

THE SINAI BULLETIN

Volume 23 Number 5

Tevet – Shevat 5769

January 2009

JANUARY 2

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

Sermon: “*Spiritual Underpinnings of Current Economic Concerns*”

Usher: *Renee Malowitz*

JANUARY 9

Friday, 7:00 PM - **FAMILY SABBATH SERVICE -
GRADE 5 PARTICIPATING**

Usher: *Leslie Schoffelfmeer*

Candles: *Leah & Rachel Goldstein*

Aliyah: *Older Siblings of 5th Graders*

JANUARY 16

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

Sermon: “*Stringing the Pearls: A New Look at Exodus by James S. Diamond*”

Usher: *Les & Sue Blatt*

JANUARY 23

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

Sermon: “*Lincoln and the Jews: In Commemoration of the 200th Birthday of Abraham Lincoln*”

Usher: *Jesse Caplan*

JANUARY 24

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

JANUARY 30

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

Sermon: *Sinai High and Cantorial Soloist Kim Singer will be participating*

Usher: *Harry Hubbard*

Candles: *Sinai High Students*

Aliyah: *Sinai High Students*

JANUARY 31

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



DIVREI HALEV WORDS OF THE HEART

“THE CHOICE IS IN OUR HANDS”

The physical effects of the ice storm of December 12th will be with us for a very long time. Felled and topped-off trees now mark our landscape. The damage to Temple grounds, like the damage to so many neighborhoods, was more than considerable. The natural beauty of our Temple’s natural setting has been altered. Whether by chain saw or by ice storm, the outdoor physical surroundings have changed throughout New England.

While hundreds of thousands of people had to live without electrical power day after day, the toll on workers and emergency responders was unquantifiable. How do we respond in the wake of such a disaster? Not long from now - February 9th - it will be Tu B’Shvat, Jewish Arbor Day. This is the day when our tradition asks us, summons us, to do more to protect and beautify our environment. In December, our President, Marcy Ostrow, asked for your financial assistance to help with the temporary paving of our driveway so that the road will not continue to wash away. Now in the wake of such widespread damage to the trees on our property, there is the need to plant trees in the spring. Should you wish to contribute, please send a check made out to Temple Sinai with “Temple Trees” written on the bottom left corner. We will be planting trees in the spring, in honor of Tu B’Shvat, with the hope that arboreal beauty will be restored to our Temple grounds in the best way possible.

There is the legend in Jewish tradition of a young boy coming to a sage with his hands cupped over a small bird. The child asked the sage, “O wise one, is the bird I am holding alive, or is it dead?” The elder hesitated. If he said the bird was alive, the boy could crush the bird. If he said the bird was dead, the boy could open his hands and let the bird fly free. The sage simply replied, “The answer, my child, lies within your hands.” As we go forward in this new secular new year toward Tu B’shtvat and toward a new American presidency, we might be tempted to believe so much is out of any of our control. It is true we cannot create or prevent an ice storm or change the national economy single handedly, but each and every one of us can control our response to life’s circumstances in ways that can create new growth, new excitement and new creativity for Temple Sinai, America and our world.

Rabbi Seth L. Bernstein

PLANNED GIVING

**Please consider remembering
Temple Sinai in your will.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last week, when I was thinking about what I could write about for the January Bulletin, I jokingly thought of the communications so many of us have received from our college students. "Please send money". It's short, won't take up much space in the bulletin, and it gets right to the point...

Then we had the ice storm of December 11th. I sat in my living room and listened to the crack and crash of trees falling and worried for the safety of my own house and family as well as the safety of my Temple Sinai buildings and family. Miraculously, my home is intact, and so is Temple Sinai. It's hard to imagine feeling lucky as you watch trees you have planted and tended for 25 years crash to the ground, but when they fall next to and not on your house, that's lucky. The devastation to the grounds of our dear Temple Sinai is impossible to describe. Tears came to the eyes of those who first observed it. The landscape has surely changed and nothing is "in its proper place" at the moment. It was as though a tornado had passed through the area. Slowly and with much strength of mind and body, Randy Widing, our caretaker is painstakingly working at the cleanup of this place that is so dear to all of us. Our school building and sanctuary building are all intact and as always, we'll move forward to the best of our ability.

The other important thing to know about this storm event is that even as our worlds were shaken, not a latke was lost during the power outage. My personal latke making yield of 150 latkes for the Temple Hanukkah supper, and Renee and her fryers, had filled the temple freezer with close to 500! The possibility of thaw represented, to me, an unacceptable loss. There was room in the small freezer at Ostrow Electric for the 2 pans that were in my home freezer, but what about the 6 HUGE pans whose frozen span was coming to an end? When Rabbi Bogosian from Temple Emmanuel left a voicemail on my cell phone offering any help we needed (in addition to the fact that they had electricity and had graciously opened their doors to house our Interfaith Hospitality guests for the week prior to their own two weeks), I thought, "latkes...freezer space!" Suffice it to say freezer space was cleared, latkes were schlepped, and the world was back in balance.

Happy New Year and let us be thankful for what was not destroyed.

Respectfully,
Marcy Ostrow
President

P.S. "Please send money..."

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.



NOTES FROM KIM

PREPARING TO PRAY

As most of the students in our Religious School could (hopefully) tell you by now, after hearing me repeat it often since September, the Rabbis who developed our worship service understood that most of us can't simply "jump right in" to prayer. In the same way that an athlete or a musician takes time to warm up, transition time is built into our t'fillah.

The Rabbis tell us that the very devout used to prepare themselves for an hour before they prayed (Mishna Brachot 5.1). That seems daunting! But I do know that taking even a few minutes before a service to focus helps me to bring more energy and *kavanah* (intentionality) to my prayers. "Officially" the service begins at Bar'chu. The opening psalms and songs are there to help us create that time and space to warm-up, to get into the mood for praying. On Shabbat this section of the service is extended—traditionally by reciting six Psalms. With each of these we are invited to drop the cares of one week day, so that when we reach the seventh song, L'cha Dodi, we are truly able to welcome the Shabbat Bride. For all of our services, the hope is that by the time we reach Bar'chu, the "call to prayer" we are able to really come together as a praying community. That is why Bar'chu is a dialog. The prayer leader invites: "come on, everyone, let's praise God." The congregation answers, "Praise God forever!"—we're ready to pray.

We don't do the full Kabbalat Shabbat section of our service. And don't worry, I'm not advocating an extra hour of prayers! But I would like to invite you to join me in an experiment that - taking just a few minutes on the first and third Friday of each month to add some extra warm-up time to our prayers. We'll begin some singing at 7:20. At 7:30, Shalom Aleichem will mark the transition to our regular Erev Shabbat service. If you would like to participate, please sit towards the front of the sanctuary. Schmoozing, reconnecting with friends, is also an important way some people transition into Shabbat, and I don't want to infringe on that important task. Feel free to schmooze, to join the singing, or just to take your own private "warm-up" time.

This extended Kabbalat Shabbat will start on Friday, January 16.

Shabbat Shalom.

TZEDAKAH BOX

As many of you know, there is a Tzedakah Box located in the lobby of the sanctuary building. Following is a portion of the text on the plaque which has been placed on the box:

Tzedakah, or act of righteous giving, derives from the Hebrew word zedek denoting justice or righteousness. The giving of tzedakah is among Judaism's highest commandments.

YAHREZEITS

JANUARY 2

Bertha Bohrer
Nathan Bretholtz
Sarah Hurvitz
Abe Leviton
Leon Oginsky
*Edgar Rothschild
Jacob B. Shairman
Esther Sirk
*Libby Socofsky
Jenny Turco
George Volturo

JANUARY 9

Judith D. Benharris
Sam Bentkover
Abraham Cohen
*Isaiah Dopkeen
Ken Edelson
Margaret Katzen
*Sema Kunin
Sylvia Kranz
Francis Marcy
Nick Massie
Herbert Rubin
Peter Roy
Samuel Louis Tapper

JANUARY 16

*Muriel Astion
*Arthur Black
Adele Engelberg
*Lena Farnelant
Sidney W. Freund
*Melvin Morse
Lillian Pearlmutter
*Osburn W. Seay
*Ruth Seder
David Shwachman
Richard Steven Solomon
*Samuel Yanoff
*Doris Zabelsky

JANUARY 23

*Eleanor Goldstein Brody
Jean C. Freed
Dora Kuppenheimer
Eli Leviton
Norma Rudinsky
Maurice Smith
David Zeidman

JANUARY 30

*Harvey Goldstein
*Rabbi Joseph Karasick
*Vicky Smith Kaufman
*Sam Praver
*Sarah Robinson
Henry Rothschild
Bob Schlotfeldt
Boris Schuster
Jennie Shack
*Ruth M. Sigel
*George Solomon
Hyman I. Swartz
Lillian Weingarten

We record with deep sorrow, these recently departed:

Kenneth Ross, son of Richard & Patty Ross, brother of Nicole Ross, grandson of Jason Ross, nephew of Doug & Cheryl Ross & Michael & Candice Ross (11-23-08)

Richard Stillman, brother of Ken Stillman (11-26-08)

Robert C. Marmorek, grandfather of Jordan Eisenstock (12-6-08)

ADULT EDUCATION IN JANUARY

Pirke' Avot, Ethics of the Ancestors: Tuesdays, January 6, 13, 20, 27 - 9:15 AM - Rabbi's study.

Midrash - Wednesdays, January 7, 14, 21, 28 - 1:45 PM at the JHC, led by Rabbi Bernstein.

Torah Study - From the "Women's Torah Commentary on Leviticus & Numbers", Saturdays, January 10, 17, 24, 31 - 9:00 AM - Rabbi's study.

World Religions - Saturdays, January 10, 17 - "Buddhism": January 24 - "Hinduism" -10:00 AM - Rabbi's study.

Modern Hebrew - Saturdays, January 10, 17, 24, 31 - 12 noon - Rabbi's study.

FAMILY EDUCATION

"Exploring the Synagogue" - Grade 2 and their families - Saturday, January 10, 9:00 AM

MAZEL TOV

Mazel Tov to Seth & Marsha Bernstein, on the birth of their second granddaughter **Eve Sophia**. She was born on Saturday, December 13th to **Jana & Jeremy Sharp**.

TODAH RABAH

Today Rabah to Wendy Rickles, for holding such a successful "**Blanket Drive**" to help those in area shelters. Many blankets were donated and thank you to all who contributed. Thanks also to **Wendy** for all her hard work in coordinating a wonderful "**Shopping Extraganza**", which benefited Temple Sinai.

Today Rabah to Eric Richmond, who came up after the ice storm to clear the driveway of the Temple with his plow. The devastation was beyond words, and **Randy Widing** worked tirelessly to get the grounds safe so that we could get back to some kind of "normal."

Today Rabah to Debi Lang and Jennifer Lish, for their great work on coordinating the Interfaith Hospital-ity Network. Thanks to all our Temple Sinai volunteers who shifted to Temple Emanuel for the week, to be sure the families were well supported.

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.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Maria Richmond - richmond90@charter.net
508 792-3839

Wendy Rickles - wendyjan@charter.net
508- 752-0499

Bruce Wahle - bwahle@wahleworld.com
508 753-3630



ARE YOUR REDEEMABLE BOTTLES AND CANS CLUTTERING UP YOUR HOUSE?

Help Temple Sinai by donating your bottles and cans. Bottles & cans can be dropped off at "**DROP OFF AND PICK UP**" in the lower parking lot on the first Saturday of Religious School each month. **Please put them in a closed plastic bag.**

Drop off days are: **January 10, February 7, March 7, April 4, and May 2.**

If you have questions as to how you can help with this ongoing initiative, please call the Temple office at 508 755-2519.



TEMPLE SINAI BOOK CLUB

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

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

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

CONTRIBUTIONS

CANTOR'S FUND

Roberta Satter & Family, in memory of Samuel Bernard Katz
Case, beloved father & grandfather

GENERAL FUND

Michael Gusar, in memory of George Gusar
Jesse Caplan & Valerie Kerxhalli, in memory of Elaine Caplan
Jacqueline Ross, in memory of Bernard Grolman
James & Susan Patrick, in memory of Meyer Slatkin
Eleanor Witkes, in memory of Charles Grace
Eleanor Witkes, in memory of Marc Witkes
Falk Trust, High Holiday pledge on behalf of Bonnie Falk
Donohue

LIBRARY FUND

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

RABBI'S FUND

Leonard & Maxine Morse, in memory of Jeanette Forman
Roberta Satter & Family, Happy Anniversary to Gloria & Alan
Steckler
Dennis & Carol Powers, in memory of Bette Miles
Dennis & Carol Powers, in memory of Nancy Dworman
Judy Gorlick, in memory of Neal Webber
Neil & Joan-Beth Gow, in memory of Marc Witkes
Neil & Joan-Beth Gow, in memory of Bernard Wiltkes
Debra & Mark Shear, in memory of Myron Berman
Florence Lowe, in memory of Katie Jonas
Judy Gorlick, in memory of Loretta Drelinger
Judy Gorlick, in memory of Joseph Drelinger
Reeve Gersh, in memory of Maurice Gersch
Rayna Keenan, in memory of Maurice Gersch
Sue & Jim Patrick, in memory of Robert Marmorek
Jane & Jerry Freed, in memory of Blancher Becker
Jane & Jerry Freed, in memory of Uncle Henry
Sandra Rothschild, in memory of Ilsa Rothschild
Sandra Rothschild, in memory of Edgar Rothschild
Sandra Rothschild, in memory of Steven Rothschild
Sandra Cutler
Billy & Noreen Simon, in memory of Sue Simon
Laurence & Alison Oberman, in memory of Catherine Oberman
James & Susan Patrick, in memory of Robert Marmorek
Eydie Kasendorf, in memory of Kenneth Ross
Karen & Jonathan Glick, in memory of Robert Marmorek
Ronna & Jonah Cuker, wishing a speedy recovery to Helen
Chase
Ronna & Jonah Cuker, wishing a speedy recovery to Jane Freed
James & Emily Holdstein, in memory of George Gusar
Burton & Carole Orland, in memory of Gail Topol
Lilith & Paul Anderson, in memory of Ana Vajk Perlie
The Gow Family, in memory of Marc Witkes
Florence Lowe, in memory of Katie Jonas

WEINIGER FUND

IN MEMORY OF KENNETH ROSS

Steve, Lisa & Shelby Khoury	Marc Desplaines
Jack & Rochelle Musler	Robert & Laurie Faia
Alfred M. Chaffee School	Jim & Paula Gendron
Maurice & Rosemarie Hagerty	Ann Spaziante
Jordan & Harriet Robbins	Allen & Ruth Rubin

WEINIGER FUND

IN MEMORY OF KENNETH ROSS (continue)

Jeff & Linda Huttenbach	Randy & Wendy Wong
David Green & Helen Naftali	Frank & Carol Hortvitz
Victor & Lee Blumenthal	Allen & Ruth Rubin
Joseph & Kathy Maciejewski	Rod & Lisa Beittel
Larry & Marilyn Goldman	Tom & Sandy Lovejoy
Bob & Marilyn Sunberg	Aristocraft & EmPower
Alvin & Marion Gitlin	Bernie & Judy Noar
Stan & Marily Beecoff	Jonathan & Deborah Sloane
Hyman & Annette Order	Burton & Harriet Thompson
Paul Cantiani	Eric & Maria Richmond
Jesse Caplan & Valeria Kerxhalli	Tom & Sandy Lovejoy
Sparhawk Asset Management	Colonial Pest Control
Steven & Gloria Aisenberg	Lenora Rosenblum
Robert Fask & Helen Aronowitz	Stephen & Kathleen Dowd
Stephen & Kathleen Dowd	
Lenora Rosenblum	
Jeff & Linda Huttenbach	
David Green & Helen Naftali	
Steven & Gloria Aisenberg	
Pam Cherkas	
Paula Rosenblum	
Phyllis Glaser	
Jack & Fay Tepper	
Paul & Francis Callahan/Janet Paninki	

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.

ODE TO OUR LIBRARY

by Judy Schneider, Librarian

*Temple Sinai sits high on a hill,
But its library is so lonely and still.
The books have been waiting for ages and ages
For someone to borrow them and read all their pages.*

*A brand new computer is on the desk.
See what books we have or study for a test.
The library is organized so it's easy to use.
There are newspapers and magazines to help learn the news.*

*We have over 600 books on Jewish themes.
Books for children, adults and teens.
Holocaust, Israel and Jewish life, too.
I'm sure we have something perfect for you.
Fiction, biography, religion and more.
To see what we have, just walk through the door.*

*We've always been known as "the people of the book",
So please visit our library and take a good look!!*

CHINUCH NOTES ON EDUCATION

Grades K, 1 & 2	Saturdays, January 10, 17, 24, 31	9 - 12 noon
Grades 3 - 7	Saturdays, January 10, 17, 24, 31 Wednesdays, January 7, 14, 21, 28	9 - 12 noon 3:45 - 5:40 PM
Grades 8, 9 (Sinai High)	Mondays, January 5, 19	6:30 - 8:00 PM
Confirmation	Monday, January 12, 26	6:45 PM

TOT SHABBAT

Our next Tot Shabbat will be held on **Saturday, January 31**, 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.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A PLAYGROUP?

There is an interest in organizing a weekly playgroup for Temple members, possibly Thursday mornings at the library in the school building. This would be a great opportunity to meet fellow congregants with young children. If you are interested please contact Jill Finkle at 508-854-8202 or Jakean-Jill@charter.net.

Details to follow if there is interest.

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.

REMINDER

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!



FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR

After this devastating ice storm, it brought us to the realization how dependent we are on the Internet for communication! When in doubt about Religious School, please err on the side of caution. Be sure to review the school cancellation policy, located in your handbook. 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. *HOWEVER, be aware that if we have no power, there is no phone access at the Temple.*

Due to the ice storm, the fifth grade dinner and service has been postponed until **January 9**. The third grade family education program will also be rescheduled. Date to be determined.

The Second graders and their parents will participate in a Family Education program "Exploring the Synagogue," on **Saturday, January 10**.

Join us on **Saturday, January 24 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 evening, January 24**, the fourth graders will join the **fourth graders** from the area Religious Schools for an overnight at the JCC in Worcester. Noam and Hila, along with the Religious School Directors, have a special program planned for the evening.

On **Friday, January 30**, Sinai High students will be leading the service. The service will be preceded by a family dinner for the Sinai High students and their families.

On **Saturday, January 31**, Tot Shabbat will be held in the sanctuary at 11:00 AM followed by a pot luck luncheon.

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

*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!*



JANUARY 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<i>Happy New Year</i>	7:30 Sabbath Service	Vayigash <i>No Religious School</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	6:30 Sinai High	9:15 Pirke Avot	1:45 Midrash JHC 3:45 Religious School Grades 3-7		6:00 Grade 5 Family Dinner 7:00 Family Sabbath Service Grade 5	Yayehi 9 Religious School 9 Torah Study 9 Family Ed - Gr. 2 10 World Religions 12 Modern Hebrew
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	6:45 Confirmation 8:00 Board Meeting	9:15 Pirke Avot	1:45 Midrash JHC 3:45 Religious School Grades 3-7 7:30 Choir Rehearsal		7:30 Sabbath Service	Shemot 9 Religious School 9 Torah Study 10 World Religions 12 Modern Hebrew
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	6:30 Sinai High	9:15 Pirke Avot	1:45 Midrash-JHC 3:45 Religious School 7:30 Choir Rehearsal		7:30 Sabbath Service	Vaera 9 Religious School 9 Torah Study 10 World Religions 11 Family Service Gr. 6 12 Modern Hebrew
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	6:45 Confirmation	9:15 Pirke Avot	1:45 Midrash-JHC 3:45 Religious School 7:30 Choir Rehearsal		6:30 Sinai High Family Dinner 7:30 Sabbath Service-Sinai High	9 Religious School 9 Torah Study 11 Tot Shabbat 12 Modern Hebrew
29	30	31				

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



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