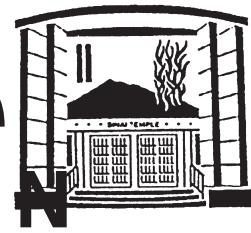


# Sinai Temple

## BULLETIN



### For Your Consideration

Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro

Early in August, I had an interesting visitor. The man was 48 years old. He actually grew up at Sinai, and for a number of reasons, has been out of our area until this summer.

Here's the intriguing part. My visitor had a wonderful experience growing up at Sinai. He was totally involved in congregational life right through to High School graduation. Since then, however, he hasn't belonged to a synagogue of any kind anywhere at all. "I've always felt very Jewish," he commented. It's just that for the last 30 years being Jewish hasn't meant any part of what synagogues offer - no worship, no Torah study, no extended Jewish learning, no Jewish community, no social action, no Rosh Hashanah, no Yom Kippur.

So what does that mean? I think it means at least two things.

First, it's obvious that Jews choose to express themselves in a myriad of ways. Some Jews pray; some Jews don't. Some Jews study; some don't. Some Jews draw strength from being around other Jews; some don't particularly feel that way. Some Jews find satisfaction and purpose through their synagogue membership; others walk away from that option.

In one sense this varying approach toward Jewish life is a real blessing for us. We Jews are a fascinating bunch of human beings because we can and do live so differently.

On the other hand, if you are a synagogue-committed kind of Jew, the absence of other Jews in synagogue does raise some important questions. If you and I are here in Temple, we need to ask ourselves why it matters to us. What makes the synagogue relevant? What makes the synagogue even essential for having a Jewish future?

During the coming year, we at Sinai are actually going to pursue these questions with special emphasis. As you'll learn on the holidays, we are going to be developing a Mission Statement for Sinai. We are going to ask as many of you as possible to share your thoughts and feelings about Sinai. By the time June rolls around, we hope to put it all in print. We will articulate how and why Sinai Temple is important to us. As our 75th anniversary approaches, we'll identify what our goals and purposes need to be for the next 75 years!

As 5766 approaches, I wish you a sweet year. Let it be, for all of us, a year of questions, learning, and growing commitment to the best in Jewish life.

### Saturday Services

#### MAZAL TOV TO BNAI MITZVAH

Saturday services at 10:30 a.m.

#### September 10 – Atlee Chait

Daughter of Yossi Chait & Neva Frumkin

#### September 17 – Jace Sadowsky

Son of Ronald & Brenna Sadowsky

#### September 24 – Danielle Dickstein

Daughter of Howard & Sally Dickstein

### THE SELICHOT COFFEEHOUSE AND SELICHOT SERVICE

Saturday, September 24

At 8:30 p.m.

We are joining together with Temple Beth El and Congregation Bnai Jacob

### FRIDAY EVENING SERVICES - NOTE THE NEW TIMES - 76-88

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

September 2

August and September birthdays too!

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

September 9

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 16

Music with a special style plus honoring our Seventh Grade.

#### FRIDAY NIGHT CLASSIC at 8:00 p.m.

September 23 and September 30

Shabbat Shalom with a focus on the holidays ahead.

# High Holidays 2005-5766

## SELICHOT COFFEEHOUSE AND SERVICE AT SINAI TEMPLE

Saturday, September 24, at 8:30 pm  
Sinai Temple, Temple Beth El, and Congregation B'nai Jacob join forces for a combined Selichot evening!!!

Featuring contemporary and creative guitar music with Lisa Levine.

## EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Monday, October 3, 8:00 pm

## ROSH HASHANAH DAY

Tuesday, October 4  
First Morning Service ..... 8:45 am  
Second Morning Service ..... 11:00 am  
Taschlich Service ..... 4:30 pm

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday, October 9 at the  
Temple Cemetery—2:00 pm

## KOL NIDRE

Wednesday, October 12  
Evening Service at 8:00 pm

## YOM KIPPUR (times approximate)

Thursday, October 13  
Morning Service ..... 10:00 am  
Musical Interlude ..... 12:30 pm  
Study Options ..... 1:30 pm  
Afternoon Service ..... 3:00 pm  
Yizkor Service ..... 4:45 pm  
Neilah/Closing Service ..... 5:45 pm



Cantor Lisa Levine

## What's A Selichot Coffeehouse?

The Coffeehouse is an informal, social way for welcoming the High Holidays. This year it is also our opportunity to host our friends from Temple Beth El and Congregation B'nai Jacob.

## And what will we do for the Coffeehouse?

We will enjoy food and drink as we listen to the sounds of guitarist, Lisa Levine. Lisa grew up in California and has spent a lifetime playing and composing music. She was co-founder of the "Des Moines Diversity Chorus," an interfaith community choir. She has recorded two CD's of original music and recently published a book of songs for healing. Lisa currently serves as Cantor of Temple Oheb Shalom in Baltimore.

**Saturday, September 24  
8:30 p.m.  
at Sinai Temple**

## Sinai Temple High Holiday 2005 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.
- Children 25 and over and self-supporting children under 25 must have individual membership (see below).
- Tickets are not issued to people who are unaffiliated.

### 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.

**REMEMBER:** *No one will be admitted without a ticket.*

*The office will be closed for all business at 3:00 pm the day before the holiday.*

### 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 purchase tickets for out of town guests by making a donation of \$50 per person for each holiday to the temple with a request form.
- Out of town guests must live at least 25 miles away.
- Forms are available at the office for our out of town guest tickets. Guest's home addresses must be supplied.

### Childcare

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

- Reservations are required.

### Under 30 membership category

- In order to open the Temple as much as possible to young Jews, we gladly welcome members who are under 30 years of age.
- Individuals under 30 may become members as a single person for \$260 or as a married couple for \$395.
- Children married during the prior year receive a free one year membership
- Payments for the "Building Maintenance Fund" are deferred

### 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.



**State of Israel Bonds**  
**A Bond of Solidarity**  
**A Promise for the Future**

To celebrate the New Year, forge a financial bond with the State of Israel and a personal bond of solidarity with the Israeli people. Let an Israel Bonds purchase be one way you keep a promise for the future—Israel's future as the eternal homeland of the Jewish people.

**Shana Tova!**

**Development Corporation for Israel**  
**ISRAEL BONDS**

Development Corporation for Israel/State of Israel Bonds  
740 N. Main Street, Suite D • West Hartford, CT 06117  
800-916-1918 • 860-236-4523  
[www.israelbonds.com](http://www.israelbonds.com)

**8th Zero Coupon Bond 4.65%**  
Effective yield to maturity and current purchase price of \$3,109 for bonds purchased August 1 through August 26, 2015. Matures at \$6,000 10 years from issue date (first day of the month following the month in which subscription is accepted by Fiscal Agent).

**3rd Jubilee (Series A) Issue Bond 4.15%**  
Fixed annual interest rate for bonds purchased August 1 through August 9, 2015. Matures 5 years from issue date. Minimum Subscription \$25,000.

**3rd Jubilee (Series B) Issue Bond 4.55%**  
Fixed annual interest rate for bonds purchased August 1 through August 9, 2015. Matures 10 years from issue date. Minimum Subscription \$25,000.

**Mazel Tov Bond**  
Purchase price: \$100 per unit. Matures in 5 years at \$120, representing an interest rate of 3.71%. This interest rate is effective through September 26, 2015. Non-transferable. Not eligible for early redemption. Must be registered in the name of an individual (custodian for a minor, or jointly in the names of no more than two individuals).

This is not an offering, which can be made only by prospectus. Read it carefully before investing. Issues subject to availability. This is a representative sampling of the securities offered.

## 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.

## THERE'S A COFFEEHOUSE IN YOUR FUTURE

Saturday, September 24 at 8:30 p.m.

Featuring Lisa Levine

Vocals and guitar

Lisa Levine is a composer, performer, and cantor. She brings years of experience to us for a relaxing, invigorating, and joyful evening of music.

Desserts and beverages will form part of the evening followed by a joint service to welcome the New Year led by the clergy of Sinai, Temple Beth El, and Congregation Bnai Jacob.

The Temple service introducing the High Holidays will begin at 10:30 p.m. and conclude the evening around 11 p.m.

## SUKKOT & SIMCHAT TORAH 5766

### EREV SUKKOT

Monday, October 17

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

Tuesday, October 18

At 10:30 a.m.

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

### EREV SIMCHAT TORAH

Monday, October 24

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

Tuesday, October 25

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.

The Sinai Temple Bulletin is published monthly by Sinai Temple, Springfield, Massachusetts.

Mark Dov Shapiro \_\_\_\_\_ Rabbi

Emily Sleeper Mekler \_\_\_\_\_ Cantor, Music Director

Sheila Shear \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Education

Karen Mernoff \_\_\_\_\_ Program Director

#### Officers

Steven Weiss \_\_\_\_\_ President

David Roberts \_\_\_\_\_ 1st Vice President

Elliot Greenberg \_\_\_\_\_ Vice President

Roberta Hillenberg-Gang \_\_\_\_\_ Vice President

Alan Gorfin \_\_\_\_\_ Treasurer

Bobi Steingart \_\_\_\_\_ Financial Secretary

Ann Jacobs \_\_\_\_\_ Recording Secretary

Mike Bader \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Chair

David 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.*

**Where are we going?  
What do we stand for?  
What do we believe?**

## **Mission Statement 2005-2006**

Please lend your voice and your thoughts  
As Sinai Temple develops a mission statement  
During the coming year.

Focus groups will be open to every member of the congregation.

We want to know what Sinai means to you.

What do you expect of the congregation?

What should Sinai expect from congregants?

Our goal: At least 180 participants for input.

Our timeline: A completed Mission Statement for June 2006.

Details will follow on Rosh Hashanah.

*If you think*

**ONE VOTE**

*Can't make a difference,*

*Think again.*

Elections for the 35th World Zionist Congress begin November 15, 2005.

If you register and vote for Reform Judaism's slate - THE ARZA SLATE - your vote can make a difference by ensuring that a liberal, religious, Reform Jewish voice will be heard in the deliberations of the World Zionist Congress.



**ארצה • ARZA**  
**ASSOCIATION OF REFORM**  
**ZIONISTS OF AMERICA**

An Affiliate of the Union for Reform Judaism

Because of ARZA's success in 1997 and 2002 at the WZC, huge financial and political resources were secured by Reform Judaism in Israel.

Registration to vote will be explained at Sinai's High Holiday services.  
Your vote really can make a difference.

## **76--88**

### **There is a NEW Sinai “Code” for Friday Evening Service Times**

We've made a CHANGE.

We're experimenting with new service times.

On the first Friday of every month STARTING THIS SEPTEMBER, we'd like to help families with young children. Come pray at 7:00 p.m. (instead of 7:30 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!

### **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.

### **Put Your Toe in the Water**

**or**

**Just Try Torah Study Once**

**And You'll Like It! Starting**

**Saturday, September 10 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. We read the Torah Portion of the week, proceeding through the Torah in order in English. Everyone at any level of knowledge is welcome.

### **Monthly Morning Service Wednesday, September 7 at 7:30 a.m.**

A chance to start your day with a different focus. We meet on the bimah for a service of 20 minutes. Breakfast follows. The feeling of togetherness is wonderful. 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 5, November 2, December 7, January 4, February 1, March 1, April 5, May 3, and June 7. 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 8 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 6, November 3, December 1, April 6, May 4, and June 1.

### **Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah:**

#### **Last Chance to Join Our New Class Starting Saturday, September 10 at 8 a.m.**

Dear Congregants:

As many of you know, it has been my privilege to work with three groups of men and women who have chosen to become Bar/Bat Mitzvah as adults. I think each group of learners will tell you we had a wonderful time together. We were not attempting to become Harvard graduates. We were only attempting to grow and explore ourselves as Jews. If

you are at all interested in joining our fourth group of learners, this is your chance. Please contact me. No commitments. Just call and we can see if it's right for you.

Rabbi Shapiro

### **The Great Shofar Blast Sunday, September 25, 2005, 1:30 p.m.**

**Marsh's Rest Gazebo, Forest Park**

Join together with the Greater Springfield Jewish community for one incredible communal shofar blowing. Sign up TODAY by calling Cantor Mekler and you can receive your own genuine shofar, free of charge! (One per household, please.) You can also bring your own shofar from home and be a part of The Blast or just come and be a part of the audience! Everyone is welcome, families and people of all ages. No previous knowledge is necessary.

In preparation for The Blast, there will be training sessions at Sinai on September 11 and September 18. Please contact the Cantor for more info.

You can also contact Israela Kahan at the Jewish Federation for more information and to reserve your shofar (737-4313 x138 or ikahan@jewishspringfield.org).

*A program of the Jewish Federation of Greater Springfield sponsored by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.*

## **President's Message**

**Steve Weiss**

Greetings! As many of you know, in June I accepted the nomination for President of the congregations. While I know many of you, I thought in my first message I ought to tell you a little bit about myself, and how my "Jewish Journey" led me to Sinai, and why I'm honored to accept this responsibility.

My wife Carol and I moved to Longmeadow in 1986, when I entered private practice as a lawyer in Springfield. Like many members of the congregation, we joined Sinai when our oldest child, Eric, reached school age. He, Rachel and Matthew have all become B'nai Mitzvah at Sinai, have worked in the religious school, and have gone through confirmation. But while we initially joined for the sake of our children, Sinai quickly became important to Carol and me, too. We found spiritual and intellectual nourishment that had been missing in our lives. Carol eventually converted to Judaism. The Sinai community welcomed us, and many members of the congregation are now our close friends. In short, Sinai quickly became a major part of our lives, and we've been enriched by being part of the Sinai "family."

As I begin my two years as President, I'm really excited, because this is an exciting time for Sinai

Temple. We've hired a long time congregant, Sheila Shear, is our new religious school director. Rabbi Shapiro and Cantor Mekler provide wonderful spiritual and musical leadership, our board and committees are active, and our temple is a hub of activity. We have countless members who contribute to synagogue life in ways large and small. Next year is Sinai's 75th anniversary, and plans are underway for a series of events to commemorate the occasion.

We're also blessed with a strong Executive Committee: Dave Roberts, First Vice President; Roberta Hillenberg-Gang and Elliot Greenberg, Vice Presidents; Ann Jacobs, Secretary; Alan Gorfin, Treasurer; and Roberta Steingart, Financial Secretary.

Does Sinai face challenges for the future? Of course it does. Our congregation, like many in American Judaism, is experiencing some decrease in size, which in turn can create financial uncertainty. Over the course of the next year, we're going to try to learn in more detail the reasons why, and what we can do to reverse this trend. Fortunately, with our clergy and our board, we're well positioned to meet these challenges.

As the summer ends and the High Holidays approach, I'm looking forward to seeing all my friends and making many new ones.

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**CLUB HEY – VAV  
A NEW SOCIAL/RECREATIONAL  
PROGRAM  
FOR SINAI TEMPLE'S FIFTH AND SIXTH  
GRADERS  
FIRST SESSION  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2**

**WATCH YOUR MAIL FOR DETAILS!**

***AdoptionLink\****

***Adoption or the Teen Years:***

***Which Is It and How Can You Tell?***

*Tuesday, September 20, 2005 7:00 - 8:30 PM*

*Jewish Community Center*

*1160 Dickinson Street*

*Springfield, MA*

*Adoptive parents sometimes wonder what to expect in the teen years. They may be confused by what they hear from other adoptive families. Come learn and share about typical teen behaviors*

*and the possible impact of adoption.*

*This program is free, but RSVP is requested by September 16.  
Please call 413-737-2601 or email [s.phillips@jfswm.org](mailto:s.phillips@jfswm.org)*

## Welcome back to another great year of Brotherhood events at Sinai!

Let's have a glance at the calendar of upcoming events, shall we?

In October we will be having our annual Sukkot festivities. This year it will be on Saturday, October 1st, but that was as close as we could get with such a busy calendar. More details to follow.

November 12th will be our annual raffle. Buy your tickets early, because with the great prizes we've been accumulating they are bound to sell out fast! This year, we have dozens of gift certificates to restaurants and we have added Mohegan Sun as one of our prizes. There are so many prizes that the odds of winning something have increased dramatically!

We have a breakfast planned for December 11th, but as of this writing the speaker is not confirmed. I'll make sure that everyone knows in advance, but as usual, you can be sure that it will be interesting.

January 8th, Brotherhood is honored to kick off the 75th anniversary of the Synagogue with a breakfast. We will be featuring a local historian, so I expect a large turn out!

March 31st will be the annual Snyder award dinner. It's not too early to start thinking about who would be a good candidate to receive this honor.

In May we are going to have a new event; a plant sale. This will mostly be done by pre-ordering the plants. We will be getting the plants directly from a local grower, and they are certain to be of the highest quality. Those of you that have children in the religious school can expect to get order forms in February. Proceeds from this sale will benefit the religious school.

There will, of course, be many more events that the Brotherhood will be involved in. We will be cooking our now famous hot dogs at a number of functions, but that isn't all we do, as I am sure that you are aware. A portion of every dollar that we raise goes to the Jewish Chautauqua Society to benefit Jewish education and so many other things. What the Chautauqua Society does would take a whole series of articles to explain, and I will try to expand on details every month, space willing.

Our membership drive is in full swing. Even if you don't have the time to participate in a Brotherhood event, your \$40.00 membership goes a long way in help-

ing the Brotherhood. Do all that you see, and all the behind the scenes work that is so essential to Jewish life. If you have already joined, thank you. If you haven't yet, what's keeping you?

Let me know your thoughts. Give me a call. Drop me a line. Leave an anonymous note in our mailbox....

Dan Cohn  
dcohn@sinaibrotherhood.org



Do you know of someone who misses out on Services because they are physically unable to attend? It is 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 have made this wonderful opportunity available to you.

This service is free of charge to members and is not limited to the High Holidays but it can also be used to listen in on any service (i.e Bar/ Bat Mitzvah, wedding or funeral) that Rabbi Shapiro leads from the bima.. This is just another way that the Caring Community is reaching out to our members. If you want more information on this wonderful service, please call Karen Mernoff at 736-3619 ext.13.



**Sheila Shear, Director of Education**

Shalom Chaverim,

It has been an exciting and busy summer preparing for the opening of school. Opening days for Hebrew school will be Tuesday and Thursday, September 6 and 8 respectively and religious school will begin on Sunday, September 10.

It is wonderful to be part of the Sinai Temple professional staff, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rabbi Shapiro, Cantor Mekler and the office staff for their warm welcome. I would also like to extend a special thanks to Karen Mernoff who has not only welcomed me warmly but has also been a tremendous help and support during this time of transition. I look forward to working with them all, as well as the fabulous teaching staff, over the coming months, to give the children of Sinai Temple the roots of what I hope will be, for them, a life long journey of Jewish learning.

Just as the secular education of children is a partnership between the children themselves, parents, and the school, so too, is their religious education. I would like parents to understand that we consider you a vital partner in the religious education of your children, and that we welcome and need your support, presence, and participation.

This year there will be some of our favorite standard programming, some slightly adjusted, and some brand new programming in which I encourage you to participate. I will shortly be announcing a new program for our fifth graders, some special Shabbat and Sunday programs, and am inviting parents of students with special needs to meet together, with me, on Sunday, Sep-

## **One + One = Three? New Staff Positions at Sinai Temple**

### **Welcome to Sheila Shear, Director of Education**

We are very pleased to welcome Sheila Shear to Sinai Temple as our new Director of Education. Sheila will be working 30 hours per week as she undertakes guiding and shaping our school into the future. She will be working hand-in-hand with Rabbi Shapiro and Karen Mernoff, whose role as Program Director will be expanded to include certain administrative aspects of the Religious School. (See below.)

### **Welcome to Karen Mernoff, Program Director**

We are very pleased to welcome Karen Mernoff back to Sinai in the role of Program Director - a role which she first assumed several years ago.

Karen's job as Program Director has been refined and expanded for the coming year so that she will be with us 25 hours per week.

Continuing her connection with the Religious School, Karen will be responsible for various administrative aspects of the school. For example, she will be organizing such programs as Bagels and Blocks, Club Alef/Bet, and Club Gimmel/Dalet. This coming year Karen will also be creating a brand new program for Fifth and Sixth Graders called Club Hey/Vav.

Beyond Religious School, Karen will be providing support to three committees: Caring Community, Shalom, and a newly formed Fund Raising Committee.

Karen will also be coordinating Alumni programs and general volunteer outreach.

With the creation of these new positions at Sinai, we look forward to a good year of change and renewal. Welcome to both Sheila and Karen.

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tember 25th to discuss how we are doing, and how we can improve practice to better meet the needs of our students who encounter challenges in their learning.

I am looking forward to being a part of the future at Sinai Temple, working with, learning with, and being with, friends old and new. Please don't hesitate to come by and see me or contact me with your questions, concerns, ideas, or just to say hello.

B'Shalom  
Sheila Shear

## **Introducing Our New Director of Education: Sheila Shear**

We welcome Sheila Shear to Sinai Temple's staff. Sheila has become our Religious School Director as of June 1, 2005

Sheila comes to the new position with many years of experience and education. From 1997 through June of 2005, she was the Director of Secular Studies at Lubavitcher Yeshiva Academy in Longmeadow, Mass. In this role she was responsible for curriculum development, coordinating and overseeing special services, faculty supervision and professional development. She was also involved with long range planning. She also directed the Early Childhood Program at Yeshiva Academy.

Sheila is an instructor at Holyoke Community College in Early Childhood Education. She was the music specialist at the Jewish Community Center summer camp for two summers. She holds a Masters in Education from Westfield State College.

Sheila is a member of Sinai Temple. She and her husband, Barry, have three children, Joshua, Michael, and Stefanie. Each of the children attended Sinai Temple Religious School and was confirmed in Tenth Grade.

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## **If Your Child Became A Bar or Bat Mitzvah Before 2003...**

Dear Former Bar/Bat Mitzvah Parents,

Do you remember your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah speech about the person whose name and memory he or she carries?

In many cases, the "name" speech is one of the most powerful parts of our Sinai Bar/Bat Mitzvah services. In fact, I believe there is a wealth of history and meaning in the speeches that have been given since my arrival at Sinai in Fall 1988.

That is why I would like to collect as many of these speeches as possible. I am writing you this letter to ask if you can find your child's speech and if you would send me a copy of that speech.

We may simply combine all the speeches and place them into the archives of the Temple. On the other hand, there may be some interesting research for me to do and some interesting conclusions that I might create in the shape of an article or a brief essay.

I would so much appreciate hearing from you. Please try to find your child's speech. You can either mail or fax it to me at the Temple. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mark Dov Shapiro

## **Just a Few Words from Karen Mernoff**

It's September again and I'm back in full swing in my job at Sinai Temple but what is my job you may ask. Good question. Once again, I am the program director of Sinai Temple. Now that the Religious School is in good hands with Sheila Shear, I can go back to my original job of program director (Thank you to Diane Friedberg who held this position in my absence)

I will be working closely with various Sinai committees (Caring Community, Shalom, and Fundraising), and I will be looking for volunteers. I will be calling many of you to ask you to join a committee, help out on one event or help out a fellow congregant. Please do not dread my phone calls. I know everyone's time is limited. Putting together a family's schedule is like putting together a jigsaw puzzle. We hope that everything that we have to do can fit into the day. I know that certain times of the year are worse than others. So.....when I call, you can say "no" when days are just too hectic but then again, think about saying "yes" when you can. All of these committees are set up by the members of Sinai for the members of Sinai.

Of course, sometimes I will call not just to ask you to volunteer, I will be calling parents to encourage them to register children for Club Alef-Bet (for first and second graders) and Club Gimel-Dalet (for third and fourth graders), our social programs held on various Sundays throughout the school year. This year, we are excited to announce a new program for fifth and sixth graders. Of course, we have named it --- Club Hey Vav. These programs are so important for your children. Over the years, we have seen a sense of community develop among those who have attended these programs.

Speaking of your children, I cannot forget the youngest ones.....Bagels and Blocks, our wonderful program for pre-schoolers and their parents will once again take place on five Sundays during the school year. Please remember to spread the word about this program which is for members as well as nonmembers.

If you have any new ideas for a program, want to volunteer for a program or just have questions about a program, please feel free to call me at Sinai at 736-3619 ext. 13 or e-mail me at [dkmernoff@comcast.net](mailto:dkmernoff@comcast.net).



In 1931, Helen and Samuel G. Simons led a group of about 30 young newly married couples to form a Reform Congregation. In spite of the difficult economic times during the depression, and rejection from many in the Jewish community, the founders persevered and Sinai Temple was chartered on October 1, 1937. During the 1930's, Jewish life flourished at Sinai Temple. Services were held in congregants' homes, a Sunday school was started, and a choir formed. In 1939 a residence at 188 Sumner Avenue in Springfield was purchased for the Temple containing a sanctuary, a general hall, and three classrooms.

# Sinai Temple

## Have You Got A Picture From Sinai's Past?

In the next few months we will begin to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Sinai Temple, which was founded in 1931 by Samuel G. Simons and his two brothers, Abe and Saul.

# 75

## ANNIVERSARY

Each month in the bulletin we will include a historical "look back" at Sinai through the years. If you have pictures you would like to share with us, please contact the Temple office.

Thank you,

Judy Cohen & Esta Sobe

In 1947 Rabbi Herman Eliot Snyder came to Sinai Temple.



# **HAVE YOU REGISTERED YOUR CHILD FOR SINAI TEMPLE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL YET? It's not too late!!!!!!!!!**

Hebrew School starts on  
Tuesday, September 6 and Thursday, Sept. 8

Religious School starts on Sunday, September 11

Kehillah, our community program for Grades 8 and 9  
starts on Tuesday, September 13

**If you need a registration form or would just like more information,  
please call the Sinai Temple Religious School Office at 736-3619 ext. 15.**

## **Bagels & Blocks**

### **A Program For Pre-schoolers And Their Parents**

#### **First Session:**

**Sunday, September 25**

**9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**

#### **INVITE ALL YOUR FRIENDS!**

**This program is open to Sinai members and  
non-members.**

**Please call Karen Mernoff at 736-3619 ext. 13  
to let her know if you can attend**

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## **Club Alef-Bet**

### **The Social/Recreational Program for Sinai Temple's First and Second Graders**

#### **First Session**

**Sunday, October 2  
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Watch your mail for details!**

## **Help Requested in Mitzvah Project**

My name is Samantha Dahl. When I was 9 years old, I was diagnosed with Ulcerative Colitis, which is also known as inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) a gastrointestinal illness. I am now 13 years old, an eighth grader at Glenbrook Middle School and am preparing for my Bat Mitzvah on August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

For my mitzvah project, I am, with my parents, helping to coordinate the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation's Heel to Heal Walk that is to take place in Forest Park on Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at 10:00 in the morning. I hope Temple members, their friends and family to join us and be part of the **Party Poopers Team**. You can register on line at [www.ccfa.org](http://www.ccfa.org). Follow the links to **Chapters and Events**, then **CCFA Walks**, then to **Springfield, MA**, and finally to the **Party Poopers Team**. All donations will go toward research, education and support in order to help find a cure for these diseases. If you have any questions, please call my mom, Lisa Dahl @ 567-4089.

## **Rummage Sale November 20 – November 22**

Look in your closets. Look under the bed. Then bring your rummage to the back door of the Temple. We're collecting clothes (and most other stuff as well). Your rummage is welcome. If you can VOLUNTEER a day or even 10 minutes, please let the office know.

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

Dear Sinai Families -

If you are in Grade 8, 9, or 10 this Fall of September 2005, I have a wonderful announcement and invitation for you. When school vacation in December 2007 comes around, 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

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## **She Inspired Mike Myers Now, She's Coming to Inspire You**

Linda Richman, Mike Myers' Real Life Mother-in-Law and the Inspiration for Saturday Night Live's "Coffee Talk" is Coming to Springfield

The Solomon Schechter Day School of the Pioneer Valley and the Springfield Jewish Community Center will present "An Evening with Linda Richman," Monday, September 19th, 7:00 p.m., at CityStage in Springfield.

Linda will present her uplifting, hilarious and life-changing point of view in an evening guaranteed to change your perspective on this sometimes-unfair world. You'll hear amazing stories and discover new strategies such as how to throw a pity party, and other creative grieving tips as portrayed in her book entitled, *I'd Rather Laugh: How to Be Happy Even When Life Has Other Plans for You*.

Linda Richman is, by her own account, a summa cum laude graduate of the School of Hard Knocks. A certified grief counselor, Linda helps people put laughter back into their lives. She speaks from the heart - and from the funny bone. She helps others by sharing her own incredible story of tragedies and triumphs.

Tickets to An Evening With Linda Richman can be purchased through CityStage, (413) 788-7033. Balcony seats are \$27 and General Admission seats are \$36. Special admission seating, including a dessert reception, is also available by calling the Springfield JCC, (413) 739-4715, or SSDSPV, (413) 584-6622.

## **What's up in SPFTY**

**Your favorite High School Youth Group in the Universe  
By Elyssa Auerbach**

Hi. My name is Elyssa Auerbach and I am the new president of SPFTY for the 2005-2006 school year. SPFTY is a Jewish youth group, affiliated with NFTY, for high school teens. We are looking forward to an exciting year. A few changes are going to occur this year, including all-member SPFTY meetings rather than solely board meetings and, hopefully, monthly activities. (We would love to have your input on what types of activities you would like!) Our new board members were installed in the spring and we are pleased to have a mix of current and new faces on the board.

- ◆ Elyssa Auerbach: President
- ◆ Mike Nathan: Executive Vice President/NFTY-NE Representative
- ◆ Dana Peck: Programming Vice President
- ◆ Scott Pascal: Religious and Cultural Vice President
- ◆ Maddy Miller: Social Action Vice President
- ◆ Joe Thomas: Membership Vice President
- ◆ Ricky Sobe: Secretary/Tenth Grade Representative

Please also join me in welcoming back our SPFTY advisor, Alex Bricker. With the help, support, and enthusiasm of all SPFTY members, I am sure we will have a great, fun-filled year. If you ever have any questions or thoughts, please e-mail either myself at misselyss@yahoo.com or Alex at advisor@spfty.com.

## **Mazal Tov to...**

Mazal Tov to Jim and Barbara Sadowsky on the engagement of their daughter, Margo, to Sam Tucker.

Paul and Marsha Rothschild on the birth of their granddaughter, Zoe Isabelle. The proud parents are Jason and Rachel Rothschild

Judy and Mike Cohen on the birth of their grandson, Kaleb Triber Cohen, born to their children, Jon and Dorothy Cohen.

Edna Simons on the birth of her great-grandson, Kaleb Triber Cohen, born to her grandchildren, Jon and Dorothy Cohen.

Paul Rothschild on being named president-elect of the Hampden County Bar Association.