

THE SINAI BULLETIN

Volume 23 Number 6

Shevat - Adar 5769

February 2009

FEBRUARY 6

Friday, 7:30 PM - **SHABBAT SHIRAH** - Adult Choir Singing
Sermon: "In Honor of Tu B'shvat: The Need to Plant Anew"
Usher: Jackie Eagle
Candles: Clare Williams
Aliyah: Phoebe Glick

FEBRUARY 13

Friday, 7:00 PM - **FAMILY SABBATH SERVICE**
Sermon: "A Shabbat Tale for the Whole Family"
Usher: Leslie Schoffelman

FEBRUARY 20

Friday, 7:30 PM - **SABBATH SERVICE**
Sermon: "An Open Discussion: The Best Holocaust Book or Movie - And Why"
Usher: AnneMarie & Paul Bloom
Candles: Linda Freund
Aliyah: Doug Freund

FEBRUARY 27

Friday, 7:30 PM - **SABBATH SERVICE - SYNAPLEX**
Sermon: "What the Jewish People Need More Of"
Usher: Gary Englander
Candles: Joan Yood
Aliyah: Robert Yood

FEBRUARY 28

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

DATES TO REMEMBER:

MEGILLAH READING AND PURIM CARNIVAL
TUESDAY, MARCH 9th - 5:30 PM

FIRST NIGHT SEDER - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8th

An opportunity to share a First Night Seder with another family.

SECOND NIGHT CONGREGATIONAL SEDER
THURSDAY, APRIL 9th - 5:30 PM

(Watch for details in the March Bulletin)

Synaplex Shabbat

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27
7:30 PM

DIVREI HALEV ***WORDS OF THE HEART***

"THE PAUSES OF OUR LIVES"

Typically Hanukkah is a time that I can catch my breath. This year with the ice storm and subsequent terrible weather, there was no chance to take a break from the unrelenting and unforgiving winter weather. I took some time recently with our children and grandchildren, but there seemed to be no let up during the time we were all together: different schedules, different desires. It all seemed to move so quickly. My son-in-law, Jeremy, works for the Library of Congress as a Mideast Analyst. Before the inauguration, it seemed likely he would be able to take a break from his normal routine. But then, there was the Gaza report that his section was responsible for writing and it had to be finished ASAP.

As I write this bulletin article, it is Inauguration Day. When I witness only a glimpse of all that goes into the transition from one Executive branch team to the next, I see that there is no let up in the details that have to be tended to, the organization that has to be arranged, and the execution of the plans that have to unfold in as seamless a manner as possible so that we successfully journey from one President to the next.

Our lives are hectic. Are they not? And yet, we need some respite from winter weather, some moment of respite to what seems like an endless stream of activities. No matter who we are and how busy we might think we are, no matter the difficulties of health and the struggles of every day living, human beings need moments of quietude, reflection and introspection.

Maybe that is why God created Shabbat. The biblical description could have gone in many a direction in describing the Sabbath. The primary description of the Sabbath day is one of rest, ceasing from the everyday activity. In a word, stopping.

Perhaps, that is why our prayer book states (p. 125), "On this day let me keep for a while what must drift away. On this day let me be free of the burdens that must return... Help me to withdraw for a while from the flight of time. Contain the retreat of the hours and days from the grasp of frantic life. Let me learn to pause, if only for this day. Let me find peace on this day. Let me enter into a quiet world this day. On this day, Shabbat, abide."

I look forward to joining with you on Shabbat evenings when we all will have renewed opportunities to appreciate the sacred pauses in our lives.

Rabbi Seth L. Bernstein

PLANNED GIVING

Please consider remembering
Temple Sinai in your will.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am always reading a book. For those times when reading is not possible, I am also always listening to another book. Last week, I had to pull over to the side of the road and backtrack *Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith*, by Anne Lamott, in order to write down a phrase that struck me. Since then, I've been considering making it my new mantra. (I'd share my old mantra with you but it will only resonate with those who are raising/or have raised daughters...)

Here is what Anne Lamott has to say about a situation that feels insurmountable. **"... but time and showing up turn most messes into compost and something surprising may grow."**

Between the economy and the recent weather disasters, there is a discouraged feeling in our midst. By attending services, programming, various meetings, and by continuing to honor our financial commitments to Temple Sinai, all of us in this community are "showing up."

Our most recent fundraiser was scuttled due to bad weather but watch for all the exciting possibilities that will be occurring once weather is no longer a factor. One initiative that we have just entered into is online shopping for Judaica at www.treasuresofkingsolomon.com. Please shop at this website for any of your Judaica needs. *Treasures of King Solomon* will donate 12% of the cost of any purchases to Temple Sinai. Anyone can go to this site and make their purchase be of benefit to our Temple Community by selecting Temple Sinai as their member organization at checkout.

Between staff and volunteers, a large and diverse number of people have stepped up to offer ideas and/or get involved in the various aspects of Temple Sinai. We are a strong and vibrant community and with time and showing up, I firmly believe that even more "surprising somethings" *will* grow.

Respectfully,
Marcy Ostrow, President

ATTENTION!



Anyone visiting Temple Sinai on Wednesdays or Saturdays during Religious School should be reminded of the following traffic safety issues.

The road is closed between the sanctuary and the school building from 3:35 - 3:55, and again from 5:30 - 5:50 on Wednesdays, as well as between 8:50 & 9:10, and 11:50 - 12:10 on Saturdays.

If you are here and plan to leave close to dismissal time, please be sure that you are parked in **the lower lot closest to the sanctuary building.** School dismissal is at 5:40 on Wednesday, and 12 noon on Saturdays.

Parents begin to line up to pick up their children about 15 minutes prior to these closings. If you are parked in the other lot, please be aware that you will be blocked in until all students are picked up.

NOTES FROM KIM

SHABBAT SHIRAH AND JEWISH MUSIC MONTH

Several times during the year there is a special Shabbat. Of course, every Shabbat is special, but certain Shabbatot are singled out in terms of the biblical readings associated with them, and one of them occurs this month - Shabbat Shirah, on which we read Parashat Beshallah, which tells of the Israelites' crossing the sea of reeds. Interestingly, it is not this famous song that gives the Shabbat its name. These special days take their names from their Haftarah portions, which in this case is the song of D'vorah.

Whichever song you choose to focus on, in recent years this Shabbat has marked the beginning of Jewish Music Month, and is often celebrated by special musical programming in the synagogue. I hope you will join us this year as we commemorate Shabbat Shirah on Friday evening February 6 with musical selections from the Evelyn Zarrow choir and special musical guests from the Cantorial School at Hebrew College.

Another memorable feature of Shabbat Shirah is the chanting of the Song of the Sea, generally recognized by scholars as being one of the most ancient poems in our tradition. There are special melodies used for the cantillation of this section, and the calligraphy of these verses in the Torah scroll is also quite distinctive. I encourage you to come to services that evening to see and hear for yourself.

Shabbat Shalom.

Temple Sinai
invites you to join us for
a special evening to celebrate
Shabbat Shirah & Jewish Music Month

Friday, February 6, 7:30 p.m.

Featuring the Evelyn Zarrow Choir
& special musical guests



WOULD YOU LIKE TO READ TORAH DURING A FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE?

Please contact Kim Singer to sign up at kebsinger@aol.com.

Yahrzeits

February 6

*Louis Abrahamson
*Jeannette Black
Charles Callahan
Jean Cohen
Lena Jacobson
Eugene Johnson
*William Klein
Joseph Kurlansky
Rudolph J. Lofgren
Roger Malfliet
*Bette Miles
*Sadie Miller
*Ida Pemstein
Joseph Rome
Milton Roth
*Seymour Samuels
*Saul A. Seder
*Edward Yerow

February 13

Howard Aisenberg
Benjamin Louis Au-
doiu
Jeannett Dorfman
Miriam Goldberg
Donald C. Hildum
Betty Katz
Birdie Neckes
Linda Ravin
Anne Tuggle
*Mark Weisberg
Richard Zatkin
*Samuel Zellen

February 20

*Harry Abramoff
Hazel Benjamin
Edward Berman
Muriel Brill
*Leonard E. Gorlick
*Maurice Levy
George Mosler
Eva Rossman
*Joseph S. Rubin
Herbert Sherwin
*Ida Sternfeld

February 27

Fanny Banever
*George Falk
*Cecile Josephs Glazer
*George Golden
Barnard Kaplan
Anita Robbins
Claire Rothschild
Alvin Shairman
*Gladys Yerow

We record with deep sorrow, these recently departed:

Richard Zane Cottrill, father of Patty Jacobs (11-29-08)
Dorethy Dailida, sister of Bill Trotta (12-8-08)
Ingrid Sinai, sister of Laurence Oberman (12-2-08)
Isabel Hildum, mother of Susan Hildum (12-31-08)
Howard Katz, brother of Myron Katz (1-3-09)

ADULT EDUCATION IN FEBRUARY

Pirke' Avot, Ethics of the Ancestors: Tuesdays, February 17, 24 - 9:15 AM - Rabbi's study.

Midrash - Wednesdays, February 11, 18, 25 - 1:45 PM at the JHC, led by Rabbi Bernstein.

Torah Study - From the "Women's Torah Commentary on Leviticus & Numbers", Saturdays, February 7, 14, 21, 28 - 9:00 AM - Rabbi's study.

World Religions - "Hinduism" - Saturday February 7 - 10:00 AM - Rabbi's study.

Modern Hebrew - Saturdays, February 7, 14, 21, 28 - 12 noon - Rabbi's study.

FAMILY EDUCATION

"Tour a Torah" - Grade 5 and their families - Saturday, February 7, 9:00 AM

TODAH RABAH

Todah Rabah to *Nick & Bobbie Chase*, and *Joan & Arthur Pearlmuter*, for preparing the membership list again this year. You should have received a copy in the mail. If not, please call the Temple office and we will send you one.

Todah Rabah to *Michael & Karen Kagan*, for chairing the Hanukkah Dinner. Michael & Karen did a fantastic job. One would never know that it was their first year chairing this event. Everything went as planned, everyone had a wonderful time, and we look forward to another such celebration next year!

Todah Rabah to *Wendy Rickles* for the tremendous amount of work that she did on the *Holiday Fair*. Unfortunately, the event had to be cancelled because of the inclement weather. We hope to be able to try again next year.

Thank you Wendy for all your efforts!



TEMPLE SINAI BOOK CLUB

Please contact Sue or Les Blatt at 508-792-2823, for information on upcoming Book Club activities. You can also email them at: lblatt@charter.net.

FROM THE OFFICE

In order to be fiscally responsible, it is our goal to send as much Temple information as possible, to the congregation via email. The cost of preparation, materials, wear and tear on the copy machine and mailing costs are constantly going up. We hope that the process of email will keep you well informed and cut down on our operating expenses. We feel that if we are asking our members to help financially, we must do whatever we can to be responsible.

We sent the *January mid month* mailing by email and we hope that you had an opportunity to open the links to our great programs, etc. This same information will be available on our website, templesinai-worcester.org.

In order to continue receiving Temple information, please, send your current email address to sinaioffice2003@yahoo.com. You can receive information this way and still choose to receive your financial statement by regular mail. If you do not have an email address, you must contact us to be sure you are kept informed by regular mail.

TEMPLE SINAI CARING COMMITTEE

The Caring Committee of Temple Sinai is committed to extending the support of our congregation to all Temple members. If you have a *simcha* we like to hear about it. If you are experiencing a difficult life event, and we can be of help, please let us know.

If you, or another Temple member you know, might benefit from a visit, a ride to services, or some other support, please contact Rabbi Bernstein, or leave a message with June in the Temple office to inform the committee.

SYNAPLEX SHABBAT Friday, February 27

Please join us as we come together to discuss the topic of whether we consider ourselves to be "American Jews?" or "Jewish Americans?" This Synaplex theme was conceived long before Israel invaded Gaza but the discussion seems timelier than ever with these recent events occurring. Come hear what others have to say and add your voice to the discussion.

The evening will open with our ever-popular pot luck supper at 6:15 p.m. Questions for your consideration will be available at every table for discussion during dinner. At 6:45 p.m., our own Dr. Evan Graber will facilitate a wider group discussion, which will take place until services begin at 7:30 p.m.

Story time along with singing and puppetry will be available for young children from 6:45 until 7:30 p.m.

CONTRIBUTIONS

ENDOWMENT FUND

Robert & Natalie Warshawer, in honor of their daughter Marcy Ostrow becoming President

GENERAL FUND

Michael Gusar, in honor of Blake & Liana Hood's wedding

Michael Gusar, wishing Jeffrey Cohn a full & speedy recovery

Michael Gusar, wishing Chuck Eckert a speedy recovery

Jeffrey & Otilie Levine, in honor of Dr. Robert Yood's new position

David & Nancy Fulton, in honor of Robert Yood's special birthday

Ruth Kotlier, in memory of Howard Katz

Paula Ravin, in memory of Henry Rothschild

Michael Gusar, in honor of the wedding of Steven Baratz & Leslie Sack

LIBRARY FUND

Bob & Jane Lavine, in memory of Howard Katz

Bob & Jane Lavine, in memory of Alphonse Pakstis

Bob & Jane Lavine, in memory of Edward Baggan, Jr.

Hal & Judy Schneider, in memory of Seymour Samuels

MARION SACK GARDEN FUND

Sue Seder, in honor of Marvin Novick's 75th Birthday

Sue Seder, in honor of Myrna & Marvin Novick's 50th Anniversary

MA'OT CHITIM FUND

Gerry & Isabelle Shear, in memory of Mike Berman

RABBI'S FUND

Doris Shairman, in memory of Jacob Shairman

Doris Shairman, in memory of Abraham Cohen

Ravin-Rothschild Family, in memory of Herbert Ravin

Mark & Deb Shear, mazal tov on the birth of Rabbi & Mrs. Bernstein's granddaughter

Stuart & Nancy Bentkover, in memory of Sam Bentkover

Stuart & Nancy Bentkover, in memory of Katie Levine

Stuart & Nancy Bentkover, in appreciation of the renewal of wedding vows

James & Emily Holdstein, in honor of the birth of Eve Sophia Sharp

Marilyn Wolpert, in honor of the birth of Eve Sophia Sharp

Judith Gorlick, in memory of Norma Feingold

Jerry & Jane Freed, in memory of Jean Freed

David & Marlene Persky, in memory of Adele Engel Berg

Judy & Hal Schneider, in honor of the birth of Sophie Sharp

Joan and Arthur Pearlmuter, in memory of Lillian Pearlmuter

Joan and Arthur Pearlmuter, in memory of Lillian Weingarten

Phil & Judith Shwachman, in memory of Howard Katz

Eydie Kasendorf, in memory of Kenneth Ross

Ruth Berman, in memory of Myron Berman

Carole and Burt Orland, in honor of Eve Sophia Sharp

William Stern, in appreciation.

Ruth Berman, in honor of Eve Sophia Sharp

Nick and Bobbie Chase, in memory of Libby Socofsky

Jacob and Tatyana Gorodetsky, in honor of Eve Sophia Sharp

Audrey and Phil Shack, in memory of Jenny Shack

Audrey and Phil Shack, in memory of Sylvia Kranz

Sue and Tony Sanders, in memory of Michael Slatkin

CONTRIBUTIONS (continued)

TEMPLE TREES FUND

Mel & Shirley Merken, in honor of the birth of Eve Sharp
Garry & Nancy Levitsky

WEININGER FUND

IN MEMORY OF KENNETH ROSS

Kenneth & Shirley Cote

Robert & Colleen Rea

Richard & Sandra Granahan

James & Joyce Dziedzic

The Maciejewski Family

DINING AROUND SINAI

Join fellow Temple Sinai congregants and friends for a uniquely delicious fundraiser. Congregants will host dinner parties at their homes. Each dinner guest will donate \$50 to the Temple. The hosts will plan their own menus to show off their culinary flair.

For more information about hosting or to get on a guest list, please contact Theresa Cohen at 508-954-6683.



Treasuries of King Solomon
fine Judaica from Israel



Our synagogue has joined with Treasures of King Solomon, an importer of fine Judaica from Israel, to create a fundraising opportunity that all of our members and their extended families and friends can enjoy.

For every purchase made, Treasures of King Solomon will donate 12% to the synagogue. Simply shop online at their web site, www.treasuresofkingsofkingdom.com, and at check-out select our synagogue as the designated affiliated organization.

You don't have to be a member of the synagogue to participate. Family and friends from all over the country can select our synagogue at check-out and we will benefit from the fundraiser.

Treasures of King Solomon represents top artists from across Israel and brings you beautiful traditional and contemporary designs for Shabbat, Holidays and every day along with unique gifts perfect for Weddings, B'nai Mitzvah and more.

So when shopping for Judaica, please think of Temple Sinai and Treasures of King Solomon first!

PASSPORT TO ISRAEL

The Passport to Israel program, is a collaborative effort between the synagogue and the Jewish Federation of Central Massachusetts to provide an incentive savings program for you to set aside money for your child's trip to Israel. One of the most successful community-wide collaborative efforts ever, this program has been in place for many years and has aided dozens of families from Central Massachusetts to send their teenage children to Israel. This year, enrollment is open for all children in grades 3 through 7. Watch your mail for information.

CHINUCH NOTES ON EDUCATION

<i>Grades K, 1 & 2</i>	Saturdays, February 7, 28	9 - 12 noon
<i>Grades 3 - 7</i>	Saturdays, February 7, 28 Wednesdays, February 4, 11, 25	9 - 12 noon 3:45 - 5:40 PM
<i>Grades 8, 9 (Sinai High)</i>	Mondays, February 2, 23	6:30 - 8:00 PM
<i>Confirmation</i>	Monday, February 9, 23	6:45 PM

TOT SHABBAT

Our next Tot Shabbat will be held on **Saturday, February 28**, at 11 AM in the Temple Sanctuary. We begin with an art project followed by a singing, dancing service geared to preschoolers through 1st graders. Cantorial Soloist Kim Singer, along with "Kimbu", 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.



FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR

On Friday, January 10, exactly one month after the last time the class met, the fifth graders led services. Now, when I say that they did an outstanding job, that is an understatement! They were superb! The students led with poise and confidence. We are so proud of the job they did. They have truly set an example that we can all follow. Thank you to Sandy Sotak, not only for preparing them so well, but for standing in for Cantor Kim and leading us all in song!

On **February 7**, the **fifth graders** and their parents will participate in a family education program called "Tour a Torah".

The fifth graders are working hard on the Purim Spiel, which will take place on Monday, **March 9 at 5:30**. The Spiel is always followed by the Carnival run by our Sinai High and Confirmation students. Watch your mail for more information.

Passover candy brochures were sent home in the middle of January. Please remember to bring them back by **February 7**. 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 buses for various field trips. 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.

Thank you to Lynne Burke for monitoring the traffic, to Wendy Trotta for coordinating the 5th grade dinner, to Joan-Beth Gow for coordinating the Sinai High dinner and to Leslie Schoffelmeer and Lynne Burke for coordinating the 6th grade luncheon. *Reminder, there is no Religious School February 14, 18 & 21. Have a safe vacation!*

Wendy Davis Wong



Come join the fun at Temple Sinai...

SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH

Movie Party 5:30-8pm

Drop off your child(ren) and have a few hours to yourself. We will be serving pizza, watching a movie and popping popcorn.

Children ages 5 and older may attend.

Please email Theresa at: tcohen0801@charter.net

\$20 per child - \$35 per family for 2 or more children

The Bulletin 5

MEGILLAH READING AND PURIM CARNIVAL

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 5:30 PM

PURIM SHPEIL LED BY THE STUDENTS OF GRADE 5

**FOLLOWED BY THE PURIM CARNIVAL
LED BY THE SINAI HIGH STUDENTS**



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.

Please note that if the Worcester Public Schools or Wachusett Regional Schools are cancelled or dismissed, the same will apply to Temple Sinai Religious School.

FOOD FOR RACHEL'S TABLE

The 4th grade of Temple Sinai is collecting food for *Rachel's Table*. Please bring at least one can or box of the following items every Shabbat. *Canned food; Boxed food; Pasta; Pineapple; Juice boxes; Peas; Beans; Peanut Butter.*

Thank you for donating to *Rachel's Table*. We hope you can help!

BLANKET DRIVE

Social Action is collecting blankets for various shelters in Worcester County. Blankets do not have to be new but they should be clean and usable. There will be drop-off boxes in the school building and in the coat room of the social hall.

FEBRUARY 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 <i>6:30 Sinai High</i>	3	4 <i>3:45 Religious School Grades 3-7</i> <i>7:30 Choir Rehearsal</i>	5	6 <i>7:30 Shabbat Shira - Adult Choir Singing</i>	7 <i>Beshalach</i> <i>9 Religious School</i> <i>9 Torah Study</i> <i>9 Family Ed - Gr. 5</i> <i>10 World Religions</i> <i>12 Modern Hebrew</i>
8	9 <i>6:45 Confirmation</i> <i>8:00 Board Meeting</i> <i>TU B'SHEVAT</i>	10	11 <i>1:45 Midrash JHC</i> <i>3:45 Religious School Grades 3-7</i> <i>7:30 Choir Rehearsal</i>	12	13 <i>7:00 Family Sabbath Service</i>	14 <i>Yitro</i> <i>No Religious School</i> <i>9 Torah Study</i> <i>12 Modern Hebrew</i>
15	16 <i>President's Day</i>	17 <i>9:15 Pirke Avot</i>	18 <i>1:45 Midrash JHC</i> <i>No Religious School</i>	19	20 <i>7:30 Sabbath Service</i>	21 <i>Mishpatim</i> <i>No Religious School</i> <i>9 Torah Study</i> <i>12 Modern Hebrew</i>
22	23 <i>6:30 Sinai High</i> <i>6:45 Confirmation</i>	24 <i>9:15 Pirke Avot</i>	25 <i>1:45 Midrash-JHC</i> <i>3:45 Religious School Grades 3-7</i> <i>6:00 2010 B'nai Mitzvah Orientation Meetings</i>	26	27 <i>7:30 Sabbath Service - Synaplex</i>	28 <i>Terumah</i> <i>9 Religious School</i> <i>9 Torah Study</i> <i>11 Tot Shabbat</i> <i>12 Modern Hebrew</i>

ARTICLES FOR THE MARCH BULLETIN MUST BE IN THE OFFICE BY FEBRUARY 15TH!

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