

THE SINAI BULLETIN

Volume 19 Number 4

Kislev - Tevet 5765

December 2004

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

DECEMBER 3

Friday, 8:00 PM - **SABBATH SERVICE**

Student Rabbi **Devorah Lynn** will participate

“Sermon in Song” led by the Evelyn Zarrow choir

Usher: Steve Schuster

DECEMBER 10

Friday, 6:00 PM - **FAMILY HANUKKAH DINNER**

7:00 PM - **FAMILY HANUKKAH SERVICE**

Sermon: “Miracles Worth Celebrating”

Usher: Ron Rosen

Aliyah: Marcy Ostrow

DECEMBER 17

Friday, 8:00 PM - **SABBATH SERVICE**

Sermon: “Lessons from Joseph”

Usher: Steve Soreff

DECEMBER 18

Saturday, 10:30 AM - **TOT SHABBAT in the sanctuary**

DECEMBER 24

Friday, 8:00 PM - **SABBATH SERVICE**

Sermon: “Birth Stories in Jewish Tradition”

Usher: Sandy Sotak

DECEMBER 31

Friday, 5:30 PM - **KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE**

Sermon: “Moses in Our Time”

Usher: Maile Jones

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME ON DECEMBER 31

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, December 10 at 6:00 PM

Hanukkah Family Dinner

All Temple Members are Invited to Attend

Hanukkah Family Service at 7:00 PM

Followed by a festive oneg

(see page 6 for more information)

**TEMPLE SINAI WILL HOST THE INTERFAITH
HOSPITALITY NETWORK FROM DECEMBER 12
THROUGH DECEMBER 26TH.**

Please call Wendy Waegell if you can help

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THE VALUES TAUGHT BY HANUKKAH

Other Jewish holidays - and other Jewish subjects - are not as fortunate as Hanukkah. For decades, more of our attention is focused on Hanukkah and there is more teaching material about Hanukkah than any other Jewish holiday. Even with all of this emphasis on Hanukkah, how does our learning about, and our celebration of, Hanukkah change us and our world for the better?

I suggest we begin to transform our lives by looking closely at the values that we hold and by acting on those same values. The values that we have about Hanukkah should teach us how to live better as Jews. Traditionally what are some of those values? We hold dear the value of faith in God and one another hoping that “the few may triumph against the many”. The value of upholding the rights of the minority are part and parcel of the Hanukkah story. Also, there is the value of increasing the spiritual light in our lives. Third, there is the value of committing our lives to that which we hold most sacred. Religious martyrdom first entered human history with the story of Hannah and her sons during the period of the Hanukkah story. While the story of Hanukkah gives us an extreme example, the current world situation bids us to ask ourselves: What cause is worth fighting for? What is worth the sacrifice of human life?

The list of values can go on and on. I hope that this year we can focus more on the values we hold dear. For some time our inter-faith community has asked us to ponder the following seven values: 1. We value optimism and hope for the future. 2. We value compassion. 3. We value respect for all cultures and faiths. 4. We value accepting responsibility. 5. We value civility in dealing with disagreement. 6. We value honesty. 7. We value courage. I am asking you to discuss one value each night for the first seven nights of Hanukkah with your family and friends. On the eighth night, Tuesday, December 14, I ask that you reflect on the values as a whole and respond in writing either to 661 Salisbury Street or at templesinaiworchester@msn.com. The questions for you to consider are: Where have you seen these values and behaviors demonstrated? Whom do you know who is a model for one or more of these values and behaviors? What might I or Temple Sinai do to incorporate these values and behaviors into my life/our lives?

Wishing you, your loved ones, and our people a healthy and happy Hanukkah.

Rabbi Seth L. Bernstein



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Holiday greetings to you and your families! As you know, Hanukkah starts on Tuesday, December 7th, and I am looking forward to kindling the lights of the menorah with my family, and eating some delicious latkes, playing some dreidel games, and singing Hanukkah songs. I hope that all Temple Sinai families have a wonderful Hanukkah

In this column, I will update you on the Northeast Regional Biennial, which was held this October 29-31 in Warwick, RI. Wendy Wong, Religious School Director, Rabbi Bernstein, and myself represented Temple Sinai at the Biennial.

The event was quite large and the offerings were many. Wendy spent her time learning about a new way of teaching Torah. Actors portrayed the characters of the weekly Torah portion, and actively involved the audience in the answers to the questions raised by their actions. The Saturday morning service employed these "story tellers", and when the Torah portion was read, after each sentence was read in Hebrew from the scroll, the actors translated to English and couched the verse in a provocative manner. All attendees were encouraged to help find "solutions" to these often difficult questions. Many of the answers discussed were interesting aspects that I would not have thought of on my own. This was indeed a memorable experience, and certainly has potential for us at Temple Sinai. Helping to make the Torah become alive and relevant for our students is of course, one of our top priorities.

The Rabbi attended a class on websites. He gleaned a tremendous amount of information. The URJ has amassed a tremendous amount of material about Jewish websites and it is easily tapped into. We passed this information along to Bruce Wahle, our Committee Chair on Website Management. Hopefully, our terrific website will have some additional offerings in the very near future

I spent most of my time honing my skills in financial matters. Subjects addressed were varied. We learned about capital campaigns, dues collection, different types of dues structures and annual appeals. It seems universal that although money is not the most important aspect of Temple life, it certainly allows a congregation to expand, providing many worthwhile programs that better enable us to serve our congregant and community needs. We learned from expert speakers how to tap the resources that we have fairly, and how to expand our current resources by reaching out to a broader community.

Additionally, I took several classes that were specifically for Temple Presidents. A wide range of issues was brought up, and of the 100 or so presidents, many solutions were offered. This was quite informative for me, because these were solutions to the same problems that other congregations had tried, and we were given a report on how well they worked.

Speeches and panel discussions were also presented. Various authorities in their fields presented Jewish themes with contemporary twists. These panel discussions were very interesting, and quite captivating for me was the speech given by Eric Yoffe, President of the URJ.



CANTOR'S NOTES

December is here, and both choirs will be presenting special programs in honor of the season. The *Evelyn Zarrow Choir* (adult choir) will be presenting a special Chanukah sermon in song, on Friday night, December 3 at 8:00 pm. They will be singing Chanukah songs in English, Ladino, Hebrew and Yiddish! There will be singing and guitar playing, as well as the sounds of kazoos, maracas, a tof and tambourines! Please join us!

The *Cantor's Chanters* are also preparing for the family Chanukah service, on Friday, December 10, at 7:00 pm. The children will be singing two part songs and Chanukah rounds, in addition to playing rhythm instruments. Please join us for this special evening.

Finally, I have some exciting news about our temple organ. I found out recently that it can be programmed through MIDI to play pre-recorded music, and this music will come directly through the organ itself. In other words, we have the potential to use the organ on occasions when an organist is unavailable (such as when Christmas eve falls on Shabbat). I will let you know when we are up and running, but in the meanwhile, I greatly appreciate the efforts of Bruce Wahle and Steve Schuster for letting me know about this and helping to make it a reality.

B'shalom,
Cantor Claire G. Metzger

President's Message (cont)

He spoke on how we must offer viable programs to encourage our post bar/bat mitzvot youth to remain engaged in temple life. He encouraged us to create programs, form youth groups, and maintain a structure that would make our synagogues vibrant second homes for those from age 13 through age 25. He encouraged us to send our teens to the summer programs at our URJ camps and send them to Israel through URJ programs. The URJ is working hard to create temple programs that we can tap into, making this goal a reality here in Worcester.

Of course, there was the social aspect of the biennial, too. We attended Friday night services at Temple Beth El in Providence. Here some 2000 representatives of the biennial prayed together along with the congregants of Temple Beth El. The service was especially meaningful since the congregation was celebrating its 150th anniversary.

I was proud to represent Temple Sinai at the Biennial. It was great to meet many people who are involved in temple management from our region. They come in all shapes and sizes, but all are dedicated to the advancement of Reform Judaism. Of course, the Northeast Region is only as good as the sum of its parts, and I hope that I was able to add a little to the success of the Biennial, and the greater URJ.

B'Shalom
Douglas Freund

YAHREZEITS

December 3

Joseph Bohrer
Barbara Cullan
Nathan Aron Feinberg
Walter Green
Bessie Lacritz
*Ted Posovsky
*Pauline Schlachter

December 10

*Myron Berman
Deborah Boisvert
*Pauline Cowen
F. Robert Drury
*Sara Finkel
Maurice Gersh
Harris Glick
Sonia Grossman
Paul Gubb
Harry Katzen
Lillian Metzger
William Silver

December 17

Sadie Ackerman
Blanche Becker
Bertha Bohrer
Elaine Caplan
*Lillian C. Dopkeen
*Bernard Grolman
Kenneth Jacobson
*Fannie Mazur
*Alice F. Newton
Leon Oginsky
Frank Protano
*Seymour Shepard

December 24

*Hy Abrahamson
Judith D. Benharris
Sam Bentkover
Sadie Bohrer
*Harry Cobin
Abraham Cohen
Joseph Dworman
Margaret Katzen
Aaron Krock
*John Daniel Kuppenheimer
Harry Nataupsky
*Bruno Rechnitzer
Jacob B. Shairman
Samuel Louis Tapper
Marry Wittenberg

December 31

Nathan Bretholtz
Sarah Cohen
Sally Kangisser
Abe Leviton
*Ruth B. Marmorek
David Shwachman
Esther Sirk
*Libby Socofsky
Richard Steven Solomon
Henry Turco

We record with deep sorrow, these recently departed:

Edward H. Kanter, father of Jon Kanter (10-20-04)
Sally Miller Royak, mother of Carla Royak Volturo (10-24-04)
Richard Stebbins, father of Susan Cantor (10-25-04)
Lucille Ross, wife of Jason Ross, mother of Doug, Michael & Richard Ross (10-25-04)
Harry Beach Hubbard, Jr. father of Harry Joseph Hubbard (11-1-04)
Bradley M. Slack, uncle of June Willey (11-7-04)

ADULT EDUCATION DECEMBER

Sunday Morning with Student Rabbi Devorah Lynn - "*The Other December Dilemma*", - Sunday, December 5 - 9:30 AM, in the library.

Midrash Study - The Legends of the Jews: Tuesdays, December 7, 14, 21, 28 - 9:15 AM - Rabbi's study

"Greek & Latin Writers on Judaism and Talmud Study", Wednesdays, December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - 1:45 PM at the JHC. Led by Rabbi Bernstein.

Torah Study - Saturdays, December 4, 11, 18 - 9:00 AM - Rabbi's Study.

Book of Samuel: Saturdays, December 4, 18 - 10:00 AM - Rabbi's Study.

Jewish History: Saturday, December 11, 10:00 AM at the Jewish Family Service - led by Rabbi Bernstein



FAMILY EDUCATION

"Light & Darkness" a Family Education program for Grade 4 and their parents. Saturday, December 4, 9:00 AM

"Celebrate Hanukkah" with song and dance on Saturday, December 11 in the social hall. Parents are encouraged to attend: Parents of students in Grades K - 4 will meet at 9:00 - students will join them at 9:30. Parents of students in Grades 5 - 7 will meet at 10:45 - students will join them at 11:00.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

An American Cross Blood Drive will be held on Sunday, December 12th at the JCC, 633 Salisbury Street, Worcester, from 7:30 AM to 1:30 PM, and is open to the public. All donors will receive a special Red Cross T-Shirt. Breakfast will be served

DOMESTIC TASK FORCE

The Domestic Task Force: A Project of the Central MA Jewish Community. Domestic violence has become an epidemic in the US and unfortunately the Jewish community is not immune to its presence. US government statistics show a 25% prevalence rate in the general population. Even if we assume that it only occurs at a 10% rate in the central MA Jewish community that would mean that 300 of our Jewish friends and neighbors are victims. There are programs in the central MA area designed to deal with domestic abuse but they lack the resources to deal with some uniquely Jewish issues – such as: understanding Jewish law and the get. The central MA Jewish community is a small community and while that can offer many positives it also makes it difficult for victims to seek help for fear of recognition. Jewish Family Services reports that very few people from the Jewish community avail themselves of its services regarding domestic violence for that very reason.

The Domestic Violence Task Force (DVTF) has formed, including representatives from Jewish organizations and agencies, to address the following issues:

1. A confidential hotline for abuse victims to receive counsel, advice and referral. The Shalom Task Force of NY offers such a service nationally and this gives callers the comfort of not having to fear local recognition.
2. Legal assistance educated in understanding domestic abuse and having a Jewish sensitivity to these issues.
3. Safe housing.
4. Education in the Jewish community including not just victims but rabbis, community leaders, teachers, and the community at large.

On Monday, November 8th, the Temple Sinai Board voted in favor of a requested donation of \$200 to help the DVTF begin to address these problems. Temple Sinai will be kept up-dated as to the Task Force's progress. Temple Sinai representatives are also available to answer any questions regarding the project.

Steve Soreff and Sandy Sotak

CONTRIBUTIONS

CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND

Ruth Grossman, in honor of Claire Metzger & Carol Zisman's birthdays
Howard & Sandra Goldman, in memory of Harry B. Hubbard
Marilyn & Alvin Goldsmith, sending get well wishes to Ronald Leiser
Marilyn & Alvin Goldsmith, in memory of Irving Gudin
Ann Malloy & Ken Stillman, in honor of David's Bar Mitzvah

GENERAL FUND

Jeff & Otilie Levine, in appreciation of Jonathan Finkelstein & Harriet Lebow
Jeff & Otilie Levine, in appreciation of Paul & Zelda Schwartz
Tatyana & Jacob Gorodetsky, in memory of Fruma Shifrin
Everett & Ruth Rosen Foundation
David Stricker, in memory of Sylvia Fridman
David Stricker, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Alexandra Yanoff
Mel & Martha Rosenblatt, in memory of Sara Rosenblatt

LIBRARY FUND

Natalie & Jonathan Palley, in memory of Joycelyn Rossignol
Natalie & Jonathan Palley, in memory of Jennie Palley
Robert & Jane Lavine, in memory of Mary Young
Robert & Jane Lavine, in memory of Sylvia Hoffman
Robert & Jane Lavine, in memory of Walter Drake
Natalie, Jonathan, Sarah, Harry & Max Palley, in memory of Harry Hubbard' father
Robert & Jane Lavine, in memory of Mark Tsvok

MARION SACK GARDEN FUND

Sue & Richard Seder
Norman & Ina Sirk
In honor of Rick & Sue Seder's 30th wedding anniversary
Fran & Abe Sack,
Alperin/Hirsch Family Foundation

RABBI'S FUND

Sue & Jim Patrick, in honor of the marriage of Amanda Birns to Mark Roth
Judith Gorlick, in memory of Susan Stone's mother
Bruce, Nancy & Clark Dumart, in memory of Woodrow C. Dumart
Eleanor & Elliott Kunin, in memory of Beatrice Frem
Eleanor & Elliott Kunin, in memory of Louis Kunin
Michael & Audrey Marcy, in memory of Margaret Marcy
Linda & Howard Stern, in recognition of Arlyne Samuels's devotion to Hadassah
Burton & Carole Orland, in memory of Gail Topol
Cyrus Topol, in memory of Gail Topol
Ann Malloy & Ken Stillman, in honor of David's Bar Mitzvah
Sadye Steiman in memory of Judy Wolfson
The Dumart Family, in memory of Woodrow C. Dumart
Theresa, Michael, Matthew and Evan Cohen
Florence & Herman Lowe, in memory of Katie & Morris Jonas
Wendy Jane Rickles, in memory of Pearl Kaplan Greenberg
Joan & Arthur Pearlmuter, in memory of Henry Pearlmuter
Judy & Hal Schneider, in honor of Linda Stern's special anniversary and birthday

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Ron & Bobbi Field, on continued good health

SINAI HIGH ENRICHMENT FUND

Howard & Linda Stern, in memory of Sally Miller Royak
Religious School Staff, in memory of Sally Miller Royak

TOT SHABBAT FUND

Eleanor & Bernard Witkes, in memory of Charles Grace

BOOK CLUB SCHEDULE, FALL 2004 AND WINTER 2005

Everyone is invited to join in the meetings of the Book Club. Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise specified. Please call the hosts or Les and Sue Blatt (508-792-2823) ahead of time to let them know you are coming.



December 16 (Thursday at 6:30 p.m.), at Sue and Les Blatt's, 6 Knollwood Drive, Worcester: The music of Cole Porter. Listen to some collections of his music, view a version of "Kiss Me, Kate" or "High Society," and try to catch "De-Lovely," an idiosyncratic movie biography of Porter with a lot of interesting versions of his songs, if it's still in the local theaters. Latkes and a sing-along are always part of the annual musical meeting!

Other selections, to be scheduled later, include "Dusklands," by J. M. Coetzee, "Blindness," by Jose Saramago, "Forever," by Pete Hamill, and selections from "La Comedie Humaine," by Honore de Balzac.

SOCIAL ACTION

Rachel's Table needs help distributing donations to soup kitchens, shelters for the homeless and area neighborhood centers that feed the hungry. Telephone dispatchers volunteer from their homes scheduling food donation deliveries. Drivers pick up and deliver food using their own vehicles. Schedules are flexible and pre-arranged. For more information, please call Rachel's Table at 508 799-7699 or email Lissa at darragh@rcn.com

Their website is www.rachelstable.org

TODAH RABAH

Todah Rabah to **Hal & Judy Schneider**, for their donation of a VCR/DVD player for the Religious School.

Todah Rabah to **Zelda Schwartz and Bob Berman** for their presentations as part of the "Joy of Judaism" series.

On October 14th Zelda spoke on "Honor Thy Mother & Father: Bless Our Children" and on November 9th Bob spoke on "Jews in Sports".

Plan to attend some of the upcoming presentations. You can find information on our website.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2004

FAMILY HANUKKAH DINNER AND SERVICE

(All members are invited to attend)

\$7 per person - \$25 per family

DINNER AT 6:00 PM

SERVICE FOLLOWING AT 7:00 PM

Call Leslie Schoffmeier at 508 829-7089 for reservations



CHINUCH NOTES ON EDUCATION

Grades K - 7	Saturdays, December 4, 11, 18	9 - 12 noon
Grades 3 - 7	Saturdays, December 4, 11, 18	9 - 12 noon
	Wednesdays, December 1, 8, 15	3:45 - 5:40
Grades 8, 9 (Sinai High)	Monday, December 13 - " <i>L'shon Hara - Harmful & Harmless</i> "	6:00 - 8:00
	<i>Discussion : You Decide!</i>	

NEWS FROM THE 7th GRADE

As always, the school year for the 7th grade started off with a "flurry". Preparations for upcoming B'nai Mitzvah, studying about our High Holy Days and preparing for our 7th grade service are just a few of the main tasks we have undertaken!

Our visit to the Holocaust Memorial was very meaningful to our students. We are always amazed at their reactions. Again, this year, we had a special program for Kristallnacht. The smashing of the glass in class is an awesome experience.

We are looking forward to a productive year in our 7th grade.

Linda Stern
Gloria Aisenberg

COME CELEBRATE HANUKKAH
With the
Family Education Committee
Saturday, December 11, 2004

Jewish songs and dancing in the social hall
Led by Cindy Green, professional international
dance instructor.

Parents are welcome and strongly encouraged to attend

Grade K - 4 parents meet at 9:00, children will join us at 9:30
Grade 5 - 7 parents meet at 10:45, children will join us at 11:00

RSVP or questions

Clare Williams 508 829-2535
Lynne Burke 508 886-0001

TOT SHABBAT

The next interactive family-friendly Tot Shabbat service will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, December 18, 2004 at 10:30 in the main sanctuary

All preschoolers and their parents are invited to attend. Parents of kindergarten and 1st grade religious school students are also invited to join their children at the monthly service.

All are welcome, Sinai members and non-members alike. The service is led by Early Childhood Music Specialists and Recording Artists Peter & Ellen Allard.

Pot Luck Kiddush luncheon following the service.

Next Tot Shabbat Dates

Saturday January 8, 2005 at 10:30 in the main sanctuary
Saturday, February 12th, at 10:30 in the main sanctuary



FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Can you believe that it is already December? The year is flying by! And we already had snow!!! I hope that is not an indication of a long snowy winter!! To review our snow policy, see the box on this page. On a Saturday, you will all get a phone call.

Thank you to everyone who shopped at Tatnuck Bookseller on Wednesday, November 17 to support our school! The seventh graders did a great job leading services. Thank you to Leslie Stambler and Anne Molloy for coordinating the dinner preceding the service. Parents, please check your calendars now, so you know when your child's class will be leading services. Sixth grade is already preparing, and fifth grade will begin this month.

With only a few days in December, we have packed a lot of outstanding programs in! On **December 1**, Deanne Stone from the American Friends of the Weizmann Institute will speak to the **sixth and seventh grades** (who donated their Tzedakah to stem cell research), about the scientific advances being discovered at the Weizmann Institute in Israel. The **fourth graders and their parents** will participate in a Family Education program about *Light vs. Darkness* on **December 4** in the Social Hall. We are fortunate that our student Rabbi, Devorah Lynn will be here that day to participate with us. On **December 8**, the **third graders** will make latkes with Maya, one of our Israeli emissaries. The family education committee planned a morning of **Israeli dancing** in the Social Hall on **December 11**. *K-4 at 9:30 and 5-7 at 11:00 – please join us.* **Grades 3-7** will participate in a Hanukkah program in the Social Hall on **December 15**, planned by Maya and Ravid. *We look forward to all of these programs.*

Thank you to Leslie Schoffelmeer, Valerie Kerxhalli, Renee Malowitz, Harry Hubbard, Caryl Baird, Natalie Palley and Deb Brenner for preparing snack and monitoring traffic on Wednesdays. Thank you to Geri Blum and Cindy Wolpert for monitoring the door on Wednesdays!

Reminder: No Religious School on December 22, 25, 29, and January 1. See you on January 5! Have a safe and relaxing vacation!

Wendy Davis Wong

SNOW CLOSING INFORMATION

We will make a decision regarding school closing by 1:30 on Wednesdays and 7:30 on Saturdays. Please listen to WTAG (58 AM) or WSRS (96 FM) for that information. You may also call the Temple Office. On Wednesdays, when the Worcester Public Schools are closed, or if there is an early release in Worcester or the Wachusett School District, we will not have school. It is New England after all!!

