

THE SINAI BULLETIN

Volume 22 Number 6

Shevat - Adar I 5768

February 2008

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

FEBRUARY 1

Friday, 7:30 PM - **SABBATH SERVICE - SINAI HIGH PARTICIPATING**

Usher: Steve Glick

Candles: Jocelyn Bly, Gabrielle Jette, Shayna Rothschild,

Aliyah: Matt Cohen & Jonathan Oberman

FEBRUARY 8

Friday, 8:00 PM **SABBATH SERVICE - FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE**
* (Please note time change)

Usher: Renée Malowitz

Candles: Tatyana Gorodetsky

FEBRUARY 9

Saturday, 11:00 - **TOT SHABBAT**

FEBRUARY 15

Friday, 7:30 PM - **SABBATH SERVICE - GUEST SPEAKER**
RABBI GARY GLICKSTEIN

Usher: Jesse Caplan

Candles: Maile Jones

Aliyah: Steve & Emily Glick

FEBRUARY 22

Friday, 7:30 PM - **SABBATH SERVICE**

Sermon: "Visual Program on Israel" by Rabbi Bernstein

Usher: Mike Finkle

Candles: Jennifer Lish

Aliyah: Natalie Palley

FEBRUARY 29

Friday, 7:30 PM - **SABBATH SERVICE - 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

Usher: Gary Englander

Candles: Carol Powers

Aliyah: Noreen Simon

Hold the Date - March 28!

As we continue to celebrate our Jubilee year,

please join us for a special

"Cavalcade of Cantors" service,

featuring all of our past cantors:

David Kaplan, Harriett Katz,

Wendy Autenrieth, and Claire Metzger

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Purim - Megillah Reading & Carnival

Thursday, March 20th beginning at 5:30 PM.

Congregational Seder - Sunday, April 20th

(watch for details in the March Bulletin)

DIVREI HALEV

WORDS OF THE HEART

"A FEEL GOOD MOMENT"

We have a "feel good moment" in our future. We are looking forward to welcoming back to Temple Sinai, Rabbi Gary A. Glickstein, Rabbi of Temple Beth Shalom of Miami Beach, Florida. Gary, and his wonderful wife, Joanie, will join us for Shabbat services on Friday night, February 15, at 7:30 p.m. Having been part of the Temple Sinai community from 1977-1985, Gary and Joanie Glickstein formed wonderful relationships with children and adults throughout the course of their years here at Temple Sinai. Gary led this congregation at a very important time in our congregation's history when Temple Sinai expanded its worship space from the Religious School building into our current sanctuary and social hall facility. On a personal basis, Marsha and I are thrilled to welcome Gary and Joanie whom we met in Israel when I began rabbinical school, and whose friendship deepened throughout those years of our rabbinical training in Cincinnati.

Congregants who knew Rabbi Glickstein in those years, 1977-1985 will have an opportunity revisit some "feel good moments" at the Shabbat service that evening. In addition to offering his sermon that Shabbat, Rabbi Glickstein will invite anyone who experienced a joyous life cycle event with Rabbi Glickstein to come forward to the bimah to be included in a joint communal prayer. If you celebrated a naming, Bar or Bat Mitzvah, Confirmation, or wedding during the time of Rabbi Glickstein's tenure, please be sure to join us in worship on February 15. If you know of others, invite them as well!

In honor of our 50th anniversary as a congregation, I wish we could call back all the spiritual leaders of Temple Sinai who served our congregation so ably over the course of our history. However, time and circumstances do not make that possible. Fortunately we will have the opportunity to embrace Joanie and Gary that evening and to share in the richness of our experiences together. For those who were not part of Temple Sinai from 1977-1986, the evening still promises to be an important spiritual moment in our history filled with joy and meaning. Regardless when our spiritual journeys brought us to Temple Sinai, we are grateful for all those who walked along with us and most thankful for the One for whom we carry on.



*** PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF SERVICE TIME
ON FEBRUARY 8 - SABBATH SERVICE
AT 8 PM AFTER DINNER AT
CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL**

Judaism & Chinese Food (for thought)

I can't stop thinking about an article I recently read about Judaism in China. Not *Jews* – there are just a few hundred Jews in China – but *Judaism* and *Jewish ethics*.

China used to be the country at the bottom of the world – the place you got to if you dug a deep enough hole, and the land of starving children for whom we had to clear our dinner plates. But today, we are frequently told that this will be the “China Century,” the result of an economy that is growing at twice the rate of America's.

But China's booming growth has come with well-publicized stories of unsavory business practices like toys stuffed with garbage or colored with lead paint, toothpaste tainted with antifreeze, and jackets lined with dog fur. Business practices that are illegal in the U.S. are common in China, where unethical business behavior is rarely punished and there are no clear ethical standards.

It is in this context that Dr. Xu Xin operates the Nanjing University Institute for Jewish Studies. Dr. Xin, who studies Talmud in Hebrew and has translated part of the Encyclopedia Judaica into Chinese, says the Jewish “way of living and thinking made [him] aware that Jewish culture has many lessons Chinese people could learn on their way to becoming a responsible part of the international society.”

Like the Jewish People, China has a continuous national identity as one of the world's oldest and most complex civilizations covering a history of over 5,000 years. Both Israel and China have national religions (Confucianism and Judaism) that are more based upon deed than dogma, behavior more than belief. And both have had a major influence on human civilization. World history is unimaginable without either the Chinese or the Jews.

The national identities of both peoples were also recently redefined – almost simultaneously: modern Israel in 1948, modern China in 1949. In a world that favors Western languages, both China and Israel are proudly loyal to ancient tongues and unique alphabet characters. Both countries are exceedingly innovative and today, China is second only to the U.S. as Israel's most active bilateral trading partner.

As China catapults on the world stage as business powerhouse, Dr. Xin notes there are more Jewish commandments concerning the kashrut of money than the kashrut of food. Talmudic tradition holds, in fact, that the first question asked of a person entering the next world is, “Were you honest in business?”

Dr. Xin says he hopes to “help more and more Chinese realize how important an understanding of Jewish culture is as an essential step in preparation for the challenge faced by Chinese as they move towards a more active world role.” I can't stop pondering this because it's a powerful notion to think that the Chinese, as richly steeped as they are in their own tradition, would turn to Judaism for ethical guidance. Just imagine, for a moment, what would happen if 1.4 billion Chinese people lived by Jewish ethics. Just imagine if we all did.

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NOTES FROM ROBIN

Nusach: A musical calendar

I am sometimes asked what “*nusach*” means, and why we don't hear more (or less!) of it in our worship. And so, a very brief primer:

“*Nusach*” refers to the specific series of notes (musical motifs or “motives”) employed when chanting liturgical texts. *Nusach* does NOT refer to the melodies chanted for Torah, Haftara or other biblical texts; that musical language is called *trop*, and I will address that in a future column. *Nusach* is NOT composed music. Rather, these melodic phrases are traditional, going back certainly hundreds of years, and some specific motives are considered “*mi Sinai*” - literally, “from Sinai,” handed down directly from Moses.

Like *trop*, *nusach* is a sort of coded language, telling us where we are and what is going on. Some secular examples: What do you think of when you hear “The Wedding March?” Or Mozart's *Requiem*? *Auld Lang Syne*? These melodies give you a sense of time and place. On a lighter note, the opening guitar riff of *Dirty Water* certainly seems to bring on a near-Pavlovian response in members of Red Sox Nation!

Now, suppose that, like Rip Van Winkle, we were to fall asleep for 100 years, and wake up unaware of the time or date. By entering a traditional synagogue and listening to the *nusach*, we would be able to determine:

- The time of day (evening or morning);
- Whether it is Shabbat, a holiday, or a weekday; and
- Which holiday it is (there are specific melodies for each festival).

Nusach also lets us know where we are in the service. There are specific motives for the opening prayers, for the amida, and for the Torah Service, to name but a few.

An experienced cantor, knowledgeable in *nusach* and well-acquainted with the liturgical texts, contemporaneously weaves together the various motives appropriate for a particular text, very much like a jazz singer interprets a song. While *nusach* itself is not composed, the cantor is free to interpret the texts within the confines of the *nusach*, and so you might hear the same text, correctly chanted in *nusach*, having a somewhat different melody each time.

While *nusach* is not composed, it IS employed by sensitive composers, who can give new meaning to familiar texts while respectfully maintaining some of the traditional melody. An example is the *Mi Chamocha* I sing on Shabbat morning. While it is a composed melody (by Abraham Binder), it relies heavily on the traditional *nusach* for Shabbat morning.

In future columns I will address other elements of our vast musical heritage. I welcome your questions or ideas for this space, and am always happy to hear from you with any comment you'd care to share.

L'shalom,
Robin

February 1

- *Louis Abrahamson
- Edward Berman
- *Jeannette Black
- Jeanette Dorfman
- Eugene Johnson
- *Rabbi Joseph Karasick
- *Vicky Smith Kaufman
- Rudolph J. Lofgren
- *Ida Pemstein
- Eva Rossman
- Henry Rothschild
- Boris Schuster
- Lillian Weingarten

February 8

- Charles Callahan
- Betty Katz
- *William Klein
- Roger Malfliet
- *Sadie Miller
- Joseph Rome
- Milton Roth
- *Saul A. Seder
- *Edward Yerow

February 15

- *Harry Abramoff
- Hazel Benjamin
- Miriam Goldberg
- *Leonard E. Gorlick
- Jerald J. Kessel
- *Maurice Levy
- Birdie Neckes
- Linda Ravin
- Herbert Sherwin
- *Ida Sternfeld
- Anne Tuggle
- *Mark Weisberg
- Richard Zatkin
- *Samuel Zellen

February 22

- Muriel Brill
- *George Golden
- Dolores Lubowitz
- *Henry S. Miles
- George Mosler
- *Joseph S. Rubin

February 29

- Fanny Banever
- *George Falk
- *Cecile Josephs Glazer
- *Samuel Greenberg
- Barnard Kaplan
- Barry Levitsky
- *Sol Marcus
- *Gladys Yerow

*We record with deep sorrow, these recently departed:
Lena Budish, mother of Steve Budish*



Endowment Fund Update

Following the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Endowment Management Committee, the Temple Sinai Board of Trustees unanimously voted on December 10, 2007 to authorize the establishment of an Unrestricted Agency Endowment Fund for Temple Sinai at The Greater Worcester Community Foundation. All of Temple Sinai's endowment assets (except the amount currently invested in Israel Bonds) are in the process of being transferred to the Foundation, a public charitable corporation with a mission to increase philanthropy and build healthy and vibrant communities throughout Central Massachusetts. The committee's recommendation followed approximately six months of research and interviews with various financial management professionals and it is believed that our synagogue's endowment fund will benefit from the Foundation's administrative services, investment management and permanence.

SHRINK YOUR TAXES-GROW YOUR TEMPLE

If you are thinking of selling stock that has grown in value, please consider donating it to the Endowment Fund instead. Not only would you avoid paying capital gains tax, but also the full present market value qualifies as a tax-deductible charitable contribution. A substantial portion of the Fund's income helps to support the Temple and to keep dues reasonable. The Endowment is growing but is not yet large enough to meet our needs. Of course contributions of any kind are welcome, but if you own appreciated securities and want more information, contact Jerry Freed (978-838-0414).

TODAH RABAH

Today Rabah to *Debi Lang & Wendy Waegell* and **all the many volunteers** who helped make the guests of the Interfaith Hospitality Network feel at home here in our Temple during the week of Dec. 16 - 22.

Today Rabah to *Marilyn Wolpert and Becky Pins* for putting book plates in all the new prayerbooks.

Today Rabah to *Jackie Eagle*, for putting the Religious School kitchen back together at the end of December. It's sparkling clean and well organized! Thanks Jackie!

Today Rabah to *Dr. Evan Graber*, for leading us in the viewing and discussion of the documentary film, "*Tough Guise*" on January 27th.

ADULT EDUCATION IN FEBRUARY

Pirke' Avot, Ethics of the Ancestors: Tuesdays, February 5, 12, 19, 26 - 9:15 AM - Rabbi's study.

Midrash - Wednesdays, February 6, 13, 20, 27 - 1:45 PM at the JHC, led by Rabbi Bernstein.

"Torah Study - Aviva Zornberg on Genesis": Saturdays, February 2, 9, 16, 23 - 9:00 AM - Rabbi's study.

"Modern Hebrew" - Saturdays, February 2, 9, 16, 23, - 10:00 AM - Rabbi's study.

Talmud Study - "Mining the Riches of Talmud": Saturday, February 9, 23 - 10:00 AM, with Rabbinic Intern, Randy Kafka.

Torah Study for Novices - Saturday, February 9, 23 - 11:00 AM, with Rabbinic Intern, Randy Kafka.

REKINDLE SHABBAT WITH THE GREATER WORCESTER COMMUNITY

Wednesday, February 6 at Worcester JCC:

- At 7:30 PM, a one-hour interactive educational session on Shabbat rituals will be held. This will be led by community Rabbis. Preceding the program there will be a light pizza supper at 6:00 - cost is \$5 per person. **Please RSVP to the JFCM 508 756-1543 by February 1. A minimum of one family member must attend in order to be able to attend the Shabbat dinner on February 8th.** Each family will receive a complimentary Shabbat kit containing ritual items for the entire family.

Friday, February 8 at Congregation Beth Israel:

- 6 - 7:30 PM: For those who attended the educational session on February 6th, your family is invited to a complimentary kosher chicken dinner with challah, grape juice and dessert. **Please RSVP to the JFCM 508 756-1543 by February 1.**

- **8 PM Shabbat Service at Temple Sinai (Whether you attend this program or not, please come to services!)**

Why Rekindle Shabbat?

Family time. Reflection. Spirituality. Community. Tradition. A memorable experience that can help keep your children and grandchildren Jewish. *Rekindle Shabbat* will give your family all of this and more.

Program sponsored by grants from the Robert I. Lappin Charitable Foundation, Jewish Continuity Committee and JFCM.

CONTRIBUTIONS

BIBLICAL GARDEN FUND

Bill & Noreen Simon, in memory of Barbara M. Cullan

CANTOR'S FUND

Alvin Goldsmith, in honor of his wife Marilyn's birthday

ENDOWMENT FUND

Mr. & Mrs. Robert D. Warshawer

GENERAL FUND

The Ravin/Rothschild Family, in memory of Herbert Ravin, MD

In memory of Estelle Rickles:

Lester & Joan Sadowsky

Barry & Arline Rotman

Dr. Peter & Elinor Drob

Yale & Edith Lainer

Susan & Ray Kulick

LIBRARY FUND

Bob & Jane Lavine, in memory of Paul Senderoff's mother

Bob & Jane Lavine, in memory of Vera Howarth

MA'OT CHITIM FUND

Ruth Berman, in memory of Ethel Gladstone

RABBI'S FUND

David Kaplan, in memory of Celia Kaplan

Jacqueline Ross, in memory of Bernard Grolman

Jane & Jerry Freed, in memory of Blanche Becker

Harry, Donna, Allison & Joshua Hubbard, in memory of Benjamin & Sadie Ackerman

Phyllis Bretholtz, in memory of Nathan Bretholtz

David & Marlene Persky, in memory of Adele Engelberg

Linda & Howard Stern, in honor of the birth of Abigail Rose Autenrieth

Bob & Barbara Swidler, in memory of Harry Sumner

Bob & Barbara Swidler, in sending good health wishes to Joe Sumner

Rayna Keenan, in memory of Maurice Gersh

Reeve Gersh, in memory of Maurice Gersh

Al and Doris Shairman, in memory of Jacob B. Shairman

Al and Doris Shairman, in memory of Abraham Cohen

Hal & Judy Schneider, in memory of Seymour Samuels

Sandra Rothschild, in memory of Ilse, Alfred, Ed, and Steve Rothschild

Jerry and Jane Freed, in memory of Blanche Becker

Richard and Ann Fox

William Stern

Dr. Stephen Arbetter, in honor of the naming of Samantha Arbetter

Ellie Gerhardt, in memory of Ruth Leibman Fairbanks

Mel Budish and family, in memory of Lena Budish

Marlene and David Persky, in memory of Adele Engelberg

Todd and Shelley Rodman

Robert and Kristen Bernstein, in honor of the naming of Charles Max Bernstein

Alice and Howard Witkes, in memory of Estelle Rickles

Nick and Bobbie Chase, in memory of Libby Socofsky

Nick and Bobbie Chase, in wishing good health to Al Shairman

Emily & James Holdstein, in memory of Estelle Rickles

Alice & Howard Witkes, in memory of Estelle Rickles

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Kerxhalli/Caplan Family, in memory of Elaine Caplan

TRAFFIC SAFETY REMINDER!

**THIS APPLIES TO EVERYONE DRIVING
TO THE TEMPLE ON
SATURDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS!**

NO ONE will be allowed to drive up or down the hill on Saturdays, between 8:50 and 9:10 and 11:50 and 12:10, and on Wednesdays between 3:35 and 3:55 and again between 5:30 and 5:50. If you must come to the school building between these hours, please park in the lower lot and walk up. SPEED LIMIT ON THE HILL AT ALL OTHER TIMES IS 5 MPH.

**THE SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN DEPENDS
ON YOUR COMPLIANCE.**



We are honored to welcome Rabbi Gary Glickstein, Rabbi of Temple Sinai from 1977 to 1985 to Shabbat services on Friday, February 15th.

After leaving Temple Sinai, he became the spiritual leader of Temple Beth Shalom, in Miami, Florida.

Please be sure to attend this service. Rabbi Glickstein will offer a special blessing for anyone who celebrated a joyous life cycle event (Wedding, Baby Naming, Consecration, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Confirmation and Conversion) during his tenure.

A festive oneg will follow the service, where you can personally welcome Rabbi Glickstein and his wife Joanie.

SEND A NET - SAVE A LIFE!

We, the students in the 7th grade Holocaust Studies class at Temple Sinai, have decided to take on a tzedakah project that responds to the lesson learned from the Holocaust of "Never again!" We have chosen to partner with the Union for Reform Judaism's Disaster Fund in raising money to purchase mosquito bed nets for the African people made homeless by the continuing genocide in Darfur. Currently they live in refugee camps that are crowded and unsanitary. Diseases, like malaria, carried by insects are rampant.

In honor of the 50th anniversary we have set an initial goal of purchasing 50 nets and invite all members of the Temple Sinai community to join us in reaching this goal. We have all committed to purchase at least one net at the cost of \$10 each. We will earn that money ourselves. There are 11 students in our class. If contributions are generous- and we think they will be- we will extend our goal to 50 more nets.

Please consider making a \$10 contribution to Temple Sinai for the purchase of one net. Note on your check that this money is for the "nets" project. Donations can also be given directly to any 7th grade student.

Thank you from the Seventh Grade

Grades K, 1 & 2	Saturdays, February 2, 9	9 - 12 noon
Grades 3 - 7	Saturdays, February 2, 9 Wednesdays, February 6, 13, 27	9 - 12 noon 3:45 - 5:40 PM
Grades 8, 9 (Sinai High)	Friday, February 1 (<i>dinner followed by <u>Sinai High Service at 7:30</u></i>) Mondays, - February 11, 25 - <i>Class Meetings</i>	6:30 6:30 - 8:00 PM
Confirmation	Mondays, February 4, 11, 25	6:45

News From The 5th Grade

We the fifth grade class, have been having fun and learning a lot in all our classes. In Mrs. Robbins' class we have learned many interesting things such as the Hebrew alphabet, and it really came in handy for our Family Service. When the holidays come, we learn all the traditions, prayers and blessings.

In Mrs. Rossman's class we normally start off reading *Three Times Chai*. This is a collection of Rabbis' favorite stories to tell. We learn about Jewish life cycles in the *Book of Jewish Life*. Our class also made wimples. Another thing we learned about is Jewish history.

During Rabbi Bernstein's class we learn a lot about the Torah by studying the tree of life and making our own Torah. To help us remember what we have learned we play Review Jeopardy. We also learn about our ancestral history.

The fifth grade class is looking forward to our Purim Shpiel.

Alex, Rachel B., Jack, Nate, Rachel G., Rebecca, Rachael J., Madison, Yael, David, Matthew & Hannah.

TOT SHABBAT

Saturday, February 9 will be our next Family Tot Shabbat at 11am in the Temple Sanctuary. We begin with an art project followed by a singing, dancing service geared to preschoolers through 1st Graders. Cantorial Soloist Robin Sparr-Rothman leads the service at 11:20 am, and then at noon we share a pot luck lunch. All are welcome to join and enjoy, Sinai members and non-members as well. For more information call 508-755-2519, email: singerjelt@yahoo.com, or visit www.templestinaiworchester.org.

Next Tot Shabbat - March 8th at 11:00 AM

CANCELLATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Unfortunately, the winter weather brings many concerns about whether or not religious school or programs here at Temple Sinai will be cancelled. Every effort is made to contact religious school families in the event of a school cancellation. In addition to having the announcement on the radio, we have a "mail box" to alert people to any cancellations, changes etc. You can call the Temple at 508 755-2519 and choose option "8" after the greeting to hear any cancellations.

We will make a decision regarding school closing by 1:30 on Wednesdays and 7:30 on Saturdays. Please listen to WTAG (580 AM) or WSRS (96 FM) for that information, or call the Temple. 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.



FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR

I love that February is a short month and that the days are getting longer! As usual, the school is bustling with activity!

The students of Sinai High have been working on creating a service that is meaningful to them. They will lead services on **Feb 1 at 7:30, preceded by a family dinner**. Thank you to Theresa Cohen and Diana Malkin for coordinating the dinner!

On **February 2**, the **Fourth graders** and their parents will participate in a family education program called "*Blessings*". That same evening, the 4th graders will be attending a 4th grade Community Sleep-over at the Worcester JCC, which is attended by the 4th graders from Beth Israel, Temple Emanuel, New Jewish Academy, Temple Sinai and Beth Tikvah Synagogue.

Passover candy brochures were sent home in the middle of January. Please remember to bring them back by **February 9**. The school receives a 35 percent profit of the sale. In the past we have been able to purchase a television, camcorder, overhead projector and camera. We have also been able to fund the busses for various field trips. We are hoping to use this year's profits to replenish our video collection with current DVDs. Please support the school by selling candy, and/or purchasing it for yourselves! **Remember, your friends and family can purchase candy on-line!** You received directions with your candy brochure. We also sent home information about planting trees in Israel for Tu B'Shevat.

The prayer books are here! We have finally begun using the new prayer books in school. All 4th, 5th and 6th graders received one. Thank you to Becky Pins for putting all of the book plates into the books so the students could have them!

Thank you to Lynne Burke and Harry Hubbard for monitoring the traffic and to Leslie Stambler for coordinating the 6th grade luncheon. Thank you, also, to Jackie Eagle who completely scrubbed and re-organized the school kitchen! It is sparkling!

Reminder, there is no Religious School February 16, 20 & 23. Have a safe vacation!

Wendy Davis Wong



