

# Sinai Temple

## BULLETIN



*Take Back Your Time: Rediscover Shabbat*

## For Your Consideration

Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro

Have we got a “theme” at Sinai this year?

Yes, we do. We are trying to do whatever we can to build connections and community among our members. I see us offering more opportunities than ever to be together and to feel that belonging to Sinai Temple makes a difference in our lives.

Consider the series we call “Big Questions: Jewish Answers.” (See page 5.) On the one hand, it is an educational offering for adults. On the other hand, it’s more than that because of its format and packaging. Instead of inviting a few students to sit at desks to learn about something Jewish, we have invited congregants to have dinner together, unwind at the end of a work day, and then enter a challenging Jewish conversation.

We want everyone to learn something, but we have also set up the evening to build connections and community.

The same holds true with the special Friday evenings we are planning for December 18, January 15, and February 12. (We already had one on November 20.) Our service takes place at 6 p.m., which is nice. But what follows is central to the larger purpose. We offer dinner plus a stimulating program. Dinner to bring people together. The program to liven up our hearts and souls.

Connection and community.

We’re done some special programming in the school to embrace the families of our younger students. More is in store for members of all ages.

It really isn’t the same congregation as last year. It’s your congregation trying to focus on you. It’s our religious community trying to open the doors so that belonging to Sinai makes you feel you are in the best place under the Western Massachusetts sun!

## Friday Evenings in December

**Service with a Band at 7:30 p.m.**

**December 11**

The first night of Chanukah.

**Chanukah Service & Dinner at 6 p.m.**

**December 18**

Bring your chanukiah (menorah) with 9 candles. Dinner follows with amazing contests. This is an evening for all ages.

**What To Do on December 25**

**Service at 7:30 p.m.**

Special food, songs (!), and tales for the season.

## Friday Evenings in January

*All January services will begin at 6 p.m.*

**January 1**

New Years hors d’oeuvres & birthday blessings

**January 8**

Let’s start at 6 p.m.

**January 15**

The 6 p.m. service is followed by dinner and program. Nava Tehila will be performing both at the service and after the 7 p.m. dinner. (See page 5)

**January 22**

A learner’s service. See page 4 for details

**January 29**

See you at 6 p.m.

## Every Saturday Morning

Torah Study at 9:00 a.m.

Service at 10:30 a.m.

### JANUARY IS DIFFERENT

### ALL FRIDAY EVENING SERVICES AT 6 P.M.

It’s cold and dark outside. Who wants to go home and then go out to services? If you want to hibernate this January, here’s your opportunity. Stay at work, run an errand, shop, and then stop by Sinai for snacks and a one-hour farewell to the week. By 7 p.m., you’re back in the car heading home to stay. (One exception – January 15 – You can eat dinner at Temple. See page 5.)

## Message from President Mark Stone

It's November 25 and we have held up the development of our bulletin for a few extra days. The reason is that I have been working on an idea for outreach that had its start in comments I made Rosh Hashanah morning. One of our goals for this year is reaching out to those who are not affiliated with a congregation. Back on Rosh Hashanah, I asked each of you to think of unaffiliated people you might know. We will be contacting you to ask for suggestions in the next few months.

Meanwhile, what have I been up to? Just this morning at my request, the Presidents and Rabbis of Temple Beth El and the new Bnai Torah convened with me and Rabbi Shapiro to start dialog on how we as a community can reach out to those unaffiliated with a synagogue. It is my belief that together we can be stronger in this effort. Our meeting went very well many ideas were passed around the table and we agreed to meet again in mid December to further the process. In addition to the three synagogues, we agreed to reach out to The Jewish Federation of Western MA as well as The Harold Grinspoon Foundation with hopes of collaborating on this effort and they have enthusiastically agreed to meet at our next meeting. Together with the other congregations and our other partners we want to figure out how best to approach synagogue affiliation utilizing any resources we and our partners bring to the table.

So, Sinai will be embarking on a more active effort in outreach externally to our congregation and I will keep you posted on our efforts in this area. As a reminder, I am hoping you to will consider doing your part to ensure Sinai thrives for a long time to come. If you recall I have a few things I was asking each member to consider:

**Be participants:** Come to services and participate in programs.

**Lead Sinai:** If you have never been on a committee, please join one.

**Be a lifelong member:** Continue your Sinai experience even after life cycle events.

**Be a recruiter!!**

Thank you for considering what you can do for Sinai. My hope is that together you and I will ensure Sinai will thrive for future generations.

## I Don't Know the Melodies!?!?

Visit our website. Shabbat music for home and Temple services plus much more can be found by visiting our Temple website. [www.sinai-temple.org](http://www.sinai-temple.org) (click on *From the Cantor*)

## Notes from Cantor Martin Levson

There will be LOTS of Jewish music in the Springfield air during the next six weeks!

First, for Chanukah, we are blessed with not one but TWO Friday nights during Chanukah this year! Friday, December 11 will be the first night of Chanukah, and is our monthly "Service with a Band." Come and hear some beautiful Chanukah music with additional instrumental accompaniment. On December 18, the eighth night of Chanukah, we will have a cast of thousands (well, dozens) of different musical groups, including "Shir Fun!" and the Adult Volunteer Choir presenting a wide variety of Chanukah music, from new melodies to old favorites! There's lots more to Chanukah music than dreidels made out of clay; come and hear for yourself on either (or both) of these evenings!

Friday, January 29 will be Shabbat Shirah, so named because the Torah portion for that Shabbat features the crossing of the Sea of Reeds, and the dramatic song that our ancestors sung when we reached the other side in freedom. To celebrate this event, "Shir Fun!" and the Jewish Community Youth Chorale will perform together, first here at Sinai Temple at 6:00, and then again across the street at Temple Beth El at 7:30. Be sure to hear the wonderful sound of the combined groups making a joyful noise unto God on this special evening!

And if all this music wasn't enough... Nava Tehila will be here on Friday, January 15! (See the picture and article on page 5!)

*! Ivdu et Hashem B'simcha!  
Serve the Holy One with JOY!*

## Welcome to Sinai!

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

- Paul and Pauline Grunthalt

The Sinai Temple Bulletin is published monthly by Sinai Temple, Springfield, Massachusetts. This is Issue Number 4 for the year 2009-2010.

Mark Dov Shapiro ..... Rabbi  
Martin Levson ..... Cantor  
Sheila Shear ..... Director of Education  
Lisa Gittleman Udi ..... JOY and SPFTY Advisor

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

**Chanukah – Light up the Night!  
Service, Dinner, Contests, Latkes  
Friday, December 18  
6:00 SERVICE WITH CHANUKAH MENORAH LIGHTING  
7:00 DINNER & TWO CONTESTS!!!**

**Contest #1**

**A CHANUKAH T-SHIRT CONTEST!**

Design a T-shirt that BEST DEPICTS Chanukah and what it means TO YOU!

WEAR your t-shirt at our Chanukah Service  
(A single t-shirt for each family would be fine,  
but you may choose to have a shirt for each person too!)

**Contest #2**

Tell us your best Jewish joke or riddle!

Open mike.

Different categories for different ages.

Reservations required for DINNER. \$5 per person or \$10 per family.

Your check is your reservation.

Thanks to MEN OF SINAI for preparing the meal!!!

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**Chanukah Tzedakah: Ner Shel Tzedakah, Tuesday, December 15**

On the FIFTH night, December 15, we encourage families to donate the value of the gifts they would ordinarily exchange (or the gifts themselves) to local or national organizations assisting the poor. Let this be an evening for NER SHEL TZEDAKAH - THE LIGHT OF TZEDAKAH

**Get On Board: Through to December 18**

Sinai is collecting children's board games, puzzles, and Lego for needy families. The Springfield YWCA will receive our donations for their shelter for women/girls who are victims of domestic violence. Bring your gifts to the Temple any time before Friday, December 18.

**Judaica Gift Shop**

Your shop is completely set for Chanukah. You'll find a great selection of menorahs, candles, toys, games and gifts. See our enclosed flyer for ideas and extended seasonal hours.

Thais Fischel 786-9577  
Bobbie Cossin 565-9970

**Volunteers Needed for 5771 Calendar**

Attention - We are ready to start planning the 2010-2011 5771 Calendar.

Volunteers are Wanted/Needed. If you are interested in volunteering please call the Temple Office at 413-736-3619.

## January & February Bring Good Stuff for Celebration and Learning

### Torah Study – Back to the weekly Torah Portion Saturdays at 9 a.m.

The best free breakfast in the Pioneer Valley coupled with a taste of the weekly Torah portion. 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 Wednesdays, January 6 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. Future "morning minyan" services will take place on Wednesdays, February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2.

### Learner's Shabbat: A Slowed-Down Service A Chance to Ask All Your Questions! Friday, January 22 at 6 p.m.

Here's a service designed for you if your Hebrew runs a bit slower than you wish. Or if you don't read Hebrew at all. Or if you can't figure out how a service works. The Rabbi and Cantor will "slow down" the January 22 service. We'll focus on only a few prayers and take time to discuss them as we go. This will be an adult service, but children are very welcome.

*A second "learner's Shabbat" will take place Saturday morning, February 13 at 10:30 a.m. Slow and easy with lots of explanation.*

**Yankees?  
Red Sox?  
Purim!**

**What an insane combination.  
Dust off your uniforms.  
Just in time for spring training....  
Here comes Purim 2010!  
Sunday morning, February 28**

### AND COMING IN FEBRUARY

### Sinai Temple goes to the Caribbean Friday, February 12 at 6 p.m.

After services, a Caribbean dinner will be served to be followed by Professor Ilan Stavans of Amherst College. Stavans is a Mexican Jew with multiple academic awards. He will be looking at Jewish life in the Caribbean and discussing "The Crypto-Jews - A look at the culture of hidden Jews since 1492 with an emphasis on Latin America."

### AND COMING IN FEBRUARY/MARCH

### Ask the Four Questions in Hebrew at this Year's Seder!

#### Beginner's Hebrew

Taught by Sheri Levson

Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m.

February 3, 10, 17, 24; March 3, 10, 17

**In early March**, Rabbi Shapiro, Cantor Levson, and Rabbi Micah Becker Klein will also be teaching on Wednesday evenings. Stay tuned.

Join Us For a Fun-filled Evening

### MARTINIS & MAGIC

Saturday, February 27, 2010

At Sinai

7:00 - 9:30 p.m.

Martinis, hors d'oeuvre, desserts

Live music, strolling magicians,  
& a little Megillah Madness

Watch for your invitation in January.

\$25 per person

*Proceeds will provide scholarships for Religious School families.*

#### Announcing A Contest

Send in your favorite martini recipes no later than January 11.

Your recipe may be featured for martini evening.

Recipes go to [martinisandmagic@aol.com](mailto:martinisandmagic@aol.com).

(This is a real e-mail address. Specially created by us for Sinai!)

# Big Questions: Jewish Answers

*Besides Jesus,  
are Judaism and  
Christianity really  
that different?*

**Thursday,  
December 10  
6 to 7:30 p.m.**

(With a "lite bite" available each evening)

*How can I get my prayers answered:  
Is anyone listening?*

**Thursday, January 14  
From 6 to 7:30 p.m.**

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

This year Rabbi Shapiro and Cantor Levson will offer some answers. On the second Thursday of each month, we'll feed you a light dinner and take on one topic per month.

Coming in February...

**February 11 Why do they change the melodies  
every time I come to services?**

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

## **Nava Tehila**

**January 15, 2009**

**At the 6 p.m. service – special music from Israel**

**At 7 p.m., dinner**

**At 7:45 p.m., a concert with music by our Israeli guests, Nava Tehila**



Nava Tehila is a Jerusalem-based Jewish group that creates music to nourish the soul and stir the heart. Nava Tehila writes music from Jewish prayers, Psalms and the Song of Songs that manage to bring alive and make personal the essence of

these holy texts. Their music is influenced by east and west, incorporating reggae, folk, Moroccan, Arabic and Hasidic touches creating a heartfelt, ecstatic and deeply moving experience.

The group grew out of the musical Shabbat services held in Jerusalem's Nava Tehila community for the past five years.

You can listen to selections from Nava Tehila's CD, "Dancing in the Glory," at <http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/navatehila>. You can also listen to their music at <http://www.myspace.com/navatehila>.

## Message from Sheila Shear, Director of Education

*Shalom Chaverim,*

What an amazing fall we have had. Right at the beginning of the school year we began meeting with parents with children in grades K-4. We asked them what they felt would help make Sinai Temple a place their children would want to be. How do we support the creation of a community for them right here? Parents answered the call and we are doing our best to support these efforts. We want Sinai to belong to the entire congregation-including, and for me, especially, our kids.

In October, the fifth and sixth graders participated in Shabbat services, acted as greeters and stayed for games and ice cream sundaes. In November we had a Pizza Party for families with children in Kindergarten through second grade and on Shabbat evening, November 20 the third and fourth graders not only participated in services but each brought a friend to services and a special dinner just for them. The best part? The November programs were planned, and implemented by parents. Want to get involved in planning for your child's activities here? Just call the Religious School office. I will be glad to get you connected. Having your input truly makes this Religious School, your Religious School, the best it can be.

Also in November, we had an extraordinary family learning day on Prayer and Praying, for entire families with children in Kindergarten through 7th grade. Each family made a quilt square representing a specific prayer, truly becoming part of the fabric of Sinai Temple. We will be having another Family Learning Day coming up on January 10th. If you were not able to join us in November, please make every effort to join us in January.

By the time you read this, the raffles of the Rebecca Rubin Doll and Books, and the i-pod touch will have taken place. As of this writing however, it is still a mystery. I thank everyone who supported these fundraisers. Watch for more. Your Religious School really needs your support.

I hope as you celebrate the miracles of Chanukah that you and your family have your own miracles to celebrate.

*Chag Sameach.*

## Jewish Summer Camping And Scholarships for Free

Our Reform movement runs two remarkable summer camps in the Berkshires. One is called Eisner; the other is called Crane Lake. Last year several Sinai students attended each of the camps. Your child would love either camp. Scholarships are available for sessions in July or August. Please speak to Rabbi Shapiro no later than March 1.

**You're Invited to a Party!**

**5th/6/th Grade Students**

**Tuesday, December 22**

**5:15 to 7:00 p.m.**

**Dinner & Dessert.**

**Make pies for Rachel's Table and  
distribution to hungry people in our  
community.**

**PLUS a live DJ! Games, dances, prizes.**

### On Behalf of the Religious School Community, Special Thanks To:

**Barry and Margaret Slitzky and Family** for their donation of Doll, Accessories and Books for the Rebecca Rubin, American Girl raffle.

**Joel and Lynn Solomon and family** for their donation of the 32gig i-pod touch that was also raffled off.

These donations allowed all proceeds from the purchase of raffle tickets to go directly to the Religious School Education and Special Projects Funds to support the important programming done within the Religious School.

If you would like to fund a gift to or for the Religious School, please call the Religious School Office or contact Jennifer Metsch, Chair of the Religious School Committee. Thank You.

# Sustaining Membership Program 2009-2010

*Thank you to those households who have been able to step forward this year in order to help "sustain" our congregation.*

## Pillar

Robyn Newhouse  
Eric & Elizabeth Stahl

Edward Wallace

## Friend

Jeffrey & Robin Cossin  
Michael & Sally Ginsburg  
Dr. Stanley & Candy Glazer

Andrew & Heidi Moskovitz  
Armand & Sherry Souliere  
Ruth Weiss

Bruce & Barbara Winer

## Benefactor

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## Chai Sponsor

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James & Marlene Gordon  
Elliot & Janice Greenberg  
Arthur & Peggy Grodd  
Bruce & Marjorie Hambro  
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Steven Weiss & Carol Daigle

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Cary Dash & Vivian Miller

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Jeffrey & Rickie Leiter  
Martin & Joan Lesser

Stephen & Patricia Sussman

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Alan & Susan Burstein  
Dr. Frank Cannizzo & Dr. Susan Cash Cannizzo  
Mel & Beth Chafetz  
Yossi Chait & Neva Frumkin  
Eleanore Dunn  
Daniel & Bonnie Engelman  
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Jay Steingrub & Milagros Rosal  
David & Carol Tivoli  
Michael & Gloria Wald  
Steven & Nadine Wenner  
Sidney & Roberta Ziff

## NEWS from Sinai's new Interfaith Outreach Committee

As you are all aware, Sinai is facing challenging economic times and we are in the process of renewing and strengthening the bonds of our congregational community. One key element is maintaining and increasing strong membership connections. To that end we have created an Interfaith Outreach Committee, an idea which came directly from the list of 10 Commandments of Transformation created by the board last summer. Our Temple mission statement speaks of Sinai as “a welcoming and inclusive Reform congregation,” and this committee is asking how we are accomplishing this vision when it comes to interfaith households who belong to Sinai Temple. We are examining how we welcome and support interfaith families at Sinai in order to discover what we have been doing “right” and where we can improve.



The interfaith committee has a 3-part plan. First, we will gather information from our interfaith families through a series of focus groups. Next, we plan to synthesize that information and generate suggested changes to help make all of our interfaith families feel that Sinai is their home. Finally, we are making small but important changes along the way, to ensure that our physical building and presence on the Web reflect the diversity we have here at Sinai.

You may have already noticed the following changes:

- The creation of a dedicated library shelf for books on interfaith topics.
- The addition of interfaith related links (under “adult ed”) on our temple website.
- The prominent display of brochures relating to interfaith and other topics of interest.

Also keep an eye out for these other changes coming soon:

- The addition of several new titles to our interfaith library shelf.
- The creation of a “Sinai 101” booklet to give members and guests the information they need to feel comfortable during services.
- A dedicated interfaith page on Sinai’s website
- Press releases/newspaper articles about our interfaith outreach project
- Invitations to our interfaith families to attend focus groups

Stay tuned, more updates to come...

Sinai’s Interfaith Outreach Committee

*For more information please contact Jackie Neiman (567-7978) or Tricia Freedman (567-6930)*

### Thanks from Gray House for our Yom Kippur shoe donation. Thanks too from Link to Libraries

Dear Rabbi Shapiro and Congregants:

On behalf of the Link to Libraries Board, I am writing to express our deepest gratitude for your generosity in responding to Link to Libraries needs. Your contribution on the High Holidays gives testimony of your commitment to supporting the needs of young people and will help to insure the success of the Link to Libraries program.

Sincerely,  
Susan Jaye-Kaplan, Co-Founder, Link to Libraries

Thanks for shoes from Links and thanks for Gray House shoes

### CPR Training at Sinai Temple Sunday, April 11

Did you know that over 700,000 people in the United States have been diagnosed with some form of heart disease? Learn what to do if someone you know goes into cardiac arrest: Join us for CPR Sunday!

Learn how to recognize and care for basic breathing and cardiac emergencies for “adult” victims ages 9 and over. Learn basic heart disease prevention tips.

The class, sponsored by Sinai’s Caring Community Committee, is being held at Sinai Temple. Registration details will be available soon.

## From Generation to Generation

*“Sinai Temple has played a central role in our lives. It’s a house of worship where we can be Jews in our own way, a place where our children found friendship and learning, and a community with values and diversity of which we can be proud.*

*“Our commitment goes beyond the scope of what we ourselves can get out Sinai during our lifetime. We want to know that years from now, Reform Judaism will have a presence in the Pioneer Valley, that families of all types can feel at home.*

*“That’s why we joined the Sinai Legacy Society. We found that it’s easy to make arrangements for our temple after we are gone, in whatever amount we chose. It was an opportunity too easy, too important, to pass up.*

*“We hope you’ll consider joining us. Ask a Legacy Society member.”*

—Patty and Steve Sussman



Sinai Temple’s  
**Legacy Society**  
Our Turn to Create Sinai’s Future  
in Partnership with-  
Create a Jewish Legacy of Western Massachusetts

If you would like to explore joining Patty and Steve in the Sinai Legacy Society, your first step is to discuss opportunities with Rabbi Shapiro or members of the planned giving committee. Please give the office a call at 413-736-3619. There is no obligation in this conversation, and, of course, a gift of any size is welcome.

## Take Back Your Time: Rediscover Shabbat in December and January

*Last year Sinai distributed a booklet with 52 ideas for “tasting” Shabbat. Here is an encore presentation of some of those ideas.*

“I listen to Shabbat music while driving home from work on Erev Shabbat.”

“For me, the best way to experience Shabbat is outside where I can breathe, see, touch and smell the world as God created it. I try to go to a wooded place. The greatest gift I can give myself on Shabbat is to find an hour or so to be in nature.”

“When possible, we spend Shabbat out of doors: hiking, at the beach, biking, skating, gardening—some activity that puts us in touch with our bodies and nature.”

“I try to observe a “green” Shabbat, minimizing my detrimental impact on the earth. I do errands by bicycle rather than by car, eat vegetarian rather than meat meals and refrain from using appliances (washers, dishwashers, etc.)”

“Before Shabbat dinner I perform the hand washing ritual. As I pour the water over my hands I think about how I’ve used my hands over the past week and how I will use them in the upcoming week.”



## 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.

## 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 October 16, 2009 to December 16, 2009.*

- Phillip Lesser, uncle of David Hirsch.
- Sara Feldman, sister of Carol Roberts.
- Eileen Weisthal, sister of Richard Tariff.
- Selma Ellis Jacobs Price, mother of Paul Jacobs.
- Anita Brunell, mother of Geraldine and Alison Brunell.

### Mazal Tov To:

- Rina Miller for appearing in the 2010 edition of the Best Lawyers in America in the specialty of Family Law.
- Charlene and Mark Cutler on the engagement of their son Adam to Claudia.
- Robin Fein-Krevolin on becoming President of HFLA (Hebrew Free Loan Association) of Greater Springfield.
- Leah and Jerry Gottlieb on the installation of their son, Matthew Berger, as Senior Rabbi of Temple Emanuel in Worcester.
- Beth and Gary Farber on the birth of their granddaughter, Aleah Bryant. The proud parents are Katie Farber and Ahkim Bryant.
- Jeff and Fran Ochs on the engagement of their daughter, Julie, to Philip Bugeau.
- Bob and Bonnie Mikesh on the engagement of their son, Dan, to Kimberly Owen.
- Beth and Jerry Green on the birth of a new grandchild, Emma Rose Acel-Green. Proud parents are Mara and Stephane Acel-Green. The very thrilled big brother is Samuel Acel-Green.

### Thank you to:

- Ruth Weiss for a generous gift allowing the fountain in the Sinai Temple Cemetery to be restored through landscaping and sprinklers thus creating a new place of beauty at the cemetery.
- Ed Wallace, Laura Wallace, Ben Wallace and Anne W. Yates for a special donation in memory of Sara Feldman.
- Joel Solomon for painting the new white lines on our parking lot.

# Sinai Temple

BULLETIN



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

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**The Adult Bnai Mitzvah Class of  
5770/2009  
Cordially invites the congregation  
To join us when we are called to the Torah  
Saturday, December 19 at 10:30 a.m.  
Shabbat Miketz  
Cary Dash Sherry Souliere  
Thais Fischel Deidra Torff  
Belle Rita Novak  
Please join us at a Kiddush Reception  
following the service.**