 – 10:00 am	Bernie Cohen
	Tues	7:30 – 8:30 pm	Reva Kleppel		Tues	7:30 – 8:30 pm	Laurie Weinberg
	Wed	7:30 – 8:30 pm	Joan Narmontas		Wed	7:30 – 8:30 pm	Jeff Ochs
	Sat	9:00 – 10:00 am	Steve Sussman		Sat	9:00 – 10:00 am	Cantor Mekler
<b>Prayerbook Hebrew-For those who can read. Focus on history and meaning of prayers.</b>				<b>Conversational Hebrew - Spoken Hebrew! How do they say it in Israel.</b>			
	Sun	9:00 – 10:00 am	Rabbi Shapiro		Sun	9:00 – 10:00 am	Gita Gilad
	Wed	7:00 – 8:00 pm	Rabbi Devorah Jacobson		Wed	7:30 – 8:30 pm	Gita Gilad
					Sat	9:00 - 10:00 am	Gita Gilad
<b>Biblical Hebrew - For those who can read. Apply your skills to understanding Torah in the original language.</b>				<b>Torah Cantillation - Learn how to chant the Torah!</b>			
	Wed	8:00 – 9:00 pm	Rabbi Shapiro		Tues	7:30 – 8:30 pm	Cantor Mekler

Dear Adult Education Committee:

Count me in! I want to be a Hebrew learner.

Enclosed please find my check for \$18 (payable to Sinai Temple) to cover the cost of my textbook.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Cantor Emily Sleeper Mekler September 2006

Let this be YOUR year, 5767!

I am writing this at the end of July when the war in Israel is raging. It is a very frightening, sad time when many Israeli soldiers have lost their lives, cities are being attacked and residents are evacuating the northern cities of Israel and going to stay with relatives and friends in the south. I hope and pray, as we all do, that there will soon be peace in Israel and Iraq and wherever there are wars and oppression in the world.

I also pray that those who wrestle with losses, sadness and sickness will find inner peace. May this be YOUR year to find your way and also join with others in ways that energize you, spiritually, emotionally, intellectually, physically.

Join us at Sinai Temple for the varied array of activities celebrating Sinai's 75th anniversary. Don't forget to give yourself the "Gift of Hebrew", by signing up for 10 weeks of Hebrew classes of your choice which will begin the first week in October. Send back the registration sheet found in this bulletin.

I would also like to take a group of Sinai women on a "field trip" to visit Mayyim Hayyim in Newton, Massachusetts. It is a mikveh which is open to all denominations of Jewish women and men. 'Mayyim Hayyim is the brainchild of a group of Boston-area Jews, including acclaimed author Anita Diamant, who dreamed of a place that would serve Jews-by-choice in a more welcoming manner and become a communal center. "I want a mikveh that encourages the prayers of the heart in Jews of every denomination and description... a welcoming and inviting place from the minute anyone walks through the door... a place for laughter and mazel tovs... a center for study and celebration," writes Diamant.

This would be a beautiful opportunity for Sinai women to come together and learn about an ancient Jewish ritual and its relevance in our lives today. Let me know if you would be interested in making this trip with me on a Sunday afternoon in November. Log on to the website at [www.mayyimhayyim.org](http://www.mayyimhayyim.org) for more information. Call me at the temple at 736-3619, ext. 14.

Remember the Springfield Jewish community's "Great Shofar Blast" last Fall? This year it will be on Sunday, September 17 at 1:30 p.m. at Marsh's Rest Gazebo, Forest Park.

All Sinai boys and girls in grades 1-4 are invited to join our Junior Choir which meets on Sunday mornings immediately after the first session of Religious School from 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Sinai adults don't forget to consider joining our Adult Choir. We meet on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Special "thank you" to Sinai member, Robyn Newhouse, who began as our rehearsal accompanist this past year.

My daughter, Bekky, and I wish each of you a "Shana Tova Um'tukah", a good and sweet year.

*Cantor Emily Sleeper Mekler*

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### A Field Trip For Sinai Women

Cantor Mekler will be providing an opportunity in November for Sinai women to join her on a "field trip" to visit Mayyim Hayyim, a mikveh in Newton, Massachusetts, which is open to all denominations of Judaism. 'Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters Community Mikveh and Education Center opened its doors on May 14, 2004 as a unique center for Jewish spirituality and learning. Mayyim Hayyim reclaims the ancient tradition of mikveh and reinvents the rituals of immersion to serve the needs of a diverse 21st century Jewish community. Since our opening, we have provided more than 2250 immersions to women, men, girls, boys and infants—all marking transitional moments in their lives... Mayyim Hayyim is the brainchild of a group of Boston-area Jews, including acclaimed author Anita Diamant, who dreamed of a place that would serve Jews-by-choice in a more welcoming manner and become a communal center.

This is a beautiful opportunity for Sinai women to come together and learn about an ancient Jewish ritual and its relevance in our lives today. Let Cantor Mekler know if you would be interested in making this trip with her on a Sunday afternoon in November. Log on to the website at [www.mayyimhayyim.org](http://www.mayyimhayyim.org) for

## Viewpoints, Talking Points, & Opinion On Israel at the Website

Please visit our website to read a variety of articles and background pieces on Israel at this time of crisis. You can expect to find materials here that won't necessarily appear in the standard national media. [www.sinai-temple.org](http://www.sinai-temple.org)

## You've always wanted to learn Hebrew? Fall 2006 is your chance!!!!

As part of Sinai's 75th Anniversary Celebration, the Adult Education Committee is launching a unique project for Hebrew learning. In our 75th year, we want to involve at least 75 adults learning Hebrew. Classes will be offered at different levels at many different times over a ten-week period starting October 1, 2006. Please register by filling out the form on page 5 of this Bulletin.

## 76-88 The Sinai "Code" for Friday Evening Service Times

On the first Friday of every month, come pray at 7:00 p.m. On the second Friday of the month, services start at 6 p.m. On the following two Friday evenings, please join us at 8 p.m. Remember - 76-88!

## Torah Study (with a "wicked" twist – see below)

**Saturdays at 9 a.m.**

Why do we call the Torah "a tree of life?" Is it "true?" Is there more to the stories than I recall from when I was a child? How do adult Jews use the Torah as a source of adult values? These are the questions that Torah Study answers every week. During the Fall, we will read the Torah Portion of the week. BUT, starting in January, a change will take place....

## WICKED – ANOTHER READING OF THE KING SAUL AND KING DAVID STORY Torah Study with a "twist" Saturdays at 9 a.m. Starting January

No two biblical characters are more real to life than Saul and David. The life of each is filled with intrigue, adventure, triumph, and sorrow. Saturday mornings this Winter, Rabbi Shapiro will lead an exploration into the self and psyche of these two men. Everyone is welcome!

## Fathers and Daughters in a Changing World: Four Novels – Four Conversations October 23, November 20, December 11, January 16

Rabbi Shapiro will be leading a course in Jewish literature at the Suffield Public Library this Fall. The novels to be read are Bread Givers by Anzia Yezierska, 1185 Park Avenue by Anne Roiphe, American Pastoral by Philip Roth, and Bee Season by Myla Goldberg. Registration is a MUST. Please call the Rabbi.

## Kabbalat Shabbat: A Terrific Time for a Service!

**6:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

If you're too tired after a week in the office, don't go right home after work. Come to services first. Starting at 5:30 p.m., we'll feed you veggies and snacks. The service that follows will refresh you for a wonderful weekend.

## Monthly Morning Service Wednesday, September 6 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. The spirit is unique. 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, October 4, November 1, December 6, January 3, February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, and June 6. The Morning Minyan is underwritten through our Endowment Fund by a gift from the Family of Richard Lavin.

## First Thursdays (mostly): Lunch and Learn Thursday, September 7 12:00 – 1:15 p.m.

Bring your lunch to the Oneg Shabbat room for a discussion of contemporary Jewish concern with Rabbi Shapiro. . Future discussions are October 5, November 2, December 7, January 4, February 8, March 8, April 5, May 3, and June 7.

## From the President Steve Weiss

For the last several months, I was expecting that I would use this month's article to describe the experiences of our congregation's trip to Israel. Obviously, and unfortunately, we had to cancel (or at least postpone) the trip. It was an agonizing decision for all of us, especially for Rabbi Shapiro, who spent considerable time and energy planning the agenda; however, as events in the Middle East have unfolded, it was also clearly the correct decision to keep our families safe.

So I can't tell you what we saw, heard and learned while in Israel; however, the experience still provides me with opportunity for observation and reflection. While I was not literally looking skyward for Ketushah rockets, and while my family is not living in shelters, the attacks by Hezbollah have nonetheless affected the lives of my family. And it necessarily provides some perspective. We were anxious about whether to travel to a region in which we might not be safe, but we had a choice. Our fellow Jews in Haifa, Nahariya, and other communities in northern Israel didn't have that luxury. We may have lost some money because the trip was cancelled, but countless people in Israel have lost their businesses or have no jobs to go to. A day does not pass without me wondering and worrying about how those in the combat zones are coping with these terrible times.

As we enter the High Holy Day season, I hope you share my prayers that real and sustainable peace will come quickly to the land of Israel.

## School Study Kits

Beginning on Rosh Hashanah and ending on Yom Kippur the Social Action Committee and the 75th Anniversary Committee will be collecting school supplies for Forest Park Middle School. Our goal is to collect 75 School Study Kits. Each kit should include:

- pens
- crayons
- pencils
- 5 subject notebook
- markers
- construction paper

While you are out shopping for school supplies, please consider helping to provide a school study kit for children in need and THANK YOU!

As in past years, we will also be participating in our annual SHOES THAT FIT collection to benefit the Gray House. Over the past years we have collected over 500 pairs of shoes!

## From the Brotherhood Dan Cohn, Brotherhood President

Welcome back to a new season of Sinai Splendor! The Brotherhood is up to its usual tricks, and we have a couple of new ones brewing, too. Besides the usual breakfasts, Holiday Dinners, and other events that we sponsor, this year we are trying out a new fundraiser. Let's face it, folks, it's obvious that everyone is a little tired of the raffle, and the fact that we barely broke even is a sign that even I can't miss. This year we are going to have a dinner and silent auction. Admittance will be \$30.00 per couple, \$15 single, and we are going to have many wonderful items for you to bid on. If anyone out there in Sinai land would like to donate an item for our auction we would be happy to add it to the supply!

Another new attempt is a golf tournament. I know that there are many avid golfers in our membership, so this should be an easy one for you. There will be prizes, and dinner afterwards. If you want to help with the organization of the event, please give Jack Henrie a shout. You can e-mail him at [jhenrie@sinaibrotherhood.org](mailto:jhenrie@sinaibrotherhood.org)

Thank you to all of you that have already sent in your annual Brotherhood dues. I'm sure that you have noticed that we have included our dues invoice with the Temple invoice, making life a bit easier.

As usual, if you have any ideas, questions, or complaints for the Brotherhood, I can be reached at [dcohn@sinaibrotherhood.org](mailto:dcohn@sinaibrotherhood.org).

## Judaica Shop Corner

Our fall reopening date is Sunday, September 10 (from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.), and we will have our regular hours of Sundays 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Thursdays 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. Special appointments are always available.

We have just returned from the New York Gift Show and have wonderful treasures coming in weekly. Please stop by and browse to check the very latest.

For the fall B'nai Mitvah, our selection of tallisim for boys and girls, men and women, is extensive.

The selection of giftware for all occasions is lovely; and of course, for Rosh Hashonah and Yom Kippur, we have honey dishes, challah boards, knives, Kiddush cups and more.

Thais Fischel 786-9577  
Bobbie Cossin 565-9970

## A Message from Sheila Shear, Director of Education

Hi All,

Here we are all ready to begin a new school year. There is so much excitement here with all the new programming. First, our new Hebrew curriculum. We will begin exposing our students to aleph/bet beginning right away in Kindergarten and first grade. How exciting for them! Then, beginning in grade 2 students will begin our new Mitkadem Curriculum. Beginning in grade 3, Mitkadem is an individualized curriculum, allowing students to move ahead at their own pace. It will allow us to meet the needs of all of our students, including those that are ready to just speed ahead and those who find learning Hebrew a challenge. This exciting program also allows us to meet the needs of those students who experience academic challenges due to learning disabilities. I am also off the map excited about our new eighth and ninth grade programming.

Our 8th grade students will continue their learning in a very different way. They will begin the year, traveling the community with Phyllis Katz, to learn about their Jewish Community. They will explore about how their own families arrived here in western Massachusetts, as well as the agencies and organizations that make up this vibrant community of ours. During the second half of the year, students will participate in SPARK/HeartAction. This program is a Jewish service learning program that integrates community service, volunteer skill development, Jewish text study, opportunities for reflection, and exploration of public policy and activism. Our facilitator for this program will be Aviva Hollenstein.

Our ninth graders will also be participating in a two semester program. During the first semester, students will have the opportunity to pilot a new program for URJ called Sacred Choices. This program explores sexuality and social relationships through a Jewish lens. The program is sensitive to students at this stage of development and supports their learning to make positive choices. During the second semester students will explore politics in Judaism. The year will culminate with a four day trip to the Religious Action Center in Washington D.C.

Along with all our regular exciting Religious School programming, this is going to be a fabulous year at Sinai Temple Religious School. I can't wait to see you all on September 10th!

WELCOME 5767!!

### A NEW HEBREW PROGRAM FOR SINAI TEMPLE STUDENTS GRADES 2 THROUGH 6

- A self paced comprehensive approach to Hebrew for all students
- Promotes independent learning
- Meaning of prayer
- Hebrew grammar
- Reading and writing
- Fluency and proficiency
- To be a confident knowledgeable Hebrew learner

### A NEW PROGRAM FOR SINAI TEMPLE GRADE 8 STUDENTS

Tuesday 6:30-8:30 p.m.

#### Semester 1: Our Jewish Community

*Students will explore:*

- Their own community roots
- The roots of our local Jewish Community
- The agencies, institutions and organizations that make up our current Jewish Community

#### Semester 2: Spark/HeartAction

*Students will:*

- Participate in special service learning with senior citizens in our own community
- Explore how Judaism looks at growing older

### A NEW PROGRAM FOR SINAI TEMPLE GRADE 9 STUDENTS

Wednesday 6:30-8:30 p.m.

#### Semester 1: Sacred Choices

- A new Program
- Exploring sexuality and social relationships through a Jewish lens
- Developmentally appropriate content and context
- Supports students learning to make positive choices.

#### Semester II: Politics, Judaism and Me

*Students will:*

- Explore how Reform Judaism looks at current political topics and issues
- Have an opportunity to explore their own thoughts and opinions AND...

The year will culminate with an exciting four day trip to the Religious Action Center in Washington D.C.

## SPFTY has a New Advisor: Heather Tariff

We are so proud to welcome Heather Tariff as our new SPFTY advisor. Heather grew up at Sinai and now returns to lead our 9 - 12th grade youth group.



Heather earned a Master of Arts in Elementary Education from Quinnipiac University. She now teaches First Grade at Staffordville Elementary School in Stafford Springs, CT. Heather has also spent many summers at the JCC Day Camp as a counselor and unit head. Heather

brings a love of children and a love of Judaism to her wonderful new job!

This year's SPFTY leadership includes:

Maddy Miller, President  
Emma Klein, Executive Vice President  
Teddy Katz, Social Action Vice President  
Josh Auerbach: Membership Vice President  
Kyle Thomas, Freshman Representative

## Sinai has a new Program Director: Stacey Osowski



As of August 1, our congregation has a new program director. Stacey Osowski will be working 15 hours a week leading our Caring Community, our Alumni, public relations, and the various "clubs" we have for young Stacey is a Temple member who grew up at Sinai and became a Bat Mitzvah here. She is married to Stanley and is the mother of Rebecca and Cayla. Stacey has taught Fifth Grade in our Religious School and will be teaching Kindergarten this year. She is enthusiastic, organized, and eager to get to know Sinai members.

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## For High School Students A Sinai Trip to Israel December 2007

Dear Sinai Families -

If you are in Grade 9, 10, or 11 this Fall of September 2006, I have a wonderful announcement and invitation for you. When school vacation in December 2007 comes around and when calm returns to our homeland, I am planning to lead a High School trip to Israel. I'll be leading this trip along with a good friend of mine from Chicago, Rabbi Steve Bob. In other words, we'll be joining a group of High School students from Chicago and together our larger group will tour Israel for 10 to 14 days in December 2007. By then, you'll be in Grades, 10, 11, and 12 and I know we will have a fabulous experience.

More details will follow.

Meanwhile, start packing! It should be an incredible trip!!!

Shalom,  
Rabbi Mark Shapiro

## Seder Match (Looking far ahead...)

You like lots of people around your  
Passover table....

Your kids have moved away....

You are new to the area....

Your relatives don't live close by....

Are you looking for a warm, comfortable,  
welcoming table to share a  
Passover experience on Monday, April 2, 2007?

Join Seder Match and experience  
Sinai's caring community!!!

Let us know if you are able to be a host or  
prefer to be a guest.

Send your name to Temple or call Denise  
Choquette at (413) 552-0784 or Robyn Newhouse  
at (860) 668-4481 (robyn1860@cox.net) or Susan  
Goldman (413) 567-7474 (sugoldman@aol.com).



The Caring Community of Sinai Temple  
cordially invites you to attend  
A Sukkot Luncheon for Sinai Senior Members

Saturday, October 7  
12:00 noon

In honor of our 75th anniversary, our afternoon will  
feature a video of Sinai's founding members. The video  
was made in 1991 as part of our 60th anniversary.

There is no charge for this wonderful program.  
*The Sukkot Luncheon is made possible by a gift in  
memory of Lenore Cohn.*

(Please note that Sukkot morning services will take  
place in the sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. You're welcome  
to join us at services or simply arrive in time for our  
luncheon.)

Please RSVP to the Temple Office at 736-3619 no later  
than Friday, September 29.

Let us know if you need transportation.

### *Hold The Date!*

**Union for Reform Judaism Northeast Council  
Regional Biennial**

**October 27-29, 2006**

Springfield Marriott Hotel  
Springfield, MA

### *Highlights*

- Fill Your Soul with the Sacred
- Celebrate Shabbat in an Embracing Community
- Engage in Meaningful Innovative Worship
- Study Biblical Texts with Regional and National Clergy
- Share Insights with Peers on Key Issues Facing Our Congregations
- Make New Congregational Connections and Build Lasting Friendships
- Discover New Resources, Books, Music and Judaica
- Raise Your Voice in Song and Let Your Spirit Soar

### *Featured Guests*

**Scholar in Residence**, Rabbi David Saperstein, Director,  
Religious Action Center

**Artist in Residence**, Peri Smilow, Singer, Composer & Social  
Activist

**Author in Residence**, Jim Keen, Writer, Inside Inter marriage

**Shabbat Keynote**, Anita Diamant, Author, President,  
Mayim Hayim, Mikveh

Rabbi Richard Address, Director, URJ Department of Jewish Family  
Concerns; Dale Glasser, Director, URJ Department of Synagogue  
Management; Rabbi Elliott Kleinman, URJ Director of Program;  
Rabbi Lynne Landsberg, Sr. Advisor on Disability Issues, Religious  
Action Center; Rabbi Hara Person, Editor in Chief, URJ Press; Rabbi  
Jonah Pesner, Director, URJ Just Congregations Program

For More Information Visit Our Website [www.urj.org/nec](http://www.urj.org/nec)



Last year the Social Action Committee organized  
a knitting project with our friends at Alden Baptist  
Church. We made over 20 healing shawls which we do-  
nated to a clinic in Springfield. This year we are joining  
forces again. Please consider working and talking with  
us as we make quilts and blankets for children in foster  
care. We will be meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of every  
month beginning in January. Our first gathering will be  
at Sinai at 6:30 on January 9th, 2007. Bring a project  
and enjoy the conversation as we continue our dialogue  
and collaboration with Alden. For more information,  
please call Sandy Suib-Dutcher at 567-3283 or e-mail at  
[h.dutcher@comcast.net](mailto:h.dutcher@comcast.net).

## Scroll of Life



The Scroll of Life is a work of art in the Oneg Shabbat Room. It was created by Presentations Gallery of New York. The Isaiah quote at the bottom of the Scroll was taken from the Yom Kippur Haftarah as an expression of hope.

The Scroll has space on it so that Sinai members can commemorate either joyous events or memorialize loved ones. Each contribution of a plaque on the Scroll will be used to enrich the life and strength of Sinai. The cost of each plaque is \$200. The inscription may be 3-4 lines with a maximum of 27 spaces per line.

## 75th Anniversary – Giving Back to the Community



Sinai's Big Splash back in May was the perfect event. Lots of people participated in the JCC pool: young and old, with children and without children. We had tremendous fun. Plus our congregation's "swimathon" raised over \$3,000 to be given to Springfield's Park and Recreation Department to provide swimming lessons for needy kids this summer.

Only a few weeks later, we celebrated another gift to our community. Sinai contributed substantial funds for the creation of a playscape at Washington School in Springfield. We dedicated that great gift on May 25.

### **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 receive the Temple bulletin plus special updates, holiday gifts, and newsletters from the Rabbi.

### **My children are college graduates**

**Living in Boston**

**Working in Manhattan**

**Still learning...still changing**

Just when they look all grown up is precisely when we don't want to lose contact with these young adults. From ages 22 to 30, they are on the move in thousands of ways. Help us stay in touch!

Students on the 22 - 30 ALUMNI LIST receive the Temple bulletin plus special updates, holiday gifts, and newsletters from the Rabbi.

**PARENTS – Please fill out the bottom of this ALUMNI FORM and return it to the Temple. Thank you. You may also receive a phonecall from our Alumni Committee requesting this information. You may instead fill out this form online at [www.sinai-temple.org/alumni.html](http://www.sinai-temple.org/alumni.html).**

Young Adult Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

College Address or Present Residential Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent(s) Telephone \_\_\_\_\_



### **Honoring Sinai's Past Presidents**

On Friday, June 16, 2006, a special service was held to honor all those who have been presidents of Sinai. Pictured here are the past presidents who were able to be at the service as well as the family members of some past presidents who are no longer alive. Featured speakers for the evening were Congressman Richard Neal, Mayor Charlie Ryan, and Harold Berman, Executive Director of the Springfield Jewish Federation.

## **Thanks for a Generous Response To the World Crisis Fund... Emergency Israel Campaign From Federation**

As of early August, over \$6,000 had been donated by Sinai members for the World Crisis Fund. Since then, more funds have arrived. ALL these funds are being directed to those in Israel who can use them the best during the current crisis.

As of now, we have written THREE checks of \$2,000 each. Two of the checks are going to the Reform congregations of Haifa. The first is called the Leo Baeck Education Center; the second is called Congregation Or Chadash. Both Reform congregations have been actively involved in opening their doors to the entire Haifa community. During the last many weeks, Leo Baeck provided a day-time shelter for Haifa's children who would otherwise be isolated from each other in private shelters. Or Chadash has also followed a similar course,

The third donation went from us to Kibbutz Lotan, one of the two Reform kibbutzim in the Negev. Lotan has been hosting around 80 Israelis who have been displaced from communities in the north. Lotan has been spending about \$500 per day to open its doors.

Early in September we will make more disbursements to Israel from the World Crisis Fund. We will also be sharing more news about the national **Israel Emergency Campaign** which will be supported by our local Jewish Federation. The target in the Pioneer Valley will be \$1million. It will be a cash campaign because the situation is dire and the needs are immediate. 100% of the donations will provide support for the victims of violence. News about the Campaign will follow for everyone in the Jewish community.

## Thank You and Mazal Tov

Thank you to Don Gilman who was the architect for the building erected so proudly in 1949/1950 at 1100 Dickinson Street. Don was involved in the entire process of locating the land for the Temple and then following through on all the details of designing the core of our present building. Don now lives in Tucson.

Thank you to the Family of the late Lenore Cohn for their contribution to the Caring Community. The funds donated in memory of Lenore will be used to underwrite our October Sukkot Luncheon for Seniors. The Caring Community Committee will also use the funds to help in the preparation of meals to be sent to Sinai shut-ins during the coming months.

Mazal Tov to Dawn Tamarkin, a professor of biology at STCC. Dawn has received \$400K grant from the National Science Foundation to develop a learning tool for cell biology. This learning tool, a set of light-weight 3-D plastic models, is designed to help all learners (even those with visual and learning disabilities) understand the cell better.

Mazal Tov to Steve Sussman on being nominated to a second term on the Northeast Council of Leaders by the Union for Reform Judaism Northeast Council

Mazal Tov to Bobbi and Richard Steingart on the engagement of their daughter, Lindsay, to Kyle Hanford.

Mazal Tov to Alan Axler on expanding his business to sell smoked fish products through the Internet.

Mazal Tov to Mike Shear, son of Sheila and Barry Shear, on his work as Sound Effects Editor for the Hollywood film, The Great New Wonderful.

Mazal Tov to Sue Kaplan who was the recipient of the President's Citation Award at Western New England College's graduation ceremonies in June. Sue was recognized for her work with GoFit.

Mazal Tov to Rita and Steve Schwartz on the birth of their grandson, Samuel, born to their children Sonya and Donald.

Mazal Tov to Linda and Jerry Wainick on the birth of their granddaughter, Rebekah Emily, born to their children, Michael and Jamie.

Mazal Tov to Stan Goldman on the birth of his granddaughter, Eliana Lesser, born to his children, Leah and Eric Lesser.

Mazal Tov to Alumna Rachel Weston who completed her Masters in Public Administration from the University of Vermont. Rachel is running for the state legislature in her district in Burlington, Vermont.

# Sinai Temple

BULLETIN



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

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*Please  
Save the Date  
For*

## Sinai Temple's 75th Diamond Anniversary Gala

Saturday, November 4, 2006  
7:00 PM to 10:30 PM

- *Begin the evening with fine conversation, wine and gourmet hors d'oeuvres.*
- *Laugh at the hilarious comedy of New York's Joel Chasnoff.*
- *Celebrate the 18th Anniversary of Rabbi Shapiro.*
- *Enjoy a delicious array of decadent desserts and beverages.*

It will be a night to remember!

*Admission: twenty five dollars per person*