

THE SINAI BULLETIN

Volume 21 Number 5

Tevet - Shevat 5767

January 2007

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

JANUARY 5

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

Sermon: "What is Jewish Spiritual Direction?"

Candles: Mike Finkle

Aliyah: Debi Lang

Usher: Debi Lang

JANUARY 6

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

JANUARY 12

Friday, 7:00 PM - **SYNAPLEX FAMILY SABBATH SERVICE**

Candles: Susan Hildum

Aliyah: Noreen Simon

Usher: Harry Hubbard

JANUARY 19

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

Sermon: "Darfur: A Fresh Look at Doing More"

Candles: Maile Jones

Aliyah: Fred Schwartz

Usher: Susan Hildum

JANUARY 20

Saturday, 11:00 AM - **FAMILY SERVICE - GRADE 6
PARTICIPATING**

JANUARY 26

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

Sermon: "New Ideas About Jewish Healing"

Aliyah: Steve Schuster

Usher: Stephen Glick

synaplex Shabbat

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2007

6:00 PM - Synaplex™ Community Dinner

\$10 per person

\$5 children under 10

**Please RSVP to Lynne Burke 508 886-0001
by January 5th**

7:00 PM

**An all Singing Music Shabbat
"FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE"**

WITH GUEST MUSICIANS

All are welcome!

WORDS OF THE HEART

"SACRED TIME"

We are in the midst of the synagogue year even though we are starting a new secular year. We are well into the STAR-Synaplex effort, striving to make our Sabbath experience as sacred as possible. Join us in the multiplicity of experiences at our next Synaplex Shabbat that will be designed specifically to make Shabbat more engaging for you and your loved ones. There is no moment in Jewish life more sacred, more central than the Sabbath. We encourage you to make it more a part of your weekly experience.

As I write this bulletin article, just today, I finished participating in a two part series at UMASS-Memorial on the "Impact of our Religious and Cultural Traditions upon our Understanding to Time and Calendar." Christians, Hindus and Jews offered perspectives from each of our traditions as to what makes time sacred in each of our lives. I learned about the Festival of Lights in Hindu celebration and how their festival compares and contrasts with our own Festival of Lights, Hanukkah. How we all yearn to bring the sacred closer to our own life experiences!

Tomorrow morning Marsha and I travel to Indianapolis to join my family of origin and friends to celebrate my mother's 90th birthday. How delightful it will be for all of us, especially my mother, to welcome relatives and friends from afar. It will be my mother's first opportunity to see first-hand her great grandchildren and for all of the family to thank God for the miracle of good health, new life and the opportunity to gather in joyous celebration on such a sacred occasion in our family's history.

Later this month, as a congregation we will welcome the new month of Shevat, the month in which we celebrate Jewish Arbor Day. On Tu B'shvat we will plant seedlings with the hope that even in the darkest days of winter, not only can we yearn for new life and new growth, but we can actively plant the seeds, literally and figuratively, so that as Jews we continue to learn more about our faith and heritage, and as a result, make our world better.

We are grateful for all those who recently gave of themselves to house the homeless at Temple Sinai in conjunction with the Interfaith Hospitality Network. We trust that such acts of kindness can motivate us to do more to stop the genocide in Darfur so that lives will be saved and we can live in a more sacred time than the one in which we live today.

Rabbi Seth L. Bernstein

SAVE THE DATE!

**Friday & Saturday, April 28 & 29th - Celebration of Rabbi
Bernstein's 30th year in the Rabbinate (see page 3)**

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

I will follow my cliché headline with another cliché, this one paraphrasing the most deeply admired entreaty of our time: Ask not what your Synagogue can do for you. Ask what you can do for your Synagogue. Let's just call it a "New Year Appeal," one where no money is asked for, only time and an incremental shift in the collective culture of our Synagogue community.

I was raised mostly in a very large Reform Synagogue with something on the order of 1500 families. We always had two full-time rabbis, a cantor and a music director, a full-time religious school principal, a full-time executive director, multiple paid youth group directors, a program director or two, multiple full-time administrative staff members (secretaries, they were called back then), and the all-important house, grounds and janitorial staff that kept the place running with clockwork-like efficiency. Today as a temple president, I fantasize that board meetings at the temple of my youth consisted of simply running down an itemized list of what on Earth to do with all the money.

Back in the land known as "reality," our Temple Sinai has a far smaller membership list that hovers somewhere slightly North of 250 families. The bad news is that a congregation of this size simply does not represent a financial critical mass that can afford to hire or contract worker bees to take care of all the things that must occur to keep this institution, its programs and its physical plant operating and in good repair. In fact, as I've communicated many times over the past six months, we continue to run at a significant financial deficit.

But, if having a membership of "only" 250 families is the "bad news," it is also the good news, for three reasons. First, when I think about it, 250 families represent an awful lot of people! Let's say, just to put a number on it, that each family has an average of three people – that means we have a veritable army of 750 people at our disposal! I submit that there's hardly anything that couldn't get done with that many people if each of us does even just a very very little bit.

Second, we have already shown with unmistakable clarity that our small synagogue community knows how to get things done with scores of volunteers who take care of vast numbers of tasks and projects. Many among us are already in the habit of noticing things that need doing at Temple Sinai and then jumping in with both feet to make those things happen.

The third reason our membership size is good news is that by not having the luxury of an overabundance of staff members, each of us has a bigger opportunity to perform the mitzvah of contributing our time, our talent and the work of our hands. The concept of simcha shel mitzvah applies nicely to the contributions each of us can make around Temple Sinai. Simcha shel mitzvah is the joy derived from the act of mitzvah and as many in our community can attest, there is real and tangible joy to be had from doing the mitzvah of involvement.

At the December board meeting, it was agreed that board members would be reaching out during the month of January to find out what talents lie hidden among our membership. No one will be asked to serve on committees, no meetings will be demanded, and no arms will be twisted.
(continued next column)



NOTES FROM ROBIN

*" Music washes away from the soul
the dust of everyday life."*

Berthold Auerbach

Are you still contemplating the environmental themes of our last STAR-Synaplex Shabbat, as I am? Winter is certainly a fine season for considering our global impact, as a community and as individuals. Our wonderful speaker, Andrea Cohen-Keiner, spoke at length on the small things we can do to lessen our personal pollution contribution, and even help build community. In case you missed her, here are just a few highlights:

- * Change your bulbs (at least *some* of them) to energy-efficient ones
- * Cluster your errands - if you're heading downtown, try to do all your downtown errands at once.
- * Offer a ride to someone else on Friday night (or for religious school) - you'll save gas, ensure another person can attend services, and build community all at the same time.

In our Jewish month of Sh'vat, we observe *Tu Bishvat* (literally, "the 15th of Sh'vat"), when we do as the kabbalists of Safed did, and celebrate a sort of Jewish "Arbor Day." It has become customary to eat a variety of fruits and nuts, to conduct a short Seder, and to plant trees in Israel through the Jewish National Fund (www.jnf.org). *Tu Bishvat* falls on February 2nd this year - do consider planting a tree in Israel (and perhaps another in your own yard).

Friday Night Live

On January 12, our STAR Synaplex Shabbat will feature a "Friday Night Live" service, and will include guest musicians and an all-singing service. Don't miss this lively, engaging service!

L'shalom,
Robin

"It Takes a Village (cont.)

But we will all be asked to simply consider, on a tiny incremental basis, what we can do for our Synagogue. Just imagine what our army of 750 plus mitzvah makers can get done at Temple Sinai! And with our house in order, we can focus on the thing we're actually here for – the practice of Judaism and Jewishness.

Steve Schuster - 508-868-5892 - steve@rainierco.com

TEENAGERS - SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY EVENING - MARCH 3, 2007

Temple Sinai will be hosting a party
for all Central MA Jewish teenagers,
10th grade and older.

There will be delicious food and great music
so save the date and join the party!

If you'd like to help organize our mad cool party, contact
Melody Friedenthal at 508-856-0993 or
mfriedenthal@netzero.com

YAHREZITS

JANUARY 5

Sam Bentkover
*Isaiah Dopkeen
Sarah Hurvitz
Margaret Katzen
Nick Massie
Herbert Ravin
*Edgar Rothschild
George Volturo

JANUARY 12

Ken Edelson
Adele Engelberg
*Lena Farnelant
Sidney W. Freund
Sylvia Kranz
*Sema Kunin
Francis Marcy
Peter Roy
David Shwachman
*Osburn W. Seay
Richard Steven Solomon
*Samuel Yanoff

JANUARY 19

*Muriel Astion
*Arthur Black
Jeanie N. Brunell
Jean C. Freed
Morris Kaufman
Dora Kuppenheimer
Eli Leviton
*Melvin Morse
Lillian Pearlmuter
Norma Rudinsky
*Ruth Seder
Joseph Shepatin
Maurice Smith
Hyman I. Swartz
Marcus Waxman
*Doris Zabelsky

JANUARY 26

*Eleanor Goldstein Brody
*Harvey Goldstein
*Rabbi Joseph Karasick
Joseph Kurlansky
Annie L. Noar
*Sam Praver
*Sarah Robinson
*Seymour Samuels
Bob Schlotfeldt
Jennie Shack
*Ruth M. Sigel
*George Solomon
David Zeidman

FEBRUARY 2

*Louis Abrahamson
*Jeannette Black
Jean Cohen
Donald C. Hildum
Lena Jacobson
Eugene Johnson
*Vicky Smith Kaufman
Rudolph J. Lofgren
Roger Malfliet
Philip Rosenblatt
Henry Rothschild
Lillian Weingarten

We record with deep sorrow, these recently departed:

Isidore "Bob" Solod, grandfather of Kim Solod-Jette (11-22-06)

Marc Witkes, son of Eleanor Witkes and brother of Joan Beth Gow (12-10-06)

MAZZAL TOV

Mazzal Tov to *Melvin & Shirley Merken*, on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Mazzal Tov to *Jessie Bernstein* on her 90th birthday!

TODAH RABAH

Todah Rabah to *Sandy Sotak* for sponsoring the oneg on December 15th.

Todah Rabah to *Leslie Schoffemeer* and the *members of the Membership Committee* for a wonderful Hanukkah dinner and celebration.

Todah Rabah to *Debi Lang* and *Wendy Waegell* for once again organizing our Interfaith Hospitality Week here at Temple Sinai. Today Rabah also to everyone for their generous gifts of food, time and talent to make our guests feel welcome.

Todah Rabah to everyone who sent their articles for this bulletin to me in "record time", so that I could get it out before the end of December!

CHALLAH BAKING!!!

Please join the Family Ed Committee for our semi-annual challah baking workshop in the social hall on Saturday, January 6th beginning at 9:00. Adults only, please.

We're in luck this year to have *Marsha Bernstein*, world class baker as our teacher. She will bring in dough that we can bake that day and teach us how to make our own dough with her famous, delicious recipe so we will have dough to bake at home.

Stories about your family challah baking traditions are welcome as well as any history of challah that you can find to share.

Seating is limited to 8 or 10 participants. Please call as soon as possible to reserve your spot. We hope you're ready for some good, clean, delicious fun!

Please contact either Clare Williams (508) 829-2535 or Wendy Davis Wong (508) 755-2519.



SAVE THE DATE TO CELEBRATE.....

Rabbi Bernstein will complete his 30th year in the rabbinate this spring and we are proud that he has served 20 of those years at Temple Sinai!

In honor of this milestone, please plan to be part of the celebration that will take place the weekend of **April 27 - 28, 2007.**

Our weekend will begin with the *Shabbat service on Friday night, April 27*
Featuring guest speaker *Rabbi Bernard Mehlman, Rabbi Emeritus, Temple Israel in Boston.*
A festive oneg to follow.

We hope everyone will attend.

Saturday evening, April 28 we will host a catered dinner in the social hall complete with entertainment and a silent auction.....

It will be a fun and festive evening!
Details to follow.....

Mark your calendars now, so you can be sure to be part of the celebration!

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on Thursday, January 18. We will be reading, "Guns, Germs, and Steel," by Jared Diamond, at the home of Patti Gould. On February 15, "Love Medicine," by Louise Erdrich, at the home of Michele Feinsilver.

All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. unless individually listed otherwise. Everyone is welcome to attend; please call the host to let us know that you are planning to come. Questions? Call Les or Sue Blatt, 508-792-2823.

ENCYCLOPAEDIA JUDAICA

A new addition of the *Encyclopaedia Judaica* will be available in December. This new 22 volume set presents the latest scholarship on historic topics as well as extensive new treatments of contemporary Jewish life, including added emphasis of the role of women and exploration of the full global scope of the Diaspora. The new *Encyclopaedia Judaica* has been designed for ease of use by scholars, students and general reader alike.

We would love to be able to have this valuable set available here in the Temple. The cost is \$1995. If you would like to help make this possible, and would like to contribute, please send your donation to Temple Sinai noting that it is for the Encyclopaedia Judaica.

CONTRIBUTIONS

CANTOR'S FUND

The Oberman Family, in memory of Catherine Oberman
Arthur & Glenda Wolpert, in memory of Louis Wolpert

GENERAL FUND

Robin Sparr-Rothman, in gratitude for her mother's return to health
Robin Sparr-Rothman, welcome & Mazal Tov on the conversions of Bob Rose and Claudia Russo
The Sparr-Rothman family, in appreciation of the Evelyn Zarrow choir members and the Sinai Singers and all their families.
Gail Lee, in appreciation of Michael Finkle
Shirley & Melvin Merken, in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary
Warren & Raechael Ehrlich
The Eder Family, in memory of Dr. Akira Kuramata
Ruth Berman, in memory of Myron Berman
Jacqueline Ross, in memory of Bernard Goldman

MA-OT CHITIM FUND

The Sparr-Rothman Family, in honor of our fall B'nai Mitzvah,
Sam Kessel, Erica Shear, Mark Fortugno, Rachel CaraDonna,
Rebecca Orrell, and Seth Dworman

ONEG FUND

Shirley & Melvin Merken, in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary

PRAYERBOOK FUND

Joan & Arthur Pearlmutter, in memory of Henry Pearlmutter

RABBI'S FUND

Florence Lowe, in memory of Katie Jonas
Carol & Dennis Powers
Harry, Donna, Allison & Joshua Hubbard, in memory of Sadie Ackerman
Judith Gorlick, in memory of Alan Plotkin
Judith Gorlick, sending wishes for a speedy recovery to Carol Seager
Judith Gorlick, in memory of Danny Cotton
Barry & Janet Krock, in memory of Betsy Berg
Rick & Sue Seder, in honor of the naming of Ruth Sadie Seder
Bill & Noreen Simon, in memory of Marsha Sue Simon
Jim Finnegan, in appreciation
Richard Perlman, in appreciation
Claudia Russo, in appreciation
The Shear Family, in memory of Mike Berman
Carolyn & Mike Solod and family, in memory of Bob Solod
Lori Cutler
Lilith Andersen, in memory of Ana Vajk Peklic
Nancy & Eliot Cohen, Elissa, Rick, Emme and Alex Robertson, in appreciation
Al & Doris Shairman, in memory of Jacob B. Shairman
Al & Doris Shairman, in memory of Abraham Cohen
Jane & Jerry Freed, in memory of Blanche Z. Becker

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Linda & Howard Stern, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Harriet & Jordan Robbins' grandson
The Kerxhalli-Caplan Family, in memory of Elaine Caplan

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Joe Casey, in memory of John Casey

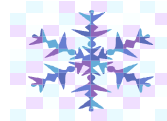
The Bulletin 4

TOT SHABBAT AT TEMPLE SINAI

**SATURDAY, January 6th in the sanctuary
11:00 AM**

*We look forward to having you join our
Tot Shabbat Program with Cantorial Soloist
Robin Sparr-Rothman.
A pot luck Kiddush luncheon will follow.*

*Questions please call Becky Pins at 508.829.8295
Next Tot Shabbat will be held on
February 3rd.*



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.

ADULT EDUCATION IN JANUARY



Pirke' Avot, Ethics of the Ancestors: Tuesdays,
January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - 9:15 AM - Rabbi's study

Adult B'not Mitzvah Class: Tuesdays, January 2,
16, 23, 30 - 8:00 Led by Rabbi Bernstein

Mishnah & Talmud: Wednesdays, January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 -
1:45 PM at the JHC, Led by Rabbi Bernstein.

"Torah Study - Reform, Conservative & Orthodox Comparisons" Saturdays, January 6, 13, 20, 27 - 9:00 AM - Rabbi's Study.

Tu B'Shvat: The Birthday of Trees - Saturday, January 27 at 11AM, led by Rabbinic Student Josh Breindel. Although it may feel like the middle of winter, the trees are beginning to bud in Israel...In this session we'll look at a Tu B'Shvat (literally, "15th of the month of Shvat") service, eat and drink from fruits that connect us to the earth and discuss how a winter holiday can bring us a little closer to spring.



FAMILY EDUCATION

Saturday January 13 - "Ritual Objects"
Grades 4 & 5 and their parents.

CHINUCH NOTES ON EDUCATION

Grades K, 1 & 2	Saturdays, January 6, 13, 20, 27	9 - 12 noon
Grades 3 - 7	Saturdays, January 6, 13, 20, 27 Wednesdays, January 10, 17, 24, 31	9 - 12 noon 3:45 - 5:40
Grades 8, 9 (Sinai High)	Monday, January 8 - <i>Class Meeting - Assign parts for Sinai High Service</i> Monday, January 22 - <i>Practice for upcoming Sinai High Service</i>	6:30 - 8:00 PM 6:30 - 8:00 PM
Confirmation	Mondays, January 8, 22	6:45 PM

NEWS FROM THE THIRD GRADE CLASS

In our third grade classroom we are learning how to write Hebrew in script. We are also learning how to read Hebrew letters and vowels. We are learning about the stories in the Torah. We already learned about Adam and Eve, Noah's Ark, Cain and Abel, and the creation of the world. We are learning about different towns and cities in Israel. We are learning about the history of Israel and about the different people who live there. We learned about the story of Hanukkah and we are making light catchers today.

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 COMPLIANCE.

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 (580 AM) or WSRS (96 FM) for that information, or call the Temple Office 508 755-2519. 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.



There will be no Aruchat Sinai during the months of January and February.

**"PIZZA NIGHT"
Will resume on Wednesday, March 7th**



FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR

In January, my thoughts always turn to snow! Please be sure to 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. Just press 8 after you call the main number.

The fifth graders did a wonderful job leading services on December 8. Many thanks to their teacher Harriet Robbins and to our Cantorial Soloist, Robin Sparr-Rothman for preparing them well! Thank you, also, to Lynne Burke for coordinating the dinner preceding the service.

On **Saturday morning, January 6**, the family education committee invites you to learn how to bake challah. Marcia Bernstein, baker extraordinaire, will, once again, teach us the art of challah baking! Please RSVP to the Temple office, as space is limited.

The fourth and fifth graders and their parents will participate in a Family Education program on Jewish Ritual Objects on **Saturday, January 13**.

Join us on **Saturday, January 20 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.

Also, on **Saturday January 20**, the fourth graders will join the **fourth graders** from the area schools for an overnight at the JCC in Worcester. Tal and Ron, along with the Religious School Directors, have a special program planned for the evening.

Watch your mail for more detailed information about the above programs.

Thank you to everyone who purchased jewelry from our fundraiser in November. The proceeds from the day will benefit the Religious School and the fire truck campaign.

Thank you to Diana Malkin, Renee Malowitz, Harry Hubbard, Lynne Burke, Jesse Caplan, 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
Religious School Director



JANUARY 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	NEW YEAR'S DAY 1	9:15 Pirke' Avot 8:00 B'not Mitzvah class 2	1:45 Mishnah & Talmud at JHC No Religious School 7:30 Adult Choir Rehearsal 3		7:30 Sabbath Service Torah: Genesis 47:28-50:26 Haftarah: I Kings 2:1-12 5	Vayehi 9 - Torah Study 9 - Religious School 11 - Tot Shabbat 6
	6:30 Sinai High 6:45 Confirmation Class 8:00 Board Meeting 7	9:15 Pirke' Avot 7:15 Religious School Comm. 9	1:45 Mishnah & Talmud at JHC 3:45 Rel. School 5:45 Sinai Singers 7:30 Adult Choir Rehearsal 10		7:00 Synaplex Family Service Torah: Exodus 1:1-6:1 Haftarah: Isaiah 27:6-28:13;29:22-23 12	Shemot 9 - Torah Study 9 - Religious School 9 - Family Ed Program Grades 4 & 5 13
	MLK Day - Office Closed 14	9:15 Pirke' Avot 8:00 Adult B'not Mitzvah 16	1:45 Mishnah & Talmud at JHC 3:45 Religious School 5:45 Sinai Singers 7:30 Adult Choir Rehearsal 17		7:30 Sabbath Service Torah: Exodus 6:2-9:35; Numbers 28:9-15 Haftarah: Isaiah 66:1-24;66:23 19	Vaera 9 - Torah Study 9 - Religious School 11 - Family Service - Grade 6 participating 12 - Gr. 6 Family Luncheon 20
	6:30 Sinai High 6:45 Confirmation Class 21	9:15 Pirke' Avot 7:00 Worship Committee 8:00 Adult B'not Mitzvah 23	1:45 Mishnah & Talmud at JHC 3:45 Religious School 5:45 Sinai Singers 7:30 Adult Choir 24		7:30 Sabbath Service Torah: Exodus 10:1-13:16 Haftarah: Jeremiah 46:13-28 26	Bo 9 - Torah Study 9 - Religious School 11 - Adult Ed "Tu B'Shvat: The Birthday of Trees" 27
		9:15 Pirke' Avot 8:00 Adult B'not Mitzvah 30	1:45 Mishnah & Talmud at JHC 3:45 Religious School 5:45 Sinai Singers 7:30 Adult Choir Rehearsal 31			
28	29					

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

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