

THE SINAI BULLETIN

Volume 22 Number 10

Iyar - Sivan 5768

June 2008

JUNE 6

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

Sermon: "Blessings Worthy of Expression"

Usher: Jesse Caplan

Torah Reader: Rabbi Seth Bernstein

JUNE 7

Saturday, 10:30 **BAR MITZVAH OF MAX JETTE**

Presenter: Wendy Wong

JUNE 8

Sunday, 7:30 PM - **CONFIRMATION & SHAVUOT SERVICE**

JUNE 13

Friday, 7:30 **SABBATH SERVICE - "FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE"**

Sermon: "In Appreciation of Robin Sparr-Rothman Our Cantorial Soloist"

Ushers: Les & Sue Blatt

Torah Reader: Linda Freund

JUNE 14

Saturday, 11:30 AM - **BAR MITZVAH OF SAM GOW**

Presenter: Steve Glick

JUNE 20

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

Sermon: "When Sharing Majority and Minority Opinions"

Usher: Michael Finkle

Torah Reader: Sandy Sotak

JUNE 21

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

JUNE 27

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

Sermon: "Reflections on Light & Warmth"

Usher: Gary Englander

Torah Reader: Natalie Palley

JUNE 28

Saturday, 11:30 AM - **B'NOT MITZVAH OF ROSE & ISABELLE
CAPLAN**

Presenter: Harry Hubbard

Dear Congregants,

Please join us on Friday, June 13th at 7:30 p.m. when we will thank Robin Sparr-Rothman for the two years of wonderful service she gave Temple Sinai as our Cantorial Soloist. We will express our heartfelt and deep appreciation for her incredible musical talents and her many contributions to the worship experience of Temple Sinai. Please come to extend our best wishes to Robin, her husband, Eugene, and their daughters, Yael and Gila as part of our Shabbat services that evening.

Rabbi Seth L. Bernstein

TEMPLE SINAI CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2008

*Cordially invites you to attend and participate in
our Shavuot-Confirmation Service - "JOURNEY"*

Sunday Evening

June 8, 2008 - 6 Sivan 5768

7:30 PM

Allison Hubbard, daughter of Harry & Donna Hubbard

Mollie Kravitz, daughter of Daniel & Betsy Kravitz

*Lewis Rosenblum, son of Charles Rosenblum &
Rebecca Berenson*

Evan Ross, son of Douglas & Cheryl Ross

Samuel Silverman, son of Steve & Julie Schuster

Jordan Stambler, son of Kenneth & Leslie Stambler

David Stillman, son of Kenneth Stillman & Ann Malloy

An Oneg Yom Tov will follow

Sponsored by the families of the Confirmants

DIVREI HALEV

WORDS OF THE HEART

"TODAH RABAH, STEVE SCHUSTER"

We owe Steve Schuster, our outgoing President, our heartfelt thanks for all that he has brought to temple leadership over the past years, especially over the past two years as President of the Board of Trustees. Steve's creativity, energy, and unflagging dedication to Temple Sinai have inspired all of us. Steve would be the first to say that he is indebted to so many others who helped galvanize members to become more active and involved. Steve's singular efforts to bring the STAR/Synaplex® program to our Temple generated an enthusiasm that began with the surprise drumming at our Oneg Yom Tov on Simchat Torah/Consecration two years ago and continues to the present with novel and creative Synaplex Shabbatot experiences developed by other congregants.

In addition to Synaplex initiatives, Steve participates in our Friday Night Live band, and reads and learns Torah on a regular basis. His leadership by example has marked his presidency in wonderful ways. Always reading or writing about Jewish life, Steve is most engaged in current developments in the land of Israel. Through his passion for Israel and his own business investment in Israel, Steve is inevitably poised to become more interested and more involved in Jewish activity in his synagogue and in Israel.

(continued on page 3)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"You've got to serve somebody." This was the topic and refrain to a sermon by our rabbinic intern, Randy Kafka, not long ago. Randy is now moving forward in the world of newly ordained rabbis and we are all fortunate for the time we spent together this past year. When asked to step up and accept the nomination of President of Temple Sinai, after the initial feeling of panic passed, it was just this refrain that sang out in my head.

As a wife and mother, as well as a committed and outspoken worker/volunteer, I have extensive experience with the concept of "You've got to serve somebody." Having served either on the Board or Executive Board with six consecutive presidents, it is obvious that Temple Sinai has a lock on my commitment to serve.

I was raised in the Conservative tradition but when I really began to examine my Jewish objectives, it was in Reform Judaism that I found my true home and that home has been at Temple Sinai. Marrying into a family that contained founding Temple Sinai members only served to deepen and enrich my connection to this lovely community.

So here we are, just having completed our cycle of events celebrating Temple Sinai's Jubilee Year, 50 years of growth and change all rooted in a mission that has not changed since the initial founder's meetings. To quote a founding member I had the pleasure of speaking to not long ago, "We had an idea in mind of creating a temple that is exactly what it turned out to be...small, cohesive, wonderful Rabbi, everyone who is a member is glad to be here." Now we move forward into the future and I am honored to have your confidence in my ability to lead us there.

I have learned a great deal from my close association with so many presidents of Temple Sinai. I know about the importance of fiscal responsibility, of communication, of innovative new programming, of nurturing the talents our community has to offer, and of hard work. Thanks to Steve Schuster for his leadership these past two years.

Nothing is static in life in general or in the life of a temple community. We face change and whatever challenges come with it. We are saying goodbye to Cantorial Soloist Robin Sparr-Rothman, who nurtured the talent and enthusiasm of our community and coupled them with her own to elevate our music program to one of inspirational excellence. Robin may be moving on but the talent and enthusiasm is part of who we are and will remain with us as we move forward with whomever becomes our new musical leader.

I bring to my presidency my love of Temple Sinai and everything it embodies, my enthusiasm, my accessibility, my hard work and my willingness to "serve somebody."

Respectfully submitted,

Marcy Ostrow, President Elect



NOTES FROM ROBIN

A season is set for everything; a time for every experience under heaven...A time for planting and a time for uprooting the planted...A time for weeping and a time for laughing...A time for seeking and a time for losing. -- Ecclesiastes 3:1, 2, 4, 6

My dear friends,

It is with mixed emotions I write these words today. As you know, my service to Temple Sinai will conclude at the end of this month. While I look forward to whatever new adventures lie ahead, I am sad to leave this wonderful community. As was requested of me when I first began my service here, I have striven to be an agent of change. I'm both proud of and humbled by our accomplishments, all of which were attained with your help and that of my family, my colleagues and mentors, our exceptional staff, and the Source of Life. It has been my very great pleasure to see both the Evelyn Zarrow Choir and the Sinai Singers blossom, and the Friday Night Live band come into being and bring joy and *ruach* to our services. It's been exhilarating to participate in our many Synaplex programs, and to bring thrilling musical guests such as Shirim Klezmer and Linda Hirschhorn to share their talents. It's been exciting to, in partnership with our beloved Rabbi, bring significant change to our worship with the addition of a Yom Kippur healing service, innovative service styles such as Peace Shabbat, and the introduction of our new siddur, Mishkan T'filah.

I'd like to express my deepest thanks to Rabbi Seth Bernstein, for giving me enormous freedom to stretch my professional wings, for his support of me through thick and thin, and for all he's taught me.

I feel blessed by the many souls who've touched mine, including Tot Shabbat families, b'nai mitzvah (both the adult b'not mitzvah, and the young men and women and their families), the children in our religious school, the always-enthusiastic members of our music committee (ably guided by Susan Hildum and Sue Blatt), and the members of our congregation.

Thank you for welcoming my family into yours, and for journeying with me to new musical realms. Thank you, too, for your forgiveness of my missteps, and your enthusiastic embrace of my innovations.

It has truly been a joy to serve this community, and I hope that some of the seeds we've planted together might continue to bear fruit in the years ahead. I look forward to hearing of Temple Sinai's continuing growth and success, and to sustaining the many friendships forged in our short time together.

With deep gratitude and blessings of peace,
Robin Sparr-Rothman



SAVE THE DATE!

ANNUAL MEETING OF TEMPLE SINAI

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2008- 7:30 PM IN THE SOCIAL HALL
(meeting for Temple Sinai members only)

The Bulletin 2

JUNE 6

- Esther Brandstein
- Janina Eder
- Evelyn Johnson
- *Lester Posovsky

JUNE 13

- *Milton Cotton
- *Jeannette Englander
- Rae Gerhardt
- Fannie Goldsmith
- *Nathan L. Jacobson
- *Rebecca Jacobson
- Rose N. Marcus
- Dorothy Nathan
- William E. Stern
- *Florence B. Sternfeld

JUNE 20

- *Alan Brill
- *Jack Finkel
- *Saul Gerber
- *John D. Kuppenheimer, Jr.
- *Benjamin D. Novak
- Bernard Pemstein
- *Samuel Recht
- *Abraham Sadowsky
- Marian Malkin Satter
- Charlotte Schwartz
- *Rabbi Kenneth Stein
- *Hyman Yanoff

JUNE 27

- Claire Marie Clark
- *Henry Cotton
- Alice Kaye
- Ernest Krauss
- Mildred Legenbauer
- *Evelyn Malkiel
- *Rose Posovsky
- *Mary Silverman
- Esther Swidler
- Nathaniel Swidler

JULY 4

- *Morris Farmelant
- Joseph Frem
- *Samuel Guterman
- Morris Hauser
- *Ilse Rothschild
- Haskell Rudnick
- *Daniel Wahle
- *Jeanne Wolpert



We record with deep sorrow, these recently departed:

Sylvia Epstein, mother of Steven Epstein (5-5-08)

Amy Trebbin Weiss, mother of William Weiss (5-8-08)

Abe Sack, husband of Fran Sack, father of Sue Seder & Ina Sirk (5-15-08)

DIVREI HALEV (continued)

Leadership requires the ability to envision, to listen, to motivate, and to decide. Many decisions have been very difficult to make and Steve has given his best to decide in ways that are best for Temple Sinai. For all that Steve Schuster gave, we are most grateful. During these two years, there were many times that Steve sacrificed personal and familial time to carry out his duties. We appreciate all that his wife, Julie, and his children gave of themselves so that Steve could give his best as President of Temple Sinai.

We look forward with great enthusiasm as Marcy Ostrow is about to become our next President. There may be people who know as much about Temple Sinai as does Marcy, but no one knows more, cares more, or demonstrates more ongoing involvement in every aspect of Temple life than does Marcy Ostrow.

Leaders need the support of their fellow officers, boards, and members. As we go about planning a new synagogue year, may our greater involvement in Temple Sinai lead us in new and exciting ventures as we go forward, building on the very best of what others have built for us.

Rabbi Seth L. Bernstein

ADULT EDUCATION IN JUNE

Pirke' Avot, Ethics of the Ancestors: Tuesdays, June 3, 10, 17, 24 - 9:15 AM - Rabbi's study.

Midrash - Wednesdays, June 4, 11, 18, 25 - 1:45 PM at the JHC, led by Rabbi Bernstein.

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

Modern Hebrew - Saturdays, June 14, 21, 28, 10:00 AM - Rabbi's study.

COMMUNITY SPONSORED ONEG

To all those who participated in the Community sponsored oneg this year, our deepest thanks.

It was very successful and we look forward to continuing this again starting in the fall.

Thank you also to Ruth Berman who spent many hours making phone calls to be sure that every week we would have an oneg following services.



THE GREEN CORNER

Many of us have become aware, in recent years, of the dangerous climate impact our addiction to fossil fuels is beginning to have. (Yes, the idea is still controversial among some folks who view all of this as part of politics as usual. However, most geologists and physicists recognize the reality and the imminence of this problem). There is another part of the picture that is, to my way of thinking, equally worrisome: world supplies of affordable petroleum, the fossil resource on which our present way of life most depends, appear to be very close to the point where they can no longer satisfy the demand of a rapidly increasing and upwardly-striving population.

Back in the 1950's, an oil company geologist named M. King Hubbert recognized that the amount of petroleum being produced in the United States was heading for a peak, which he predicted would occur in the early 1970's. He was right on target. Since that time we have become more and more dependent on foreign sources for our oil, most problematically from unstable Middle Eastern countries. (Right now, we import close to 60% of the petroleum we use.) Many scientists, using modern-day improvements on Hubbert's approach, agree that the oil supply of the entire world is currently reaching its own production peak.

Most estimates show that the actual peak will occur within the next ten years. OK, I'm wading into an even more controversial area here, but I think everyone should educate themselves about the situation before dismissing this too, as merely a political and financial game. Here's one good place to start: <http://www.lifeaftertheoilcrash.net>.

I'd like to maintain an on-going discussion of these matters. Feel free to send me your thoughts!

Les Blatt (lblatt@charter.net),
on behalf of the Environmental Action Committee

TODAH RABAH

Todah Rabah to everyone who helped to make the Jubilee Celebration such a huge success. *Jesse Caplan, Theresa & Michael Cohen, Doug & Linda Freund, Maile Jones, Betsy Kravitz, Marcy Ostrow, Eric & Maria Richmond, Wendy Rickles, Steve Schuster, Mark Shear, Charles Slatkin, all members of the Board who made ad book/auction solicitations*, and to all those who supported the Jubilee with donations, items for the silent auction and many more "behind the scene" jobs.

Todah Rabah, to *Everyone* for their donations for the lovely weeping white cherry tree that was recently planted in front of the religious school building.

CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

Melody Friedenthal, in memory of Leon Friedenthal
Sandra Cutler, in memory of Thomas M. Bottcher
The Ravin/Rothschild Family, in memory of Joseph Ravin

LIBRARY FUND

Bob & Jane Lavine, in memory of Sylvia Epstein
Judy & Hal Schneider, in honor of Gary receiving his Doctorate Degree

MARION SACK GARDEN FUND

Anna, Joe & Ruth Seder, in honor of Sue Seder on Mother's Day
Fran & Abe Sack, in memory of Sylvia Epstein

RABBI'S FUND

Melody Friedenthal, in memory of Leon Friedenthal
Florence Lowe, in memory of Olga Lowe
The Elias Family, in memory of Joseph Mauceri
Alison, Laurence, Jonathan & Connor Oberman, in memory of Boris Michael Oberman
Howard Zinman & Margaret Cohen, in memory of Rosalind Zinman
Ron & Cathy Rosenstock, in memory of Eva Rosenstock
Judy Gorlick, in memory of Trish Hill's father
The Orland & Trotta Families, in memory of Maxwell W. Orland
Nancy & Steven Epstein, in memory of Michael Witkin
The Orland & Trotta Families, in memory of Dorothy Orland
Howard Zinman & Margaret Cohen, in memory of Saul Zinman
Ruth & Brian Cook, in memory of Jules Gruber
Carl & Linda Goldstein, in memory of Irene & Simon Goldstein

SINAI HIGH ENRICHMENT FUND

Michelle Drury, in memory of Richard & Judith Zatkin

TOT SHABBAT

Saturday, June 21st will be our last Family Tot Shabbat until September. It will be held 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 Robin Sparr-Rothman leads the service at 11:20 am, and then at noon we share a pot luck lunch. All are welcome to join and enjoy, Sinai members and non-members as well. For more information call 508-755-2519, email: singerjelt@yahoo.com, or visit www.templestinaiworchester.org.

Next Tot Shabbat in September!

SUMMER LAY LED SERVICES

Lay services will begin on Friday, July 4th and continue through Friday, August 22nd

All services will begin at 7:30 PM

Regular Sabbath services will resume on Friday, August 29th at 7:30 PM

COME VISIT OUR LIBRARY

Come check out our newly organized, user-friendly library and check out a book. We have a good selection for your summer reading.

My top pick for summer reading is *Outwitting History*, by Aaron Lansky. It's the inspiring story of how one man's determination and perseverance turned his dream into reality – The National Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Ma. If you haven't visited the Book Center yet, you'll want to after reading this book.

When borrowing a book, please remember to sign and date the card in the back of the book and leave it in the metal box on the library desk. When you return the book, just leave it on the desk. Please return the book as soon as you've read it, as someone else may be waiting for it. Thank you for your cooperation with these "rules".

If you have a suggestion for a book you think should be in our library, please contact me at jbschneider@charter.net and I'll see what I can do about adding it to our collection.

BOOK CLUB

All meetings start at 7:30. Everyone is welcome. Please contact Sue or Les Blatt for details.

Thursday, June 12: "*The Unknown Terrorist*," by Richard Flanagan, at the home of Paul and Zelda Schwartz.

Tuesday, July 22 at 6:00 pm: Annual potluck, swim party, and book selection meeting, home of Sue and Les Blatt (bring a couple of suggestions for next year's reading).

Tuesday, August 12 "*Einstein: His Life and Universe*," by Walter Issacson. Location to be announced.

Synagogue Council of Massachusetts' Eleventh Annual Unity Shabbaton:

An Adult Weekend of Study & Prayer will be held Friday, July 25 - Sunday, July 27, 2008 at the Holiday Inn, Peabody, MA.

This rich and unique Shabbat experience, which brings together Jews from various streams of Judaism in an atmosphere of respect and understanding, will feature a diverse faculty of noted rabbis for high-level Judaic study, inspirational services (with mechtza and egalitarian davening options), delicious Kosher, ruach-filled meals from Provender Kosher Catering, and entertainment, outstanding accommodations and air-conditioned facilities. This year the esteemed faculty includes Rabbis Fred Hyman, Shira Joseph and David Paskin. Plan now to join in this extraordinary opportunity for learning and growth!

Contact the Synagogue Council of Massachusetts at 617-244-6506, ext. 10 or visit their website at www.synagoguecouncil.org for further information.

**THE FOLLOWING LETTER WAS RECEIVED BY
MRS. ROSSMAN'S SEVENTH GRADE CLASS.
THEY WANTED TO SHARE IT WITH YOU.**



**FROM THE
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR**

Saturday, May 17 was a glorious day! The sun came out just as we all gathered in the circle to dedicate our new tree. We sang, we shoveled dirt and looked forward to planting new roots. Each class then filled in their page for our annual "Memory Book". Our Zimriyah was wonderful and an uplifting way to end the school year! With smiles mixed with tears, we said our good-byes to Chen and Iris, to Phyllis Spool, and to Robin Sparr-Rothman.

The first time a child leads services can be challenging. The third graders rose to that challenge and did an outstanding job leading services on May 9. I was so proud of all of them! Thank you to Tali Mugg for preparing them so well and to Diana Malkin for coordinating the dinner!!

In honor of Temple Sinai's 50th Jubilee year, our school Tzedakah this year is being used to purchase new prayerbooks for each classroom.

I'd like to thank all of the parents who volunteered this year to help with traffic, snack and holiday programs. I especially would like to thank *Diana Malkin* and *Alison Oberman* for co-chairing the school committee. I am so appreciative of the members of the school committee for their dedication to our school and programs!

Have a great summer!

A very special Todah Rabah from the teachers to the parents and students of the Religious School for the fabulous Tote Bags filled with goodies!

Wendy Davis Wong

Religious School Director

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REGISTRATION

*If you have a child not currently enrolled and wish to have them attend this next school year, please contact Wendy Davis Wong or the Temple office for a registration form. If your child is currently enrolled, he/she will automatically be enrolled for the 2008-2009 school year. **Be sure to register prior to August 15th. Religious School begins on Saturday, September 13th.***

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FEES

A reminder: It is the policy of Temple Sinai that all school fees be paid prior to your child attending Religious School. Please plan so these fees are paid before the beginning of school. Your child will not be allowed to begin classes until all school fees are paid. For your convenience you can pay with a credit card, (Mastercard or Visa). Please call June in the Temple office to make those arrangements, if you chose to do that.

TEACHER APPRECIATION

The Religious School Committee would like to thank all the parents and families of the religious school students who contributed to the Teacher Appreciation Gifts. Each teacher received a festive bag loaded with tea, nuts, fruit, truffles and other goodies. The bags were distributed on May 10th by the committee.



A NOTE OF THANKS!

A great deal of thanks and appreciation goes to **Judy Schneider**, for proof reading the bulletin every month. She has been extremely helpful in keeping any errors to the point where they are almost non-existent.

Thank you Judy!

