

THE SINAI BULLETIN

Volume 20 Number 5

Kislev - Tevet 5766

January 2006

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

JANUARY 6

Friday, 7:00 PM - **SABBATH SERVICE**
Sermon: "Emma Lazarus on Diaspora and Zionism"
Usher: Wendy Rickles

JANUARY 7

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

JANUARY 13

Friday, 7:00 PM - **FAMILY SABBATH SERVICE**
Sermon: "Beyond Torah: A Biblical Story"
Usher: Michael Cohen

JANUARY 20

Friday, 7:00 PM - **SABBATH SERVICE**
Sermon: "Marie Syrkin on Diaspora and Zionism"
Usher: Sandy Sotak
Torah Reader: Cantor Claire Metzger

JANUARY 21

Saturday, 11:00 AM - **FAMILY SABBATH SERVICE - Led by students of Grade 6**

JANUARY 27

Friday, 7:00 PM - **SABBATH SERVICE**
Sermon: "Charles Resnikoff on Diaspora and Zionism"
Usher: Tim Roy
Candles: Candace Ross

JANUARY 28

Saturday, 11:30 AM - **BAR MITZVAH OF ZACHARY ROSS**

IMPORTANT NOTE!

**PLEASE NOTE THAT DURING THE MONTHS
OF JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH
ALL FRIDAY NIGHT SABBATH SERVICES
WILL BEGIN AT 7:00 PM
ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS.**

WORDS OF THE HEART

"FIRST TIME GRANDPARENTS"

Undoubtedly, we were as inexperienced at being first time grandparents as we were at being first time parents. But there we were, Marsha and I, taking turns holding Samuel Jacob Sharp, son of Jana and Jeremy Sharp. The room was thick with more feelings than I can even express: excited and playful, joyful and loving, hopeful and thankful, exhausted and fascinated. Young Samuel was a wonder beyond anything that Marsha and I could have imagined!

Like any male, I humbly looked into the smiling face and sparkling eyes of Jana, who had gone through it all. Spirituality and religion are as much about mystery as they are about reality. Males stand in awe of childbirth. So there we were, my son-in-law, Jeremy, and I, looking into Samuel's eyes, the eyes that opened into the mystery of creation. As I thanked God for the new life that was in our midst, so did I express my gratitude for continued good health, rich with blessings.

As I began to do my "rabbi thing", busily arranging for a mohel to perform the forthcoming brit milah, I wanted to savor my first grandfather moment in all its fullness. There is so much to be grateful for at the time of childbirth: bonds of trust, caring, and love that keep families together. Our Reform prayer book says it beautifully: "Teach us to rear our children with care and affection, with wisdom and understanding, that they may be faithful children of our people and blessings to the world."

Religion is all about seeing the sacred in the ordinary and extraordinary moments in one's life. Becoming a first time grandparent in one sense, is an ordinary experience. It happens so often to so many. And yet, as a first time grandfather, I am overwhelmed by the feeling that I have been touched by a most extraordinary, precious and sanctified experience. "Praised are You, Adonai, our God, who has kept us in life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this sacred day."

Rabbi Seth L. Bernstein

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, January 21, 2006 - 11:00 AM

FAMILY SABBATH SERVICE

*Please support our students by
attending this service!*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Shalom,

The Board of Directors and the Worship Committee have launched a new and challenging project to invigorate our temple. The project is *a congregational effort that welcomes all who want to be involved* in defining answers to three key questions: 1) Who are we?, 2) Why are we here?, and 3) Where are we going?

This long-term planning process is a vital initiative that aims to leverage our core ideology, core purpose and core values. This will make Temple Sinai a more active and vibrant Reform Jewish congregation with a synagogue life that is intrinsically compelling to legacy members, prospective new members, our professional staff, and to our collective temple community as a whole.

Over the past nearly 50 years, Temple Sinai has established itself with firm footing in the Worcester community. Today, our board is taking a proactive leadership role in revisiting our organizational principles and long term goals to design our future around a dynamic mix of the deep values we hold dear, and the exciting changes and growth taking place in Reform Judaism today.

For this project to have the most effective outcome, we have declared that there are no sacred cows – everything is on the table for discussion, question, enhancement, and change. The board, with the help of several past presidents of our congregation, has already begun asking questions like: Why has participation in Temple-sponsored events been slowly declining in the past few years? What kind of temple activities are relevant or irrelevant to our members? What changes should take place in Shabbat services on Friday nights (should they be held at an earlier time, for example)? Should we add a Saturday morning service? Change the music? Provide transportation to the elder members? And what about dues? Do we need to advertise our events more effectively? How about a weekly e-mail to members, to remind them of events that had previously caught their interest and are now unfolding?

As one of the first concrete actions, our Worship Committee will be holding a formal focus group to survey a sample of the congregation about Friday night services.

Any and all who feel strongly about these and other issues are encouraged to participate, even just by sending your input by phone, email, letter, fax or in person to any member of the temple board. If you think that temple life should be more compelling, please contact us and make your feelings known! Together, we can make Temple Sinai “Jewishly exciting”, a place that fulfills and enhances all the spiritual, educational, and social aspects of our lives as Jews.

B'Shalom

Douglas Freund (halfsour@aol.com)

Stephen Schuster (steve@rainierco.com)

Maile Jones (mailejjones@yahoo.com)



CANTOR'S NOTES

I'd like to say “Thank you” to the *Evelyn Zarrow Choir* and *Cantor's Chanters*, for their participation at services on December 23 and December 30. It is always a pleasure to work with these two groups, and to listen to their wonderful voices at services and holiday events. They all went above and beyond the call of duty. The choir did a wonderful job, and Les and Sue Blatt not only sang at the December 23 service, but also helped accompany the choir at rehearsals and at the service! Wendy Waegell, Debi Lang, and Catherine Walters also added to our service with dulcimer music. The *Cantor's Chanters* helped everyone get in the mood of Hanukkah at the dinner, and continued the celebration at the Hanukkah family service. Thanks kids! You were all terrific!

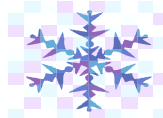
On another note, so to speak, the Sixth Grade has been studying Torah trope and has caught on quickly. They have learned all the basic patterns and spent the last few weeks reviewing pattern combinations and chanting Torah from the tikkun. I am confident that they will be able to use this newly acquired skill in their B'nai Mitzvah preparations.

The *Cantor's Chanters* will continue their rehearsals on Saturday mornings before religious school, and will be singing at family services over the course of the next few months. The *Evelyn Zarrow Choir* is taking a short hiatus, and will be starting rehearsals the end of February for a Passover sermon in song.

Last fall, the temple put out an adult education brochure with all the scheduled classes listed. I offered a class for Niggunim (wordless Chassidic songs) to be offered before Shabbat services and Saturday mornings after religious school. The dates of the classes are: **Saturdays January 14 and 21** (noon to 1pm), and **Friday nights at 6:30 pm** (before services) **January 20 and 27**, I need to have five people registered before I can give this class, so if you would like to participate, please let me know by January 10.

B'shalom,
Cantor Claire G. Metzger

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.

Hopefully this will be helpful for anyone in doubt about school, services or programs.

JANUARY 6

Bertha Bohrer
 Sadie Bohrer
 *Isaiah Dopkeen
 Sarah Hurvitz
 Sylvia Kranz
 *Sema Kunin
 Nick Massie
 Harry Nataupsky
 Leon Oginsky
 Herbert Ravin
 *Edgar Rothschild
 Jacob B. Shairman
 George Volturo

JANUARY 13

Judith D. Benharris
 Sam Bentkover
 Abraham Cohen
 Ken Edelson
 Adele Engelberg
 *Lena Farmelant
 Sidney W. Freund
 Margaret Katzen
 Francis Marcy
 *Melvin Morse
 Peter Roy
 *Osburn W. Seay
 Samuel Louis Tapper
 *Samuel Yanoff
 *Doris Zabelsky

JANUARY 20

*Muriel Astion
 *Arthur Black
 Jean C. Freed
 Dora Kuppenheimer
 Eli Leviton
 Lillian Pearlmutter
 *Ruth Seder
 David Shwachman
 Richard Steven Solomon
 Marcus Waxman
 David Zeidman

JANUARY 27

*Eleanor Goldstein Brody
 Jeanie N. Brunell
 *Harvey Goldstein
 Morris Kaufman
 *Sam Prawer
 Henry Rothschild
 Norma Rudinsky
 Bob Schlotfeldt
 Joseph Shepatin
 Maurice Smith

We record with deep sorrow, these recently departed:

Audrey Chase, step-mother of Nick Chase
Morris Silverman, grandfather of Sam and Jacob Silverman
Akira Kuramata, father of Coppi Eder

MAZZAL TOV

Mazzal Tov to **Rabbi Seth & Marsha Bernstein**, on the birth of their first grandchild. **Samuel Jacob Sharp**. Sam was born on December 10th. Proud parents are **Jana & Jeremy Sharp**.

Mazzal Tov to **Maile Jones**, on the birth of a granddaughter, Eleanor Ogier Goldberg. She was born on November 20th

Mazzal Tov to **Zachary Ross** who will be called to the Torah on January 28. Zachary is the son of **Michael & Candace Ross**.

BOOK CLUB SCHEDULE

(All meetings begin at 7:30 unless otherwise noted)

Wednesday, January 18, 2006 **"The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time"** by *Mark Haddon*. Meeting at the home of Sandi and Mark Cutler.

February 15, (place to be determined), **"The History of Love: A Novel"**, by *Nicole Krauss*.

Questions and requests for additional information may be directed to Sue or Les Blatt, 508-792-2823.

TODAH RABAH

Todah Rabah to **Leslie Schoffmeier**, for another wonderful Hanukkah dinner and program. Everyone enjoyed the evening. Thank you also to all who provided pasties etc. for the oneg that evening.

Todah Rabah to **The IHN Committee, Wendy Waegell and Debi Lang** for providing a "home away from home" here at Temple Sinai, for families who have been left temporarily homeless. Thank you also to the **host of others** for their generosity and help!

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.

JEWES INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF THE LAND OF ISRAEL ~ A SERMON SERIES

Last Israel Independence Day, a demographic report was published that stated there are 5.26 million Jews living in Israel and 5.16 million Jews living in the United States. The relationship of Jews inside and outside of the land of Israel has always been a fascinating subject, especially the relationship between American Jews and Israelis.

Beginning on January 6th and continuing through February 3 (with the exception of January 13, a family service), Rabbi Bernstein will be examining the relationship of Jews in America and the Jews in Israel from a literary perspective.

A few years ago, Ranen Omer-Sherman wrote a book entitled, "Diaspora and Zionism in Jewish American Literature: Lazarus, Syrkin, Reznikoff, and Roth". On Friday evenings January 6, 20, 27 and February 3 each of the authors noted in Professor Sherman's book on Zionism and the Diaspora will be discussed. We will look at poet Emma Lazarus, writer-activist Marie Syrkin, playwright Charles Reznikoff, and novelist Philip Roth.

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

As many of you know, Temple Sinai is a host to homeless families each year, through the **Interfaith Hospitality Network**. Affording gas and oil, food and other basics present a challenge to all of us in balancing our family budgets. The challenge has become even greater for our **IHN** families as they struggle to get back on their feet. With rising costs and continued insufficient affordable housing, they are predicting even larger numbers of families reaching out to the **IHN** program.

Any financial help that you can give will be very much appreciated. Donations can be sent to:

**INTERFAITH HOSPITAL NETWORK OF GREATER WORCESTER
 114 MAIN STREET
 WORCESTER, MA 01608**

ALL DONATIONS TO OUR TZEDAKAH BOX DURING THE MONTHS OF DECEMBER AND JANUARY WILL BE DONTATED TO THE IHN. (The box is located in the foyer of the Sanctuary building).



CONTRIBUTIONS

CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND

Elaine & Phil Feldman, wishing continued good health to Ed Plotkin

ENDOWMENT FUND

Jane & Jerry Freed, In memory of Blanche Becker

LIBRARY FUND

Bob & Jane Lavine, David & Family & Alan & Family, in memory of John Crafts

Bette Miles, in honor of Gregory Wong's Bar Mitzvah

Bette Miles, in memory of Mary Kaufman

Cantor Claire Metzger, in memory of Audrey Chase

MARION SACK GARDEN FUND

Abe & Fran Sack, in honor of the birth of Samuel Jacob Sharp

In honor of Abe Sack's 90th birthday

Carolyn & Sam Gordon

Richard Friedman

Kim & Joan Kaplan

PRAYERBOOK FUND

7th grade class

Isabelle & Jerry Shear, in memory of Mike Berman

RABBI'S FUND

Claudia & Les Ross, in memory of David Ross

Eleanor Gerhardt, in memory of Jean Leibman

The Lowe Family, in memory of Morris Jonas

Allan & Marilyn Kurlan, in memory of Ada Kurlan

Carolyn & Sam Gordon, in memory of Audrey Chase

Judy Gorlick, in memory of Mrs. Charles Aronson's mother

Judy Gorlick, in memory of Mrs. James Young's brother

Carole & Burton Orland, in memory of Gail Topol

Florence Lowe & Family, in memory of Katie Jonas

Carolyn & Sam Gordon, in memory of Audrey Chase

Ellen & Conrad Swartz, in memory of George Klein

Joan & Arthur Pearlmutter, in memory of Audrey Chase

Harriet & Mel Katz, in memory of Audrey Chase

Trudy & Merrill Cohen, in honor of Abe Sack's 90th birthday

Judy Gorlick, sending wishes for good luck, health and happiness to Joe Novak & Willie Lebron in their new home.

Bernice Marcus

Judy & Hal Schneider, in honor of the birth of Samuel Jacob Sharp

Lenora Rosenblum, in appreciation of Rabbi Bernstein

Sandi Cutler

Arleen & Richard Danford, in honor of the birth of Samuel Jacob Sharp

Linda Klein & Family, in memory of George Klein

Deborah Shear & Family, in memory of Myron Berman

Sandra Rothschild, in memory of Ed Rothschild

Reeve Gersh & Rayna Keenan, in memory of Maurice Gersh

Nick & Bobbie Chase, in memory of Audrey Chase

Jacqueline Ross, in memory of Bernard Grolman

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

The Caplan-Kerxhalli Family, in memory of Elaine Caplan

Judy & Hal Schneider, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Greg Wong

TOT SHABBAT FUND

Linda Klein, in memory of George Klein

Eleanor Witkes, in memory of Charles Grace

ADULT EDUCATION JANUARY



"Love, Hate and Religion" - Sunday, January 15 - 9:30 AM in the library

"Modern Conversational Hebrew, Sundays, January 8 - 9:30 AM in the library. **Sunday January 15 at 10:45 AM**

Midrash Study - The Legends of the Jews: Tuesdays, January 3, 10, 17 - 9:15 AM - Rabbi's study

"Mishnah and Talmud Study", Wednesdays, January 4, 11, 18 25 - 1:45 PM at the JHC. Led by Rabbi Bernstein.

"Torah Study - The Five Books of Moses" - Saturdays, January 7, 14, 21, 28 - 9:30 AM - Rabbi's Study.

"Niggunim - Jewish Worship Melodies" - Saturdays, January 14, 21 - 12:00 noon. Led by Cantor Metzger and Fridays, January 20, 27 - 6:30 PM before services.



FAMILY EDUCATION

"JEWISH VALUES" a Family Education program for Grade 7 and their parents, Saturday, January 14 - 9:00 AM

SAVE THE DATE

As announced in the Adult Ed brochure, our annual Wolpert Scholar-in-Residence program will begin on Friday evening, April 7, with Shabbat Services at 8:00 PM, and will continue on Saturday morning, April 8, from 10:00 AM until noon. Please watch for more information in the February Bulletin. Save the date for this wonderful opportunity of study and sharing.

B'NAI MITZVAH COMMUNITY SERVICE

Timothy Steen, who was called to the Torah on December 10th completed 13 hours of community service as part of his preparation for becoming a Bar Mitzvah. He volunteered at Friendly House, by collecting household items to be distributed to need families in the Worcester area.

TRAFFIC SAFETY REMINDER!

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 OTHER TIMES IS 5 MPH. These rules will be strictly enforced. THE SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN DEPENDS ON YOUR

CHINUCH NOTES ON EDUCATION

Grades K, 1 & 2	Saturdays, January 7, 14, 21, 28	9 - 12 noon
Grades 3 - 7	Saturdays, January 7, 14, 21, 28 Wednesdays, January 4, 11, 18, 25	9 - 12 noon 3:45 - 5:40
Grades 8, 9 (Sinai High)	Monday, January 9 - <i>Class Meeting</i> Monday, January 23 - <i>Class Meeting</i>	6:30 PM 6:30 PM
Confirmation	Mondays, January 9, 23	6:45 PM

**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CLASSROOM
NEWS FROM THE 5TH GRADE**

We are very busy 5th graders. In Mrs. Robbins's class, she teaches Hebrew. In her class we are practicing for our service, which is February 10, 2006. Also, we read different prayers from our prayer books.

In Mrs. Rossman's class, we learn about the Life Cycle. We are also making Wimples. Later in the year we are going to have pen pals. We write to different states.

In Rabbi Bernstein's class we study the Bible. We are finishing Genesis and going into Exodus. Also we are making the Torah. Sometimes we act out what we learned about the story that we read. Also in the 5th grade, we collect Tzedakah money to sponsor monthly birthday parties at the Jewish Healthcare Center. We are also starting to rehearse for the Purim Shpiel.

The important dates for the 5th grade are Feb. 1st to visit the Jewish Home. Also March 13th, that's when we do the Purim Shpiel.

From the 5th grade, Josh, Max J., Max M., Mark, Isabelle, Sam, Jacob, Lena, Rose, Zack, Rebecca C. and Rebecca L.

TOT SHABBAT

The next interactive family-friendly Tot Shabbat service will be held on **Saturday, January 7** at 11:00 AM in the 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 lunch will follow the service)

Next Tot Shabbat date:

February 4 - 11:00 AM



**"PIZZA NIGHT" following Religious School on
January 4 - \$2 per person**

**Sign up by calling the Temple office or see
Steve Schuster when you drop your child off for
school that day.**



FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Due to snow, the fifth grade service and dinner was postponed. Please note that the date has been rescheduled to **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10**. Speaking of snow, please review the school cancellation policy, located in the bulletin. We will always leave a message on the machine, so if you have a question about school, or other event, you can call and check for cancellations.

The seventh graders and their parents will participate in a Family Education program on "*Values*" on **Saturday, January 14**.

Join us on **Saturday, January 21 at 11:00 a.m.** when the **sixth grade class** will lead a special Saturday morning service. The service will be followed by a Kiddush luncheon for the sixth grade families.

On **Saturday January 28**, the fourth graders will join the **fourth graders** from the area schools for an overnight at the JCC in Worcester. Aviv and Rivkah, along with the Educators, have a special program planned for the evening.

Watch your mail for more detailed information about the above programs

Thank you to everyone who shopped at Tatnuck Bookseller on December 7. The proceeds from the day will benefit the Religious School.

Thank you to Lora Trotsky, Andy Kotin, Denise Edelman, Harry Hubbard, Caryl Baird, Lynne Burke, Guy Orrell and Barbara Orrell Smith for preparing snack and monitoring traffic.

Please use caution when driving up the hill and through the parking lots while there is snow on the ground. Please remind your children to keep out of the snow banks and to not throw snowballs while they are waiting to be picked up. Thank you!

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 Worces- *
* ter Public Schools are closed, or if there is an early release in *
* Worcester or the Wachusett School District, we will not have *
* school. *

JANUARY 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NEW YEAR'S DAY 1	<i>Office closed</i> 2	9:15 Midrash Study 3	1:45 Mishnah & Talmud at JHC 3:45 Religious School Grades 3-7 5:40 Pizza night 4	5	7:00 Sabbath Service Torah: Genesis 44:18-47:27 Haftarah: Ezekiel 37:15-28 6	Vayigash 8:30 Cantor's Chanters 9:00 Rel School 9:00 Torah Study 11:00 Tot Shabbat 7
9:30 Adult Ed - "Conversational Hebrew" 8	6:30 Sinai High 6:45 Confirmation 8:00 Board Meeting 9	9:15 Midrash Study 7:15 Religious School Comm. 10	1:45 Mishnah & Talmud at JHC 3:45 Religious School Grades 3-7 11	12	7:00 Family Sabbath Service Torah: Genesis 47:28-50:26 Haftarah: I Kings 2:1-12 13	Vayehi 8:30 Cantor's Chanters 9:00 Rel School 9:00 Family Ed - Gr. 7 9:00 Torah Study 12:00 Adult Ed - Jewish Worship Melodies 14
9:30 "Gems of Judaism" 10:45 Conversational Hebrew 15	<i>MLK Day office closed</i> 16	9:15 Midrash Study 17	1:45 Mishnah & Talmud at JHC 3:45 Religious School Grades 3-7 18	19	6:30 Adult Ed - Jewish Worship Melodies 7:00 Sabbath Service Torah: Exodus 1:1-6:1 Haftarah: Isaiah 27:6-28:13;29:22-23 20	Shemot 8:30 Cantor's Chanters 9:00 Rel School 9:00 Torah Study 11:00 Family Service - Grade 6 12:00 Adult Ed - Jewish Worship Melodies 21
No Adult Ed Class 22	6:30 Sinai High 6:45 Confirmation 23	9:15 Midrash Study 24	1:45 Mishnah & Talmud at JHC 3:45 Religious School Grades 3-7 25	26	6:30 Adult Ed - Jewish Worship Melodies 7:00 Sabbath Service Torah: Exodus 6:2-9:35 Haftarah: Ezekiel 28:25-29:21 27	Vaera 8:30 Cantor's Chanters 9:00 Rel School 9:00 Torah Study 11:30 Bar Mitzvah of Zachary Ross 28
No Adult Ed Class 29	30	9:15 Midrash Study 31				

ARTICLES FOR FEBRUARY BULLETIN MUST BE IN THE OFFICE BY JANUARY 15

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 Worcester, MA 01609

Temple Sinai, 661 Salisbury Street
 Worcester, MA 01609
 508 755-2519
 Email: sinaioffice2003@yahoo.com
 Website: www.templestinaiworcester.org