



# Sinai Temple Bulletin

*Take Back Your Time:  
Rediscover Shabbat*

September 2013  
Elul 5773/Tishri 5774

## For Your Consideration

*Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro*

I like to note anniversaries. It's a way of keeping track, a way of maintaining a sense of history. Remembering the past gives depth to the present.

In that spirit, I'm very much aware of the fact that 60 years ago in 1953 the Korean War reached a kind of conclusion, two climbers made it to the top of Mount Everest, and, among other things, the first James Bond novel (!) was published in England.

Go back 50 years and you arrive at the Dr. King's historic "dream" speech which came only months before the tragic assassination of President Kennedy.

Look back 25 years and you arrive in 1988 when the Soviets withdrew their army from Afghanistan and the Iran-Iraq War of eight years duration came to a close. That same year George H.W. Bush became president. Prozac became the leading pharmaceutical for treating depression. A NASA scientist testified before the Senate that global warming was the result of human activities. Microsoft introduced Windows 2.1.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed out the year at 2168. And a gallon of gas cost 91 cents.

And, by the way, in the Fall of 1988, our journey as Rabbi and congregation began. To be exact, I officially became Rabbi of Sinai Temple on November 1, 1988, which means that this is the 25th time you and I have partnered to encounter the High Holidays.

We've grown. We have seen and done a great deal together. Technology, politics, and culture have moved along too. And yet, some things never change. The great questions we asked in 1988 are still relevant: Are we living lives that matter? What makes for a good life? Can we do better? Is there hope? 25 years ago (as well as 50 and 500 years ago) these questions have brought our people to the synagogue every autumn. When the days grow shorter and the sun starts to set earlier, something beckons us. We know there is business to be done – business that has to do with our hearts and souls and our lives' purpose.

What an honor it is has been to ask such questions with you over the years. I look forward as always to the drama, the energy, and the spirit that arise when we meet.

We do have business to do in this 25th New Year season. It will be serious and soulful, but also a great joy to do it together again.

## Friday Evenings

**September 6 at 6:00 p.m.**

Shabbat Shuva  
Kabbalat Shabbat in between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. A beautiful brief service. Come early for veggies and snacks. Home by 7 p.m.

**September 13 at 8:00 p.m.**

Kol Nidre – Details on Page Two.

**September 20 at 7:30 p.m.**

We have entered Sukkot. Time for a very sweet Shabbat.

**September 27 at 7:30 p.m.**

Shabbat Shalom. A "regular" Shabbat service. 5774 has begun!

## Every Saturday Morning Starting September 7

**Services at 10:30 a.m.**

### Mazal Tov to our Bat Mitzvah

September 28 – Sarah Metsch, daughter of Jennifer and Adam Metsch.

## Can SIX Words Change the World:

**Our Annual Pre-High Holiday Coffeehouse  
Saturday, August 31 from 8 to 9:30 p.m.**

**With Cantor, Rabbi, Music, and Desserts**

Legend has it that Ernest Hemingway was once challenged to write a six-word story and came up with, "For Sale: baby shoes, never worn."

Inspired by Hemingway's story, we will think in "six word phrases" as we prepare for the Jewish New Year. Can we capture the story of this last year in six words? Can we make promises or plans for the New Year in six words?

A challenge for thinking, creative, wordy, sometimes comic, ironic Jewish hearts and souls.

The evening will feature conversation, prayers and melodies for Selichot plus refreshments.

**Message from Jeff Cossin**  
*Temple President*

On a very warm Saturday afternoon in July I was explaining to my son Zev, still suspicious of institutional and organizational religion, why Sinai Temple and Temple Beth El are embarking on a journey to potentially create a new vision for Jewish education which will engage the imagination of students and families. He wonders why each of the world's religions "forces" their children to study their religion only and not let them choose the one that they want, if any at all. I unabashedly agreed with him that Sinai Temple and his parents strongly want him and all of Sinai's children to be committed Jews by creating such a compelling joyous, spiritual, and intellectual experience that they would never even think or want to be anything but Jewish.

During these two weeks in July and August he was immersed in Judaism first participating in the graduation of his sister Elizabeth from the Yeshiva University in Manhattan and then by celebrating Shabbat with candles, wine, challah, and the blessing of our children with the Priestly Benediction. This was followed by the Aufruf of his sister and her future husband during a community Shabbat morning service led by Rabbi Shapiro and Cantor Levson. We then attended a Jewish funeral and throughout the weeks he heard about and participated in joyous Jewish experiences including the wedding, the month of Elul and daily Shofar blowing all leading up to the High Holidays. We then had a debate about how I could celebrate Sukkot with a Men of Sinai Sukkah in my back yard!

I am proud to be Jewish and to be president of our congregational community. I am excited about our 2013-2014 year and all of the opportunities which are being created so that each of us can experience and enjoy a compelling Jewish life. Read about these in this bulletin and October's bulletin and study our Seven Priorities which will guide us this year. The Sinai 2015 Planning Group is making steady progress and the joint Sinai Temple - Temple Beth El educational Task Force is being created and will be doing very important work.

At all levels Sinai Temple is planning for an exciting future. I would encourage all of you to become involved and to respond enthusiastically when you are asked to help. Immerse yourself in the spirituality of Sinai Temple and be a partner in our Sacred Community.

May this New Year be a joyous and healthy one for your family and our entire Community.

L'Shana Tova, Jeff Cossin

The Sinai Temple Bulletin is published every other month by Sinai Temple, Springfield, Massachusetts. This is Issue Number 1 for the year 2013-2014.

- Mark Dov Shapiro .....Rabbi
- Martin Levson .....Cantor
- Heather Sullivan .....Director of Education
- Matt Bertuzzi .....Youth Director
- Jeff Cossin .....President
- Bruce Leshsine .....First Vice President
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- Susanne Simon .....Financial Secretary
- Buff Maniscalco .....Recording Secretary
- Phil Lesser .....President, Men of Sinai
- Ron Weiss .....Cemetery Chair
- Karen Mendelsohn .....Membership Committee Chair

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

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

**High Holidays 2013-5774**

**Can SIX Words Change the World:**

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Inspired by Hemingway's story, we will think in "six word phrases" as we prepare for the Jewish New Year. Can we capture the story of this last year in six words? Can we make promises or plans for the New Year in six words? Here's a challenge for thinking, creative, wordy, sometimes comic, ironic Jewish hearts and souls.

**Erev Rosh Hashanah**

**Wednesday, September 4**

Evening Service at 8:00 p.m.

**Rosh Hashanah Day**

**Thursday, September 5**

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

(For families with children infant to 7 yrs.)

Congregational Service .....10-12:15 p.m.

(Childcare & program 10-12:15 p.m.)

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

**Cemetery Memorial Service**

**Sunday, September 8 at 1:00 p.m.**

At the Sinai Temple Cemetery

**Kol Nidre**

**Friday, September 13 at 8 p.m.**

**Yom Kippur Day**

**Saturday, September 14**

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 .....4:45 p.m.

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

Break Fast .....6:15 p.m.

**Welcome to New Members:**

Wendy and Steven Corvin and their children  
 Michael, Melissa, and Benjamin.

# Sinai Temple High Holiday 2013 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.

## 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.**

## 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 Levson lead from the bimah.



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



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This is not an offering, which can be made only by prospectus. Read the prospectus carefully before investing to fully evaluate the risks associated with investing in State of Israel bonds. Issues subject to availability. Photos: ©stockphoto.com

## Notes about the HOLIDAYS

### Prayers and Blessings for Your Home

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur begin at home with family meals. Your meal can become more than a pleasant dinner by making into a sacred occasion with the appropriate blessings for the holidays. Our website has everything you need in English, Hebrew, and transliteration. [www.sinai-temple.org](http://www.sinai-temple.org)

### Music for Your Home

High Holiday melodies that appear in our services are now available on the website. Listen and learn! [www.sinai-temple.org](http://www.sinai-temple.org)

### For Young Families

#### Rosh Hashanah Morning at 8:30 a.m.

If you have children 7 years and younger down to infancy, we've got something special for you in the Magen David Room. Come join the Rabbi and Cantor for a service designed to meet your young family's needs. We'll be sitting in a circle of chairs. Apples and honey will close the service around 9:15 a.m.

#### ONE Rosh Hashanah Morning Service

10:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

As was the case last year, there will be ONE morning service starting like Yom Kippur at 10 a.m. and ending at lunch time (!) around 12:15 p.m.

### 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. We would also like to offer babysitting for infants IF there is real interest. Please contact the Temple office to reserve a spot for your child... 736-3619. We will hire babysitters based on the prior reservations.

### Child Programming for Grades One & Two

An age appropriate program for children in Grades 1 and 2 will be available during the 10 a.m. services on Rosh Hashanah morning and Yom Kippur morning. Please contact the Temple office to reserve a spot for your child...736-3619.

### Children in Grades Three & Four

On Yom Kippur morning, we will be offering a service/program, 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.

### Children in Grades Five & Six (PLEASE NOTE)

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.

If you have young children (7 years and younger down to infancy), we've got something for you in the Magen David Room. A relatively brief service for the Day of Atonement. PLUS if you've got the energy, bring your kids back (all ages) to the Neilah/Concluding Service. Be there around 6:15 p.m. Noise is welcome. We'll end the whole day by inviting all children present onto the bimah for a final blast of the shofar.

### 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 bimah flowers for special occasions please be considerate of allergy-sufferers and order only non-scented arrangements.

### Visiting the Sinai Temple Cemetery

It is traditional to visit the cemetery during the High Holiday period. Temple members with loved ones buried at Sinai's cemetery are welcome to visit the cemetery for a service conducted by the Rabbi and Cantor on Sunday, September 8. PLEASE NOTE...In previous years this service has taken place at 2 p.m. **THIS YEAR'S SERVICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT 1:00 p.m.**

**Tashlich – For Everyone –  
An Outdoor  
Rosh Hashanah Celebration!**  
**With kids...without kids...with grandchildren!**  
**September 5 at 4:30 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. It's Rosh Hashanah in jeans and with a large smile. We sing. Share original prayers and poems. Taste 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, Thursday, September 5 at 4:30 p.m.

# **Celebrating 25 Years Together: Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro and Sinai Temple October 25-26, 2013**

25 years has gone by since Sinai and Rabbi Shapiro began the connection that has meant so much to all of us. That is why we are coming together for a wonderful celebration. It's time to reminisce, reconnect, learn, and have a party.

## **Behind Closed Doors: What rabbis talk about when they think congregants aren't listening!** Shabbat Service Friday, October 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Many of us first met Rabbi Shapiro on Friday, November 4, 1988 at his first service. We'll have a gala service to launch the weekend complete with several of Rabbi Shapiro's closest friends in the rabbinate. No sermon. The five rabbis will have an unscripted, open conversation about life in the rabbinate.



## **Speed Torah: What's your favorite bit of Torah in the whole wide world?** Shabbat Morning with Luncheon Saturday, October 26 from 9 to 11 a.m.

Neither a typical Torah Study nor a typical Service, this will be unlike anything we've ever done at Sinai. We will start with what looks like a standard service, but then comes the fun. Our guest rabbis will each offer a ten minute presentation on their favorite text of Torah. It will be "speed" Torah. How much learning (and humor) can you fit into ten minutes? Lunch follows.

## **Gala Celebration** Saturday evening, October 26 at 7 p.m.

Our weekend will culminate with a festive dinner. Invitations will be mailed after Rosh Hashanah. With limited seating available, prompt RSVP's will be necessary

## **SUKKOT & SIMCHAT TORAH 5774**

### **EREV SUKKOT**

Wednesday, September 18 at 6:30 p.m.  
Outdoors with Gourds and Corn Stalks

For parents and students Kindergarten through Grade 7. We'll meet outdoors to decorate the sukkah followed by our Festival Service with lulav, etrog, and apples. Everyone goes home by 7:30 p.m.

### **SUKKOT DAY**

Thursday, September 19 at 10:30 a.m.

Lulav and etrog. Kiddush in the sukkah followed by holiday luncheon.

### **EREV SIMCHAT TORAH**

Wednesday, September 25  
At 7:00 p.m.

Conclude the reading of Torah. Start all over. March and dance with our Torah scrolls.

### **SIMCHAT TORAH/YIZKOR SERVICE**

Thursday, September 26 at 10:30 a.m.

Mark the conclusion and beginning of the Torah cycle and also conduct a memorial service. Luncheon to follow.

**The Caring Community  
of Sinai Temple  
cordially invites you to attend  
A Holiday Luncheon  
And Film  
for Sinai Senior Members  
Thursday, September 26 at Noon**

*(Following the Simchat Torah/Yizkor  
Morning Service)*

The luncheon will include the showing of an Israeli film entitled *The Rabbi's Daughter*. The film narrates the unexpected life experiences of three Jerusalem women whose fathers happen to be major Orthodox luminaries!

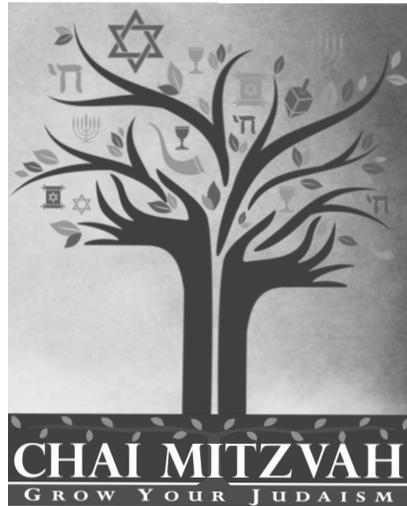
**There is no charge for this wonderful program.  
Please RSVP to the Temple Office at 736-3619**

## **Searching for Godot?**

Not exactly, but now you can "search" our website

Thanks to Howard Kalodner who has added a new capability on our website. Now you can search any word or topic. If it's there, you can find it immediately. Go look. Go search.

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



## **CHAI MITZVAH**

### **DESIGNED FOR WHERE YOU ARE IN YOUR LIFE**

**Chai Mitzvah is a learning/doing opportunity with five steps.**

1. Once a month study in a small group setting with either the Rabbi or Cantor. Topics will include Jewish perspectives on parent/child relationships, marriage, the quality of our friendships, the values of gratitude and mindfulness, the environment and more.
2. Choose one aspect of Jewish life you would like to learn. Read a novel by Saul Bellow or Philip Roth. Explore some aspect of the Torah. What lies behind the Israel-Palestinian conflict. Learn Hebrew.
3. Choose a social action project you would like to pursue. Volunteer at a soup kitchen, with a literacy project or a program offering support to people getting out of jail. Build with Habitat for Humanity. Tutor kids in an after-school program.
4. Choose a ritual you would like to engage. Perhaps you want to enhance your connection with Shabbat. Learn to bake challah. Explore spirituality. Discover some psalms that speak to you. Write your own prayers.
5. Together with your group in June 2014 celebrate how you and they have grown your Judaism in the preceding nine months. We will create our own "graduation event" marking your accomplishments.

#### **Orientation Session**

**Thursday, October 10 at 7 p.m.**

Rabbi and Cantor will offer an overview of the curriculum.

#### **Information & Registration**

For more information, call the Rabbi or Cantor. The cost for Chai Mitzvah is only \$50. Send your check to Sinai so that we can order materials for you. You can also register through the website. [www.sinai-temple.org](http://www.sinai-temple.org)

*(Although this year's Chai Mitzvah is designed for two specific age groups, there will be opportunities for others to participate in the future.)*

#### **Monthly Sessions**

**Sundays 9 to 10:30 a.m.**

**For Parents with a Grade 5-8 Child**

*November 3, December 15, January 5, February 2, March 9, April 13, May 4.*

#### **Monthly Sessions**

**Thursdays 7:30 to 9 p.m.**

**For Baby Boomers**

*November 14, December 12, January 9, February 20, March 13, April 10, May 8*

## Adult Opportunities

### **Got Hammers? Got Guts? Sunday, September 8 at 9:00 a.m. The Great Sukkah-Building Demo! You CAN build a Sukkah! And we'll show you how!**

*(At the beginning of the opening session  
of Religious School)*

Building a Sukkah is a fun Jewish activity for the entire family!  
The materials don't cost very much!  
You don't need to have great skill with power tools!  
PLUS Men of Sinai will do it for you this year if you wish.  
Come see how easy it is on September 8. You can do it yourself OR order from Men of Sinai. See the ad entitled SUKKAH SALE on Page 10.

### **Sinai Temple's Book Club: New Year...New Books**

**Wednesday October 2 - My Russian Grandmother and her American Vacuum Cleaner**, a memoir by Israeli novelist Meir Shalev. An entertaining but very rich look at his pioneer family's life founding and living on Israel's first moshav in the 1920's and '30's, a crucial period in the development of the State of Israel. **November and December** – As the Bulletin goes to press, we have not yet determined our Fall reading list. Books under consideration include Rashi's Daughter, a great view of medieval Jewish life through what is known about Rashi's life and family, Digging through the Bible Modern Archaeology and the Ancient Bible by Richard Freund who spoke at Sinai in 2012, or The Yiddish Policemen's Union by Michael Chabon, an imaginative view of what might have been if Jews had gone to Alaska in great numbers.

### **Torah Study Returns: Bagels & Brains Saturdays in September (and all year round) at 9 a.m.**

No guarantee on the brains, but the bagels are excellent and the conversation is open-ended and participatory. If you want to touch base with Judaism's basics, Torah Study is for you. New-comers welcome. No prior knowledge necessary.

### **Monthly Morning Service**

**Starting Wednesday, October 2 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 2, November 6, December 4, January 8, February 5, March 5, April 2, May 7. *The Morning Minyan is underwritten through our Endowment Fund by a gift from the Family of Richard Lavin.*

### **Saturday Morning Services**

Every Saturday morning at 10:30 a.m. (Starting September 7)

A regular weekly Shabbat morning service. Even when there isn't a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, we meet at 10:30 a.m. complete with the Yahrzeit list.

### **Mak'hela Open Rehearsal The Jewish Chorus of Western Massachusetts**

**Tuesday, September 17 at 7:30 p.m.  
Lander-Grinspoon Academy (LGA Schechter)  
257 Prospect Street, Northampton**

Mak'hela performs diverse music from our Jewish heritage: classical traditional, sacred and secular music in Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino, and English.

Mak'hela rehearses every Tuesday evening at LGA Schechter, and performs throughout the Pioneer Valley. Prospective members are welcome. We seek choral singers for all voice parts.

For more information, contact Bonnie Mikesch, bpmikesh@comcast.net or 413-567-3297 or visit us online at [www.makhela.org](http://www.makhela.org)

### **The Annual Meeting of the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts**

**Monday, September 30 at 7:30 pm at Temple  
Beth El.**

The keynote speaker will be Rabbi Elie Kaunfer. Kaunfer is co-founder and executive director of Mechon Hadar. He is a young, dynamic, forward-thinking leader who will help us pass on the baton of leadership, and create a vision of how we can all be ready to take on leadership roles in our community.

### **UMass Hillel's Seventh Annual Ride to Provide**

**9, 18, or 36 Miles  
Sunday, October 6, 2013 at 9 a.m.**

A bike ride for all ages to support UMass Hillel. Choose different distances for the ride through Amherst and surrounding towns. New this year is a 5K Stride around the UMass campus. To register or donate, please visit <http://umass.hillel.org/ridetoprovide>. Questions, contact **Courtney Pupkin** at 508-297-2454. Cost - Students \$18; Individuals \$54; Families \$100



## Notes from the Cantor

In June I had the unique privilege of returning to Tulsa, OK, for a weekend celebrating Rabbi Charles and Nancy Sherman's 37(!) years of service to Temple Israel of Tulsa. One of Rabbi Sherman's favorite sayings was: "People often ask me, 'Rabbi, are the Holidays early or late this year?' I always tell them, 'Rosh Hashanah will begin on the 1st of Tishrei. It will be right on time, just like it is every year!'" So this year, while the High Holidays may seem early to us, they are, in fact, right on time!

You CAN build a Sukkah, and you SHOULD build a Sukkah! Last year, we had two Sinai families build Sukkot in their backyards for the first time! This year, we want even more people building Sukkot! Please join me on Sunday, September 8 at 9:00 A.M; at the opening session of Religious School, for the 2nd Annual Great Sukkah-Building Demo! Building a Sukkah is a fun activity for the entire family, it doesn't cost very much for the materials, and you don't need to have any great skill with power tools. Detailed plans and a handy "Sinai Sukkah Kit" shopping list are available on our Temple website. But for those Sinai members who might need a little extra help, you can pre-order a Sukkah from the Men of Sinai, and on Sunday, September 15, a crew of Men of Sinai and SPFTY folks will bring and assemble a Sukkah at your home! (Decorating it is up to you!) For more information about ordering your Sukkah, please see page 9. Make 5774 the year that you build a Sukkah at your home! It's a great Jewish thing to do!

Last year, I had the great honor of teaching four adults the sacred art of chanting Torah. A few people have spoken to me about possibly offering the class again this year. Provided there is sufficient interest, I would be glad to do so. The class would begin after the fall holidays, would meet (mostly) weekly over a period of about 10 weeks, and will culminate with the graduates chanting some verses of Torah during a Shabbat service. If you can "decode" Hebrew (reading letters and vowels, but not necessarily with comprehension), and would like to learn this sacred practice, please let me know soon that you would be interested! **If you are interested, please send me an e-mail and let me know, even if you have already told me over the summer.** Learn to chant Torah in 5774! It's an amazingly wonderful Jewish thing to do!

One of my favorite phrases at this time of the New Year is "*chadeysh yameinu kekedem*." The traditional translation of these words is: "renew our days as of old," but I prefer to interpretively translate them as: "Don't engage in cheap nostalgia, let's make these days the ones we will want to remember!" It is in that spirit that Sheri, Alec, Liz, Candy, and I wish our Sinai Temple family a "*Shana tova u' mitukah*," a good and a sweet New Year!

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

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## Message from Heather Sullivan

### *Director of Education*

At the close of the last school year, we celebrate our teachers with the annual Staff Appreciation Shabbat Service and Dinner. As I considered just how to address the people who work with our children each week, I realized, there was nobody more crucial in getting feedback from, than the students themselves. The responses I got from students were candid and heartwarming. Hearing what the students had to say, made me proud to work amongst a staff of such caring individuals.

Following that special night, Mrs. Kleiman, who teaches grade 6 on Sunday, asked her class of students to write down what Sinai Temple means to them. Some students wrote briefly, others had a lot to say. I want to share a few of their responses.

"Sinai means to me- a loving Jewish community, a learning atmosphere, and an encouraging place I can study to become a bat mitzvah."

"Sinai Temple means fun to me."

"Sinai is a place where I can interact and become friends with more Jewish kids. It's a community where I can celebrate AND learn about my religion."

"Sinai is a place for learning and caring. The teachers find fun ways to teach you about Jewish history and Hebrew. Everyone at Sinai is very accepting. They don't talk about sinning but more about the mitzvot."

What we offer our students at Sinai is a community- a community for learning, socialization, acceptance, thinking and growing. We all know the type of feelings conveyed by a community such as ours. It's like when you walk into the first day on the job and discover that the person in the cubical next to you is Jewish. It brings a certain sense of comfort and ease.

As one of our Confirmation students wrote so beautifully in her graduation speech this past May, "Judaism whispers to me- "welcome home"."

As the time approaches for the new school year to begin, I wanted to share all of these beautiful feelings, as conveyed by our student body. I look forward to seeing you all soon!

L'Shalom,  
Heather

## Reaching Out to College Students in our own Community

Friday, November 1

Sinai Temple would like to initiate a program with the area colleges spreading the good will, friendship, and especially the great cooking of our congregation to Jewish students studying locally. We are currently in discussions with the local colleges about inviting students to Shabbat dinners in our members' homes on **Friday, November 1**.

We know a couple of things about students. First, they are always looking for a great meal. Second, if they could find such a meal like one prepared by their mother, father or grandparent – that would be fabulous. Finally, at no added price, they get to meet great Sinai Jewish families willing to share the Jewish tradition of Shabbat.

Colleges are being contacted now and, as soon as the students get settled, we will have a better idea how many kids would like to participate in this program. **If you are interested in possibly feeding a student on Friday, November 1 and building new bridges of friendship, please contact Rich Friedman (richefriedman@yahoo.com) or Robin in the Temple office. 736-3619.**

## News from Sinai's Board of Trustees

*During each of the last four years, the Board of Trustees has focused its activities by identifying specific program priorities for the Temple. This coming year the Board has chosen to focus on seven areas of concern.*

1. Complete the Planning Group 2015 process
2. Continue to expand and improve our IT from website, to Facebook, E-vents, streaming services etc.
3. Build Community through social activities, possible community conversations, chavurot, and the efforts of the Caring Community Committee.
4. Grow committee participation, with special focus on the Committee for Youth Engagement
5. Focus on Baby Boomers, building upon the 2012-2013 focus groups
6. Increase public relations efforts
7. Explore new possibilities for the 21st century synagogue at the Board level by reading a number of recent publications on the changing Jewish world.

## More News from the Board

At its June Board meeting, our Board of Directors voted to engage in an exploratory conversation about the future shape of our Religious School. Following consultation with our Religious School Committee, Heather Sullivan Director of Education, and Rabbi Shapiro, the Board voted to create a task force that will explore the possibility of collaborating with Temple Beth El in order to create a new religious school enterprise. The goal is to create a new and outstanding religious school experience for our children.

To help us navigate the process, the two congregations

## A Community Shabbat Dinner

**A Shared Experience  
for the Jewish Community  
Sinai Temple  
Temple Beth El  
Congregation Bnai Torah**

*Friday, October 11*

At 6 p.m., Sinai and Beth El will worship together here at Sinai. At 7:00 p.m., Shabbat dinner will begin with all three congregations together at Sinai. Dinner will include an a cappella singing group.

Make your reservations now by mailing a check to Debbie Peskin c/o Jewish Federation, 1160 Dickinson Street, Springfield, MA 01108.

*\$20 per adult. \$10 per child 10 and under. \$54 max for a family.*

will be working with Sara Lee, an educational consultant and the former Director of the School of Education at Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles. Her work will begin after Yom Kippur with the goal of creating a working group consisting of nine representatives from Sinai plus nine representatives from Temple Beth El.

## And Good News for Sinai

Our Committee on Youth Engagement is pleased to announce that Sinai has hired a new Youth Director. Matt Bertuzzi, who grew up at Sinai and was confirmed at Sinai, will be leading our young people this coming year. Matt was a devoted youth grouper himself many years ago. He is now a High School music teacher with great talent and enthusiasm. Matt's parents are Joel and Betsy Bertuzzi.

## LEGACY WHAT WILL YOURS BE?

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

**There is an answer.**

With your help, Sinai Temple will endure as a powerful voice, sustaining those beliefs you hold dear. Now. And for future generations.

To obtain more information about remembering Sinai Temple in your will or estate, please contact: Steve Sussman or Rabbi Shapiro.

## Message from Philip Lesser

President, Men of Sinai

Welcome back from a hot and steamy summer. It has been an exciting and fast summer as the Men of Sinai have been planning upcoming events that will make this year like no other. We have again planned another busy year with several wonderful speakers, barbeques, and events like "Hockey and Havdallah," family night out at the movies, golf, and bowling. We start the year off with the first day of Sunday School BBQ, followed by a fantastic lineup of speakers. We are excited to present Dr. Suleiman Mourad, an expert on Israeli-Arab relations and Islam. In October, we are pleased to host Cantor Emily Meckler who will talk about health and spirituality. With programs like these, we are in for a terrific year.

Thank you to everyone who worked hard on planning this year's events. We look forward to seeing you all on the 8th of September for the Welcome Back Barbecue on the opening day of Religious School. Plan on picking up the kids and staying for some good food and fun!

Philip Lesser, President

Men of Sinai

# Sinai Sukkah Sale



For a **\$100** donation to Sinai Temple,

SPFTY and Men of Sinai will build a sukkah frame at your house suitable for decoration.

Sukkahs will be delivered and assembled on Sunday Sept. 15, "**Super Sukkah Sunday**" to set it up where ever you'd like.

A very limited number of Sukkah are available so place your order early. Contact temple office or Buff Maniscalco at [jodiman@comcast.net](mailto:jodiman@comcast.net) for orders or information.

## Men of Sinai Breakfast Speaker Series:

Sunday September 22nd marks the first of the 2013-2014 Men of Sinai Breakfast Speakers. This year we have a diverse line up of speakers.



### September 22nd - Dr. Suleiman Mourad

Professor of Religious Studies at Smith College, will be speaking about Arab/Israel relations. Dr. Mourad is originally from Lebanon but received his Ph.D from Yale University and

specializes in Medieval Islamic History. He is co-author, along with DR. Tamar Mayer, of the book *Jerusalem: Idea and Reality*.



### October 27th - Emily Sleeper Mekler

The Cantor of Temple Beth Hillel (former Cantor of Sinai Temple) is director of Your Healthy Palette. The title of her presentation will be

**"FEEDING THE TEMPLE OF**

**THE SOUL: Jewish Perspectives on Caring for our Bodies"** The presentation will involve a holistic approach to the Jewish concept of Shmirat HaGuf, guarding and caring for the gift of the body and life.

## Judaica Gift Shop Corner

We're back to our regular hours of Sunday mornings 9-12, and Tuesday afternoons 2-4:30, starting Sept. 1st.

However, with the High Holy days so early, we'll have extra openings to help you prepare: We'll be open Sun. 8/25 9-12 noon and Tues.8/27 and Thurs.8/28 From 2-4:30.

The shop has a lovely new display of tempered glass Challah boards, a special purchase of children's Zedakah boxes, New Year's cards, apple and honey servers and much,much more.

Our selection of tallisim for every taste is really great. *Do come in and browse.*

**Thais Fischel 786-9577**

# Sinai Temple Chavurah!

## What is a Chavurah?

A Chavurah is a group of approximately 12 to 16 Temple members who gather on a regular basis to share Jewish experiences, study, celebrate life and spend time together.

## Who can join?

All Temple members are invited to join. Just fill out the application and return it to the Temple office. The application can also be found at [www.sinai-temple.org](http://www.sinai-temple.org)

## Are there different kinds of Chavurot?

Chavurot may consist of families, individuals on their own, or couples. Some may be limited to a given age group. Other Chavurot can include a diverse cross-section of the congregation. One Chavurah may concentrate on Jewish study, while another may mostly celebrate and socialize.

## Who runs the Chavurah?

Each Chavurah will be autonomous. The Chavurah will organize its own leadership. There will be a Chavurah Coordinator. She will be receiving the applications and completing the matching process that will create the Chavurot. There is a Chavurah committee that will also make sure each group is running smoothly.

## Questions?

If you are interested, please contact the office. We'll get back to you with all your questions answered.

## Chavurah Application

Please fill in the information that best reflects you and return to the Temple office. This application can also be completed on the Temple website: [www.sinai-temple.org](http://www.sinai-temple.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Your Age (Circle)

Under 30 30-40 40-50 50-60 60-70 70-80 Over 80

### Children (if participating)

Name	Gender	Age
_____		
_____		
_____		

### Type of Chavurah (number in priority order)

- Family (including preschool and younger aged children)
- Family (including school aged children)
- Family (including teens and older children)
- Couples
- Singles
- Women only
- Men only
- Other (fill in)

### Number in your order of preference the following Chavurah activities:

- Study Discussions, e.g. Jewish history, values, Israel, etc
- Celebrations, e.g. Jewish holidays/ Shabbat
- Social, e.g. cooking, outdoors, crafts
- Social Action activities
- Other

**Would you feel comfortable hosting a chavurah gathering in your home?** Yes No (circle)

**If you were to create your own chavurah, what would its focus be?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Is there any other information that may be helpful in the matching process?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Sinai Temple Bulletin

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## Sinai Temple at URJ Camps!



### Crane Lake Campers 2013

Back row: Leah Burstein, Josh Lesser, Josh Feinberg, Cantor Martin Levson  
Front Row: Laura Burstein, Rachel Freedman, Margie Black, Jackie Frank  
(Not pictured: Jesse Cohen-Lindfors, 2nd session)



### Eisner Campers 2013

Back Row: Eric Gibson, Cantor Martin Levson, Celia Gibson  
Front Row: Hannah Wald, Rachael Maniscalco, Sammi Mustain, Sarah  
Metsch, Shoshana Maniscalco (Not Pictured: Maddy Cohen)