

# THE SINAI BULLETIN

Volume 19 Number 6

Shevat - Adar I 5765

February 2005

## RELIGIOUS SERVICES

### FEBRUARY 4

Friday, 8:00 PM - **SABBATH SERVICE**  
Sermon: "Reform Judaism and Legal Tradition"  
Usher: Debi Lang  
Aliyah: Richard Fox

### FEBRUARY 11

Friday, 7:00 PM - **FAMILY SABBATH SERVICE - GRADE 5 PARTICIPATING**  
*Student Rabbi Devorah Lynn Participating*  
Sermon: "Stories About Gifts"  
Usher: Wendy Rickles  
Aliyah: Clare Williams & Phoebe Glick  
Candles: Patty Ross

### FEBRUARY 12

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

### FEBRUARY 18

Friday, 8:00 PM - **SABBATH SERVICE**  
Sermon: "Jews and Politics"  
Usher: Wendy Waegell  
Aliyah: Linda Freund  
Candles: Marsha Bernstein

### FEBRUARY 25

Friday, 8:00 PM - **SABBATH SERVICE**  
Sermon: "The Best That Judaism Has to Offer"  
Usher: Leslie Schoffemeer  
Aliyah: Emily Holdstein  
Candles: Sally Gladstone

### FEBRUARY 26

Saturday, 11:30 AM - **BAR MITZVAH OF SAM GLADSTONE**

## SAVE THE DATE

Our Annual Wolpert Scholar-in-Residence program will begin on Friday evening, April 1, with Shabbat Services at 8:00 PM and will continue on Saturday morning April 2, from 10:00 AM until noon. Our speaker will be Professor Sharon Keller. Save the date for this wonderful opportunity of study and sharing.

## ZIMRIAH

*Jewish Song Festival*

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13 - 3:00 PM**

*Dinner following at 5:45 PM*

Cost is \$10 per person/\$25 per family (Children & Parents)

Please call Susan Hildum - 508 829-6057 or Wendy

Waegell - 508 867-9642 for reservations, and food donations.

## .c k v h r c s

## THE HEALTH AND HEALING WE YEARN FOR

The Kalsman Institute is a Reform Jewish endeavor devoted to offer programs aimed at improving the health of Jews and others in our society. I have been part of this effort since its inception. I have recently returned from one of our biennial gatherings devoted to improving our physical, emotional, and spiritual well beings. A major thrust of this gathering was to honor Debbie Friedman, composer and performer of Jewish music. Her most well-known composition is that of the Mi Sheberach healing prayer that we and so many other liberal congregations offer during our Torah service. Once again, I was most fortunate to witness a moment when dozens could gather to bring healing to the healer. That, too, is needed when a community's health and welfare are at stake.

My older brother, Howard, and sister-in-law, Nora, live in the house in which I grew up in Indiana. Over the past two years, six floods have devastated that home and the homes of those in the neighborhood. This last flood was the worst flood since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. I don't know the extent of the damage as of this writing, but it is more than considerable. I stand in awe of so many, like my brother and sister-in-law, who pick up the pieces and carry on. Their lives, and the lives of so many others in other communities, are in need of healing as well.

Our world needs healing from the tsunami devastation from last December. Our country and world need healing from the war in Iraq and Afghanistan that continues to claim lives and ruin families of survivors. Recently at the annual convention of the National Association of Jewish Chaplains we honored all military chaplains of our organization who serve and have served the military personnel, Jewish and non-Jewish, in their lines of duty. The stories were most impressive about how skilled and devoted these chaplains are in bringing healing to those in need.

Our world needs healing. Our country needs healing. Our families need healing. Each of us as individuals need healing. So does our faith community and so many others. I look forward to seeing you soon at Shabbat services as we gather in prayer to praise God, in addition to so many other concerns, for the healing that comes to us in our times of need.

Rabbi Seth L. Bernstein



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

While wrestling with my thoughts about the devastation caused by the tsunami in Southeast Asia, I came across the following editorial in the Forward on December 31, 2004. I am sharing select parts of the editorial with you in this newsletter.

### Waters Rage. We Are Afraid.

*Catastrophe strikes each of us differently. The wise among us withhold judgment on our fellows' first responses, knowing there is no right pathway through grief. And how do the grieving respond? Some lash out angrily. Some babble foolishly. Some sink into black pits of despair from which they may never reemerge.*

*Jewish tradition gives a name to the first wave of shock after a death and before burial. It is called aninut, something between numbness and desperation, when the mourner is exempted from the normal rules of behavior and those around are counseled to keep silent.*

*Today we are all in aninut. We are all angry, we are all fools, for the earth itself has become our black pit, sending mountains of water crashing across continents and devastating nations in an instant. And those of us on the other side of the globe struggle to understand how to understand. Deep within, we congratulate ourselves for being alive, and then we feel foolish. How are we to behave?*

*There have been similar events in our lifetimes. An earthquake in Iran left 26,000 dead on December 26, 2003, one year almost to the hour before this tsunami. A quake in Turkey killed 17,000 people in an instant in 1999. An Iranian quake in 1990 killed 40,000; another in China in 1976 is said to have killed 140,000 just as instantaneously. We have seen this before. We have even done this ourselves.*

*And yet, in a way, we have not seen this before. For the disaster that will never be captured in a single picture that sears our memory- a mother weeping, a broken leg emerging from the rubble, a naked girl fleeing- accompanied by a little map to explain what spot in our vast world was the site of the disaster. This time it is the map itself that tells the story, the one showing the quarter of our globe that has been reduced to ruin.*

*"The earth is transformed and the mountains collapse in the heart of the seas; waters rage and are muddied," the Psalmist wrote. "Therefore, we shall not be afraid."*

*But we are afraid. We are very afraid.*

So, what is the correct way to react? Of course, there is no correct way. The best we can do is to react from our hearts, without judgment of ourselves, or others around us. It doesn't matter if we are angry or afraid, or if our actions seem foolish. We must have the courage to act individually, so that we know that we each did the right thing for us, in our own way.

(Continued on page 4)



## CANTOR'S NOTES

There is a lot of musical excitement in store for the Temple in February and March. Please mark your calendars for **Sunday afternoon, February 13 from 3-6:30 pm**. We will be having our second annual Zimriyah (song festival). It will feature the *Cantor's Chanters*, Israeli Dancing, song leading by Steve Schuster, a performance by Ellen Allard, arts and crafts, and of course, a wonderful pot-luck dinner. Details and a flyer will follow shortly, but please say yes when you are asked to help, plan to cook something, and come to this fun-filled family event.

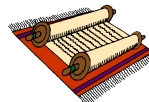
The *Cantor's Chanters* will also be participating in the family service on February 11 at 7 pm. The Fifth grade will be participating in that service as well. Speaking of the Fifth Grade, they will be performing in the Purim Spiel this coming March 24, Thursday, at 5:30 pm. The Purim Spiel this year is a traditional reading of the book of Esther with all the songs you know and love. Mark your calendars to help us celebrate this joyous holiday!

The *Cantor's Chanters* will also be taking a field trip to Music Worcester on Sunday, March 6 to see *Ball in the House*, a five part a cappella group. The performance is at 3 pm, and we will meet at temple at 2:15. All Chanters and their families are invited. This is a wonderful treat for the children, as well as a bonding experience for them. Chanters and their families should have received a mailing about this. If you didn't, please call me for more information.

The *Evelyn Zarrow Choir* will be starting to rehearse in February for a very special sermon in song. The sermon in song is scheduled for April and will help us prepare for Passover. The choir is scheduled to rehearse Feb. 28, March 7, 21, 28, April 4, and 18 for the service April 22. Choir rehearsals are in the school building from 6:45-8:15 pm. We are in need of all voice parts, so please join us if you can. The ability to read music is helpful, but not required.

As you see, music is an integral part of our services and celebrations at Temple Sinai. Please join us for these joyous services and events!

B'shalom,  
Cantor Claire G. Metzger



## TEN MINUTES OF TORAH

*Ten Minutes of Torah*, a daily email from the URJ, is a terrific way to study Torah even when you cannot come to Torah study class. The Union for Reform Judaism provides daily opportunities through *Ten Minutes of Torah*. All you need to do is go online to [www.urj.org/torah/ten](http://www.urj.org/torah/ten) and sign up. You will then receive these emails to study at your leisure

**YAHREZEITS**

**February 4**

- \*Louis Abrahamson
- Edward Berman
- \*Jeannette Black
- Jeanette Dorfman
- Eugene Johnson
- \*Vicky Smith Kaufman
- \*William Klein
- Milton Howard Lewis
- Rudolph J. Lofgren
- Roger Malfleit
- \*Ida Pemstein
- Eva Rossman

**February 11**

- Charles Callahan
- Miriam Goldberg
- Betty Katz
- Ida Labes
- \*Sadie Miller
- Birdie Neckes
- Linda Ravin
- Joseph Rome
- Anne Tuggle
- \*Mark Weisberg
- \*Edward Yerow
- \*Samuel Zellen

**February 18**

- \*Harry Abramoff
- Hazel Benjamin
- \*Leonard E. Gorlick
- Margaret Kaufman
- Jerald J. Kessel
- \*Maurice Levy
- Herbert Sherwin
- \*Ida Sternfeld

**February 25**

- Ida Bretholtz
- \*George Falk
- \*Cecile Josephs Glazer
- \*George Golden
- Barnard Kaplan
- \*Joseph S. Rubin
- \*Gladys Yerow

*We record with deep sorrow, these recently departed:*

- John Casey*, father of Joe Casey
- Ray Glazier*, father of Wayne Glazier
- Milton Israel*, grandfather of Cindy Wolpert
- Jeanette Ravis*, aunt of Steve Soreff
- Eli Leviton*, brother of Erwin Leviton

**ADULT EDUCATION FEBRUARY**

*Sunday Morning with Student Rabbi Devorah Lynn -"Artisans, Artists, Architects", - Sunday, February 13 - 9:30 AM, in the library.*

*Midrash Study - The Legends of the Jews: Tuesdays, February 1, 8, 15, 22 - 9:15 AM - Rabbi's study*

*"Greek & Latin Writers on Judaism and Talmud Study", Wednesdays, February 2, 9, 16, 23 - 1:45 PM at the JHC. Led by Rabbi Bernstein.*

*Torah Study - Saturdays, February 5, 12, 19, 26 - 9:00 AM - Rabbi's Study.*

*Book of Samuel: Saturdays, February 5, 19, 26 - 10:00 AM - Rabbi's Study.*

*American Jewish History: Saturday, February 12 - 10:00 AM at the Jewish Family Service - led by Rabbi Bernstein*

*Megillat Esther: Chanting the Book of Esther: Saturdays, February 5, 26 - 12:15 PM, led by Cantor Metzger in the library.*

*Torah Trope: Chanting the Torah: Saturdays, February 5, 26 - 1:15 PM led by Cantor Metzger in the library.*



**JOY OF JUDAISM**

*"Jewish Humor": Wednesday, February 9 - 7:30 PM in the library. Led by Steve Soreff*

*"Jews and Jazz, Revisited": Tuesday, February 15 - 7:30 PM in the social hall. Join Marty Friedman and the Septet, for an evening of jazz, featuring selections written by Jewish Composers and others. This event promises to be very exciting, with new material as well as the addition of some very talented jazz instrumentalists. If you like jazz you will not want to miss this very popular installment in Temple Sinai's Adult Education*



**FAMILY EDUCATION**

*"Jewish Values" a Family Education program for Grade 7 and their parents. Saturday, February 5, 9:00 AM, in the social*

**WE CAN UTILIZE YOUR TALENTS!**

*Do you read Hebrew?*

*Do you read Torah?*

*The Worship Committee is looking for adult Torah readers!*

*Pease call June at the Temple office 508 755-2519*

*to tell her you are "here" for your Temple.*

*The Worship Committee will return your call.*

*Thank you*

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

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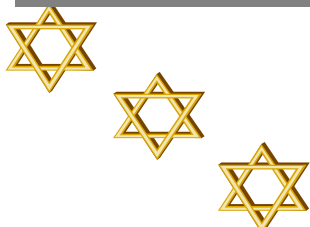
We welcome the following new members into the Temple Sinai family

- Alan & Laura Dworman*, of Cherry Valley
- Michael & Jill Finkle*, of Worcester
- Lloyd & Helen Lipkin*, of Shrewsbury

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TASK FORCE**

**Up-date on the Domestic Violence Task Force:** In November the Board of Temple Sinai approved a \$200 contribution to begin funding the Domestic Violence Task Force of Central Massachusetts. We are happy to report that Jewish Federation has agreed to fund the confidential hotline service, Shalom Task Force, (an intPegral part of this project) for one year- \$5000. We are thankful for Federation's commitment.

Steve Soreff and Sandy Sotak



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (cont. from pg. 2)

Yet, there is a tomorrow, even through disasters such as this, albeit of smaller proportions, are amongst us always. For instance, the La Conchita mudslides in Southern California, which occurred in early January, happened just miles from the community in which my retirement home is located. Eight people were killed by being buried alive in mud and debris. This disaster, although not on the scale of the tsunami tragedy, really struck home for me because I was not isolated from this event, watching it unfold on television half a world away. It happened in my backyard. It brought new perspective to how fragile our lives can be, and how ultimately we do not control the Earth, she controls us.

We can be afraid. We can be confused. We can be angry and lash out. But my hope is that we can use our emotions to spur us to take action, to help those who have been affected by disasters, large or small. There are always people in every community who need our help, whether it is in our backyard, or halfway across the world. Let us reconsider our role in our community, and the larger world, adjust our focus, and be mindful to the fragility of human life on this planet. We cannot live in fear forever, and time will heal our wounds. But we must not forget, and this devastating event in Southeast Asia gives us time to pause and reflect on the magnitude of lives lost, the suffering of those who survived, the plight of children left without parents, and the years it will take for life to return to "normal" for the people in this region. Our contribution as Jews is to reach out and help those who need it, without judgment, through volunteer work or donations to the numerous charities set up to help the victims. May G-d have mercy on the people of Southeast Asia, and may G-d bless us with the courage to take action to help our fellow man.

B'Shalom  
Douglas Freund

## TODAH RABAH

Todah Rabah to **Maile Jones** for leading us in Israeli dancing after the Family Service on January 14th, and to **Steve Slaten**, for his talk on "When Your Children do not Choose Judaism" on January 25. Both are a part of the "Joy of Judaism Series".

Todah Rabah to the **Palley Family** of Deerfield Press for volunteering to print the new membership list at the last minute.

## BOOK CLUB SCHEDULE

The Book Club meetings are open to all members. Please contact the host or let Les or Sue Blatt (508) 792-2823 know in advance if you plan to attend. Meetings begin at 7:30 on the evenings scheduled.

**February 23** (Wednesday) at Maile Jones's home: "Forever," by Pete Hamill.

**March 16** (Wednesday) at Otti and Jeff Levine's home: "Blindness," by Jose Saramago.

**April 13** (Wednesday) at Marcia Tannenbaum's home: "La Peau de Chagrin," a novel from Honore de Balzac's "La Comedie Humaine," available in paperback under the title "The Wild-Ass's Skin," or on-line at <http://www.gutenberg.org>

## CONTRIBUTIONS

### BIBLICAL GARDEN FUND

*Natalie & Jonathan Palley*, in memory of Bob Schlofeldt  
*Natalie & Jonathan Palley*, in memory of John Casey

### GENERAL FUND

*Marian Nataupsky*, in memory of Harry Nataupsky  
*Martha & Mel Rosenblatt*, in memory of Sally Kangisser  
*Kim & Joan Kaplan*, in memory of Lucille Ross  
*Dick & Arleen Danford*, in memory of Milton Israel  
*Carol Seager*, in memory of Ray Glazier  
*Jeff & Ottie Levine*, in memory of Ray Glazier

### LIBRARY FUND

*Bob & Jane Lavine*, in memory of Barbara Ann Robinson  
*Marlene & David Persky*, in memory of Adele Engelberg  
*Robert & Jane Lavine*, in memory of Donald Cosmo

### MARION SACK GARDEN FUND

*Fran & Abe Sack*, in memory of Ray Glazier

### RABBI'S FUND

*Al & Doris Shairman*, in memory of Abraham Cohen  
*Al & Doris Shairman*, in memory of Jacob B. Shairman  
*Toby & Chuck Richmond*, in memory of Theresa Krasowksy  
*Robert & Joan Yood*  
*Todd & Shelley Rodman*  
*Eleanor & Elliott Kunin*, in memory of Arnold Wolf  
*Judith Martin*, in memory of Jeanie Brunell  
*Metel Peklic*, in memory of Ana Vajk-Peklic  
*John Burwick & Family*, in memory of Benjamin L. Audouin  
*Judith Gorlick*, in memory of Ray Glazier  
*Judith Gorlick*, wishing a speedy recovery to Allen Rubin  
*Elaine & Julius Palley*, in memory of John Casey  
*Richard Fox & Ann Merritt*, in memory of Ray Glazier  
*Bill Poznik*  
*Al & Doris Shairman*, in memory of Norma Rudinsky  
*Lillian Reisler*, sending wishes for good health to Jessie Bernstein  
*Judy Gorlick*, in memory of Irene Tolman's mother  
*Judy Gorlick*, in memory of Peg Donabedian's mother  
*Ruth Berman*, in honor of the 94<sup>th</sup> birthday of Michael Katz  
*Ruth Berman*, in honor of the 94<sup>th</sup> birthday of Janet Swedroe  
*Ruth Berman*, in honor of the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Sarah Pulda  
*Paula Ravin & Kurt Rothschild*, in memory of Herbert Ravin  
*Earle & Carole Halsband*, in memory of Ray Glazier  
*The Family of Arnold Wolf*, in his memory  
*Florence & Herman Lowe*, in memory of Mary Wittenberg  
*Joan & Arthur Pearlmutter*, in memory of Lillian Pearlmutter  
*Joan & Arthur Pearlmutter*, in memory of Lillian Weingarten  
*Shirley Glazier*, in memory of Ray Glazier  
*Michael & Audrey Marcy*, in memory of Francis Marcy



## MAZZAL TOV

Mazzal Tov to **Jane & Alan Moss** on the birth of a granddaughter **Kate Roth**.

Mazzal Tov to **Jo & Neil Patrick**, on the engagement of their son, **Matthew**.



