

Sinai Temple

BULLETIN



Take Back Your Time: Rediscover Shabbat

For Your Consideration

Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro

This is a "six week" bulletin (April 15 to May 31) - not the usual "monthly" bulletin. Actually, this is the third "six week" bulletin published this year.

We moved to the new format in order to save some money. Seven bulletins instead of ten this year.

Speaking of communication, since last year the Religious School has reduced snail mail by doing the majority of its communication electronically. And the Temple has been doing the same. Over the last few months, occasional e-mails have become the weekly "E-events" prepared by yours truly.

When it comes to these messages, my commitment is that we do our best to communicate only once a week and that the message also be brief. My hope is that, although we are reducing snail mail to save money, our electronic mail can be more than a mere replacement. E-mail may allow us to communicate even better than before.

But why should this matter? Why the concern about communication?

I think communication matters because we are trying to build a community. From the perspective of an individual congregant, it may not seem that way. You may read this bulletin or our E-events and feel we are basically trying to drag you to as many events as possible. The message seems to be - we want you!

To some extent, I'll admit that is true. It does feel better when 150 people attend an event as opposed to 75. But ultimately attendance isn't the issue. Community is what counts. Every month and every week we offer a variety of options from services to classes to concerts because there needs to be a place where the fullness of Judaism gets expressed.

For a moment, imagine Sinai Temple as a body. Our members literally form a large body of Jews (and non-Jews) with hundreds of interests, needs, and hopes. We're linked, however, because somehow 1100 Dickinson Street isn't just an address for us. It's the heart of our body. It's the place where Judaism beats most strongly. It's the place where we turn for celebration and sadness. It should be the place that reassures us every day we're connected to something bigger than any one individual or family. We've got roots. We've got a historic and holy connection to the deepest mysteries of life.

That's why I care about communicating with you. I care because I think we have a unique and precious purpose. Our message comes from the heart. The message comes from Sinai where the journey of the Jews had its great beginning.

APRIL AND MAY FRIDAY EVENING SERVICES

Roses and Romance at 7:30 p.m. April 16

Music and blessings to honor those with special wedding anniversaries in 2010.

Service with the Torah at 7:30 p.m. April 23

Take back your time. Refresh. Rabbi Shapiro will speak.

Service with the Torah at 7:30 p.m. April 30

Rediscover Shabbat. Rabbi Shapiro will speak.

Service with a Story at 7:00 p.m. May 7

Family Shabbat Dinner. Our service will include honoring our teachers plus blue and white cupcakes for Israel's birthday.

Kabbalat Shabbat at 6 p.m. May 14

62 years ago TODAY David ben Gurion proclaimed Israeli Independence. See Page Three for details on our celebration.

Service with a Band at 7:30 p.m. May 21

Guest musicians tonight will be musical ensemble, SABABA.

Service with the Torah at 7:30 p.m. May 28

Happy Long Weekend and Shabbat Shalom

Saturday Mornings Torah Study, Services and B'nai Mitzvah

Torah Study

Every Saturday Morning
Torah Study at 9:00 a.m.

Services

Service at 10:30 a.m.

Mazal Tov to B'nai Mitzvah

May 8 Brittany Engelman, daughter of Dan and Bonnie
May 15 Hannah Rubin, daughter of Rick and Cynthia
May 22 Andrew Katz, son of Steve and Phyllis
May 29 Allison Byrne, daughter of Lori Byrne and Jim Byrne

A Letter From The Presidents Of Our Community's Three Synagogues

Dear Friends:

We are very excited to inform you of a collaborative project that is about to be launched in our community. This project is intended to reach out to unaffiliated members of our Jewish Community in and encourage them to join one of our three synagogues.

By way of background, for the past few months the Rabbis and Lay leadership from Sinai Temple, Temple Beth El and Congregation B'Nai Torah, together with representatives from the Springfield Federation and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation have met on several occasions in an effort to develop a joint plan to recruit new members to our respective congregations. Specifically, the intended goal is to encourage individuals that have either left a synagogue sometime ago or have never been affiliated to become members.

What has developed from this collaborative effort is a series of community events which will take place over the next few months leading up to the High Holidays. These events will include several "Jewish Java" get-togethers at local coffee houses to meet and greet the Rabbis; a program for all ages called "Bagels, Books and Beyond"; and open house events at each of the synagogues. A special dues rate will be offered to these new members. Formal publicity of the initiative will be launched within the next few weeks.

We wanted to inform you in advance of the formal announcement in order to prepare you to "talk-up" the program to your Jewish friends and neighbors that are not affiliated with a synagogue. This project will only be successful if all our members work together promote it.

We wish to conclude by letting you know how excited we are about the collaboration. We are encouraged and believe that this is just the beginning of many programs that we can jointly support so that together we can build an even stronger Jewish Community in the Greater Springfield Area.

Jonathan Goldsmith, President of Temple Beth El
Mark Stone, President of Sinai Temple
Kenneth Abrahams, President of B'Nai Torah

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

This is Issue Number 7 for the year 2009-2010.

Mark Dov Shapiro..... Rabbi

Martin Levson..... Cantor

Mark Stone President

Visit our website: www.sinai-temple.org

Notes From Cantor Martin Levson



Sinai Temple continues to be the place for great Jewish music! If you loved the performances of Nava Tehila and Vocolot, then you must be here on Friday, May 21, when you will experience "Sababa!" Robbi Sherwin, Scott Leader, and Steve Brodsky are each accomplished songwriters, musicians, and performers. When you bring the three of them together you, have a Jewish "supergroup!" Sababa will be in Springfield for a service unlike anything you have ever heard at Sinai Temple! Our very own "Shir Fun!" and some other special musical guests will be on hand for the festivities. You can listen to some of Sababa's music on their website, <http://www.sababamusic.com>.

The Adult Volunteer Choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, May 12 at 7:30 for their final service of the program year. The Choir had a great time singing with Linda Hirschhorn and Vocolot, and we had a few new members join us for that performance. If you would like to join in the fun, please give me a call here at the Temple! No previous choral experience is required, just a love of singing great Jewish music!

Ivdu et Hashem B'simcha!

Serve the Holy One with JOY!

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 history and 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.

Big Questions:

*Should we hug or wrestle with Israel?
Does Israel really matter?*

**Thursday,
May 13,
6 to 7:30 p.m.**

(With a "lite bite" to begin the evening)

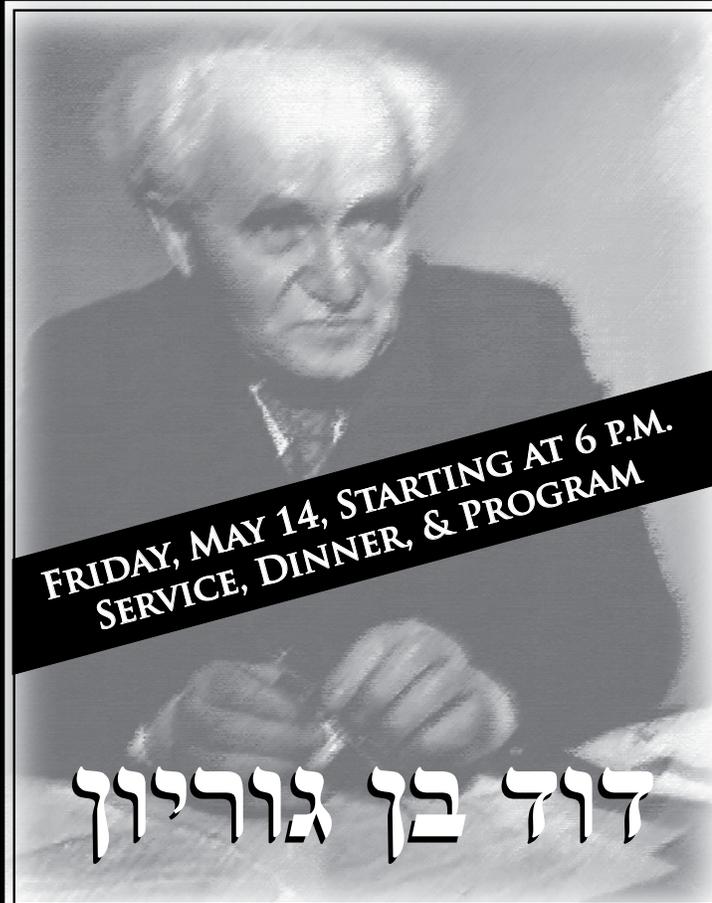
Jewish Answers

Are you curious about the biggest kinds of questions we Jews ask?

This year Rabbi Shapiro and Cantor Levson are offering some answers. We feed you a light dinner as we take on the last two topics this season. Rabbi Shapiro will discuss Israel in May. In June, Cantor Levson will discuss the question - What can a college graduate believe about the Bible?

May's conversation on Israel will be hosted by Stanley and Candy Glazer.

We're very grateful to Leah and Jerry Gottlieb for underwriting this series of dinner conversations.



**FRIDAY, MAY 14, STARTING AT 6 P.M.
SERVICE, DINNER, & PROGRAM**

דוד בן גוריון

STORIES, SONGS, SECRETS, AND SURPRISES: THE BIRTH OF ISRAEL

MAY 14, 1948 – MAY 14, 2010

62 years ago to the day David ben Gurion stood up in Tel Aviv's Museum to read ISRAEL'S DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

On Friday, May 14 this year, Sinai will remember and even capture some of the spirit from that historic day.

The evening will begin with our 6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat service.

At 7 p.m., dinner will highlight an Israeli menu.

At 7:45 p.m., the "show" will begin.

Rabbi, Cantor, and several congregants will present a mosaic of stories, song, secrets, and surprises about Israel's founding day. This will be a multimedia evening with opportunity for remembering, laughing, eating, and enjoying a fabulous slice of Jewish history. Adults (and children) are all most welcome.

Service times

New “regular” service times for Friday nights. We’ve changed our “late” service from 8 p.m. to start at 7:30 p.m. Earlier and hopefully more congenial for everyone.

In a regular month...

First Friday service starts at 7 p.m.

Second Friday is Kabbalat Shabbat. Starts at 6 p.m.

Third & Fourth Fridays begin at 7:30 p.m.

Torah Study – We Feed You Weekly with the Torah Portion Every Saturday morning At 9 a.m.

The best free breakfast in the Pioneer Valley coupled with a taste of Torah. Led by Rabbi Shapiro with a smile and good humor.

Saturday Morning Services Every Saturday morning At 10:30 a.m.

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

Monthly Morning Service Wednesday, May 5 at 7:30 a.m.

Meet in the sanctuary for a service of 20 minutes. Breakfast follows. The feeling of togetherness is wonderful. Those who need to leave for the rest of the day are free no later than 8:15 a.m.

The next service will take place on Wednesday, June 2.

Yom Ha-Atzmaut – Israel Independence Day

Monday, April 19

**At Noon at offices of Bacon and
Wilson,
33 State Street, Springfield.**

“The other Love of My Life: A Conversation with three
Community Rabbis”

Rabbi Fred Hyman, Rabbi Amy Wallk Katz and Rabbi
Mark Shapiro. Israeli lunch available (\$12.00)

R.S.V.P. by calling the Federation office, 737-4313 by
April 14

Yom Ha-Atzmaut - continued Monday, April 19

At 5:30 p.m. at the JCC

A party for all ages, including dinner and the music of
Klezamir, New England’s dynamic roots klezmer band.
Plus guest vocalist, Felicia Sloin. Plus learn about Youth
trips to Israel!

**At 7:30 P.M. in the Federation Board Room
watch an episode of the Israeli hit show “Srugim.”**
Named Best Drama by the Israeli Film and Television
Academy last year.

Are the responsibilities of living on your own getting to be too much?

Ruth’s House Assisted Living, a beautiful homelike residence located on the Jewish Geriatric Services (JGS) campus in Longmeadow, currently has private or companion suites available. Residents can enjoy assistance with everyday needs, three kosher daily meals, medication management, housekeeping, laundry, transportation and more. Common areas, gardens, walking paths and an extensive activities schedule provide many opportunities to socialize with friends. Our JGS Director of Pastoral Care, Rabbi Devorah Jacobson, leads Torah study, Hebrew classes, Jewish current events and other programs of Jewish content, in addition to making pastoral visits. There is a daily morning minyan led by Ruth’s House residents as well as services for Shabbat and all Jewish holidays.

Our “Garden Level” is a separate, secure neighborhood specifically designed and staffed to meet the needs of residents with early-to-midstage Alzheimer’s disease and related memory impairments. JGS is a faith-based, non-profit and nationally recognized organization.

Short-term stays are also available. Please call (413) 567-6212 or visit www.jewishgeriatric.org to learn more.

**Who's At Sinai:
Jews by Birth
Jews by Choice
Those who love a Jew**

**Tuesday, May 18 at 7:30 p.m.
A Panel Discussion**

*Intermarried, In-married, Interfaith married
Convert, Single, Older, Younger,
Man, Woman*

*Who's at Sinai is the most modern question we Jews
have.*

If you're one of the above or none of the above, you're invited to join the conversation. Tuesday, May 18 is our date because it is the evening of Shavuot. Shavuot is the holiday when we remember the Jewish people establishing their covenant with God by receiving the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai.

The evening will include a brief service leading into the conversation about modern Temple identity. Cheesecake will follow for dessert.

**Prospective New Members for Sinai
Temple:
Recruit Members...Build Sinai**

Every year people relocate to the greater Springfield area, or people who have lived in the area consider joining a Temple. Often these people, friends, colleagues, neighbors or relatives ask current members about Sinai Temple. You can help the Temple recruit these interested people by referring them to Mike Bader, Chairman of the Membership Committee. Mike has been helping new members for over thirty years. He has the information they need and can answer their questions. He can be reached weekday mornings at 737-3139 OR nights and weekends at 786-0319.

Mazal Tov To:

- Richard and Heidi Tariff on the engagement of their daughter, Heather, to Stephen Goldstein.
- Myron and Ellen Follett on the engagement of their daughter, Lauren, to Jared Olanoff and on the engagement of their son, Steve, to Catilin Pukin.
- Morgan Terres and Lauren Harvey on their engagement.
- Our congratulations to Gary and Connie Rappaport on the engagement of their son, Justin, to Ilana Epstein.

**The Second Annual
Sinai Temple
Tzedakah Bike Ride**



SUNDAY, MAY 2

Orientation 9:00 a.m.

Biking begins 9:30 a.m.

Stretch your legs early in the biking season.

Proceeds will support camp scholarships for the Gray House Summer Program in the North End of Springfield.

The route will be 21 miles.

(Riders must be at least 15 years old. Helmets required.)

Pre-registration \$25 (Send your check to Sinai.)

Registration on May 2 - \$30.

For information, contact Howard Dickstein (haland@comcast.net) or

Joe Dorison (joedorison@aol.com)

**Shavuot Morning – An Experiential
Service
Including Yizkor
Wednesday, May 19 at 10:30 a.m.**

Instead of merely reading about Mount Sinai, we will explore the experience our ancestors had when they received the "constitution" of the Jewish people at Sinai. We will meet in the Oneg Shabbat room unrolling the scroll of Torah in our midst. Yizkor will be part of the service. Lunch will follow.

**You're Invited to a Wedding Event!
Friday, April 16
At the 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service**

Sinai Temple's Caring Community
happily invites you

To a ceremony celebrating

Your special wedding anniversary in 2010!

If you were married in 2005, 2000, 1995, 1990,
1985, 1980, 1975, 1970,
1965, 1960, 1955, 1950,
1945, 1940

Please join Rabbi Shapiro and Cantor Levson
On Friday, April 16 at 7:30 p.m.

The Rabbi and Cantor will honor you
as a group with blessings, sweet wine, & chocolates.

RSVP to Robin Blanchette Gage, Rabbi's Assistant,
736-3619, ext. 10

Message From Sheila Shear, Director of Education

Shalom Chaverim,

And, so here we are nearing the end of an exciting year. As we do, I am reflecting on parsha Tzav. In this parsha, the high priests are charged to keep the flames of the fire of the holy altar burning. And, so it is with keeping the flames of our Judaism burning for our children and our children's children. Like the flame of the altar, if we don't pay attention the flame of our Judaism could go out. Our children will not know the warmth and beauty of our traditions, the spiritual strength that comes from praying as part of a community or the importance of our history. L'dor vador, from generation to generation it is our charge to pass our Judaism on to our children. The teachers and I work hard to help in this endeavor, but we cannot do it without your support and engagement, and we hope that we support your efforts as well. Thank you for your contribution to our efforts and your own efforts in creating family traditions and Jewish memories for your children. You are giving them something to hold on to in joy, in sadness, for strength, and in hope.

Shalom



SPFTY, our senior youth group, created the Friday evening service on March 19. They were and are a great success!!

A Congregation-Wide Barbecue & Tribute to ALL Adult & Youth Volunteers

Thursday, June 10

Please mark your calendar

At 6 p.m. - Barbecue picnic

At 7 p.m. - Temple's annual meeting & tribute to volunteers

No cost for the event. No work required on your part. If you're a volunteer, then you are an honored guest. And if you haven't volunteered yet, you are still an honored guest as an honored member of Sinai.

Details will follow.

Your Telephone May Ring This Month: The Sustaining Membership Program

If you are among those congregants who pay full dues in your category, your telephone may ring this month. Members of the Sustaining Membership Committee will be calling you to ask that you become a Sustaining Member of Sinai.

What is a Sustaining Member?

A Sustaining Member is someone who chooses to offer Sinai an extra amount of fund beyond dues. During the current fiscal year, over 90 Sinai households became Sustaining Members and contributed over \$50,000 to our budget.

By doing this, the Sustaining Members helped reduce the need to raise the fees for Temple members who cannot afford full dues. By assuming a kind of "fair share," the Sustaining Members also allowed Sinai to continue to offer a full and varied menu of programs.

Thank you to those who have become Sustaining Members. Thank you now - in advance - to those of you who may choose to join the program for next year. The levels of involvement are below. Each level assumes a member paying his/her dues and then adding on to those dues the following amounts.

Leader	\$3,000
Pillar	\$2,500
Chai Friend	\$1,800
Friend	\$1,500
Benefactor	\$1,000
Chai Sponsor	\$720
Sponsor	\$500
Chai Supporter	\$360
Supporter	\$250

If you have questions or want to join the program, please call me at 567-2278.

Shalom,
David Kalman,
Sustaining Member Chair



March 21 brought the musical group, Vocolot, to Sinai for a spectacular concert that included our Temple members as an intergenerational choir.

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.

Scrip Program is Back!

Sinai Temple has brought back the Scrip Program and how much easier and more convenient could this be? Buy a gift certificate as a present for Mother's Day or a graduation gift or just for a store that you frequent on a regular basis and make a donation to Sinai Temple at the same time. The temple will receive the percentage of the full value of the certificate listed on the order form in parenthesis (4%, 18%, etc.) You will receive the gift card to use within a few weeks of the order by date. It is just that easy! Every time you buy a gift card a percentage goes directly to Sinai!

www.sinai-temple.org

The Music Man: Coming to Sinai in March 2011!



Sinai Temple will present a production of Meredith Wilson's fabulous, classic musical THE MUSIC MAN next March. Auditions will take place this coming Fall, but there is preparatory work to be done now. If you're interested in helping organize this production, in working behind the scenes on sets, lighting, costumes, publicity, or tech, we want you now!

Our first planning meeting will take place within the next few weeks. To learn more, you can contact our musical's producer, Sheri Levson, at 567-2038 or levsong@verizon.net

Who Says You Can't Live Forever?

Immortality is possible when you Create a Jewish Legacy

Your legacy gift ensures that Sinai Temple is provided for –according to your wishes–for generations to come.

To learn more, please call us at 413-736-3619

www.jewishlegacywesternmass.org

Jointly funded by the Jewish Endowment Foundation and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. The Federations of Western Massachusetts and the Berkshires are program partners.

Softball Sunday is Coming! Sinai & Temple Beth El Play Ball with our local Federation!!! Sunday, May 16

Do you play ball? Have you ever played softball? We need YOU! Sinai will be playing with Temple Beth El and Federation volunteers on May 16 in the first-ever intergenerational softball game in the Pioneer Valley. We need a team of 9 men, 9 women, plus children of all ages. Different age groups will play different innings. The winner will take home a yet-to-be-determined prize. For more information, please call Robin Blanchette-Gage in the Temple office today. 736-3619, ext 10. (Last year's game was cancelled due to rain. We have a guarantee of perfect weather for this year.)

Take Back Your Time: Rediscover Shabbat

Last year Sinai distributed a booklet with 52 ideas for “tasting” Shabbat. Here are some new options. First time they appear at Sinai.



Offer to bring dinner to someone for whom food preparation is hard. Depending on your sense of that person's preference, offer to stay and eat with him or her, or leave with a gracious smile, a handshake, or a hug.

Pack a lunch and go for an all-day walk – or bike ride – or drive. If you have a destination in mind, fine. If not, “go where your feet take you.”

Go to a museum, or a zoo, or a library. Look around at the people there. Wish them well.

Judaica Shop Corner

We thank all of you who made our Passover season a very successful one.

Now we look forward to all the Spring occasions: B'nai Mitzvah, engagements, weddings, Mother's Day and more. We can make suggestions and help you select the perfect gift.

We're back to our regular hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 4:30 and Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30.

Thais Fischel 786-9577
Bobbie Cossin 565-9970

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

as the
Western MA State of Israel Bonds
pays tribute to leaders in our community
at a
Cocktail Buffet.

Sinai Temple's 2010 honoree is
LINDA KAY.

Tuesday, June 8, 2010
6 P.M.

at Chez Josef in Agawam

Invitation to follow

For information call the Israel Bonds office
at 800-916-1918

The Memory of the Righteous is a Blessing

All of us at Sinai Temple extend condolences as we remember the following.

Their memories are precious to their relatives, their friends and to each of us who form the community of Sinai Temple.

We remember those who have passed away from February 8, 2010 to March 23, 2010:

- Barbara Katz, mother of Michael Katz.
- Berniss Wolfert, mother of Lesley Brown.
- Sidney Suib, father of Sandy Suib-Dutcher.

Welcome to Sinai!

We're so glad you decided to join Sinai Temple in the past couple of months.

- Sharon Band

The Michael Steingart Fund

The Steingart family established this fund after Michael's death in 2005 at age 24.

Michael loved his family, community and country. He believed in doing tzedakah and was involved in many, many projects. He rode for MS (multiple sclerosis) even though he didn't know anyone with the disease he helped raise over \$10,000 for this cause. He gave to MD (muscular dystrophy), cooked for Loaves and Fishes, drove around with his mom to collect bags of food for Sinai's summer food drive, and helped raise money for Lymphoma-leukemia after Bobi (his mother) was diagnosed. But he also had his own personal cause-Tourettes. It was always there in so many ways.

The Steingart family felt that it would be right to have a fund in his honor for all that he did for others. To remember his spirit, his laugh, and his smile. Occasionally there is a special project at Sinai that the money, with permission from Michael's family, is used for.

Belle Rita Novak



Sinai's 9th and 10th graders visit the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism in Washington DC early in March.

Sinai Temple

BULLETIN



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<http://www.sinai-temple.org>

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**Don't miss Sinai Temple's 3rd annual fundraising night at
The Majestic Theater
at 7 p.m. on Sunday, April 25 for**

**THE FANTASTICKS
by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt**

This is a special performance to benefit Sinai Temple. BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS and come have FUN. Audiences have had a great time at this event for the last two years. Book your seats now. Many congregants have already purchased their tickets. Please join them.

Mark & Marsha Shapiro, Martin & Sheri Levson, Diane, Richard & Jenna Friedberg, Judy & Henry Aronson, Claire Cohen-Stelzer, Amy & Maddy Cohen, Bruce & Liz Leshine, Dan and Jane Rothschild, Stewart & Mildred Bussin, Myron & Ellen Follett, Seymour Frankel & Joan Rosenbaum, Ruth Corbert & Ann Rosenfield, Paul & Ann Jacobs, Bob & Linda Kay, Paul & Laraine Shore-Suslowitz, Jackie & Madeleine Neiman, Dave & Carol Tivoli, Arthur & Peggy Grodd & friends, Michael, Ilene, Craig & Seth Conklin, Tricia & Michael Freedman, Bob Kadis & Donna Fitzgerald, Morton & Dorothy Katz

The Fantasticks is the world's longest running musical, opening on May 3, 1960 at New York's Sullivan Street Playhouse and running for 42 years! The show's signature song is "Try to Remember"

Tickets are \$22 and \$25 and all seats are reserved.
Season ticket holders may switch their tickets to this special night.

**Majestic Theater Box Office – (413) 747-7797
131 Elm St., West Springfield, MA**

The theater's café is open one hour before performances and during intermission for light bites and liquid refreshment.