# **TEMPLE SINAI NEWS**



# on my **mind**Rabbi Adam Wohlberg



#### **TREES**

I think that I shall never see/ A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest/ Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;
 A tree that looks at God all day,/ And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
 A tree that may in Summer wear/ A nest of robins in her hair;
 Upon whose bosom snow has lain;/ Who intimately lives with rain.
 Poems are made by fools like me,/ But only God can make a tree.

I am certain that more than a few of the readers of this column will recall having learned this poem in grade school. These words were penned by the poet Alfred Joyce Kilmer in 1913. One could easily imagine that Kilmer had the holiday of Tu B'Shevat in mind when he expressed his admiration—even adoration—for trees.

Tu B'Shevat (the 15th day in the month of Shevat) is Judaism's annual celebration of trees (this year January 30-31, sundown-to-sundown). The "New Year of the Trees" is one of four new years recorded in an early Jewish code of law. Is Tu B'Shevat a "legal holiday"? Not in the sense that we use that term today, but in ancient Israel it was a day that had significance for Jews who wished to enjoy the fruit of the trees that they had planted.

Today, Tu B'Shevat serves as an annual reminder of the Jewish people's connection to the land of Israel, and the holiday is celebrated by eating fruits and nuts grown on trees of the Holy Land: dates, figs, olives, pomegranates, almonds, and bokser (pods of the carob tree). Years ago when I lived in Harrisburg, the day school I attended provided every student with a small bag of "delicacies" on Tu B'Shevat. I remember that the bokser had the consistency of worn leather and a taste to match. If this is what Israelis ate, I recall thinking, it was no wonder that they were so tough.

A holiday for celebrating trees makes perfect sense when you consider how often trees are mentioned in Jewish teachings and tradition. In the second chapter of Genesis, there is the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. "Do not eat from that tree!" says God. (Why didn't Adam and Eve listen?!?)

Later in the Torah, God tells the Israelites that when they go to war they are forbidden to cut down the fruit-bearing trees: Kee ha'adam etz ha'sa'deh la'vo mee'pa'necha ba'ma'tzor—Are trees of the field human to withdraw before you into the besieged city? (Deut. 20:19). God wants us to show care and appreciation for all living things . . . and that includes trees.

While the Torah compares trees to human beings, the psalmist reversed the order: "A righteous person shall flourish like a palm tree, like a cedar in Lebanon he will grow tall." The Biblical commentator Rashi explains that such a person will be both fruitful (like a date palm) and sturdy in health (like a cedar).

A beautiful Jewish custom is that upon the birth of a boy a cedar tree should be planted, and when a girl is born, a cypress tree. When that boy and girl were to be married, their trees would provide the wood for the *chuppah* (marriage canopy).

My favorite story regarding a tree is found in the Talmud in the tractate Ta'anit:

A man was traveling through the desert, hungry, thirsty and tired, when he came upon a tree bearing luscious fruit and affording plenty of shade, underneath which ran a spring of water. He ate of the fruit, drank of the water and rested beneath the shade.

When he was about to leave, he turned to the tree and said: "Tree, O tree, with what should I bless you?"

"Should I bless you that your fruit be sweet? Your fruit is already sweet. Should I bless you that your shade be plentiful? Your shade is plentiful. That a spring of water should run beneath you? A spring of water runs beneath you."

"There is one thing with which I can bless you: May it be God's will that all the trees planted from your seeds should be like you . . ." (Ta'anit 5b)

Who takes the time to notice trees, let alone bless them? They are so common where we live that we easily take them for granted. But they are, in truth, natural wonders—providing us with fruit and wood and beauty... and much more. So on Tu B'Shevat, take the time to notice trees, bare though they may be at this time of year. Plant a tree in Israel through Jewish National Fund (http://usa.jnf.org/jnf-tree-planting-center/). Recognize how much better our world and our lives are because we are surrounded by trees. They are a most magnificent blessing.

# cantor's **corner**Cantor Stephen Freedman



Almost 70 years ago, the modern-day State of Israel came into being. It was a long and arduous road from that first Zionist Congress in 1897, to the Balfour Declaration in 1917, to the partition proposal by the United Nations in 1947, to the declaration of statehood on May 14, 1948.

The ensuing years were no less difficult: the War for Independence in 1948; the Sinai Campaign of 1956; the Six Day War in 1967; the Yom Kippur War in 1973; the Lebanon War of 1982; the first and second intifadas; the firing of Scud missiles from Iraq into Israel in 1991; the second Lebanon War in 2006; the Gaza War in 2008; Operation Pillar of Defense in 2012; Operation Protective Edge in 2014. And these were only the most major of hostilities between Israel and its neighbors.

During those years, Israel managed to absorb over 3.5 million people: survivors of the *Shoah*; Jews expelled from virtually every Arab nation; Jews from the former Soviet

Union; Jews from Ethiopia. Israel has taken in non-Jewish refugees from North African nations. After the end of the Vietnam War, Israel famously rescued a boatload of South Vietnamese people, bringing them to Israel and granting them Israeli citizenship.

Against all odds, Israel has managed not only to survive, but to thrive. It has reclaimed barren land and made the land productive once again. It has become a world leader in innovative technologies that are used worldwide. It has become the most modern of countries.

And in the spirit of *tikun olam* (repairing the world), Israel has given back to the world through its many humanitarian efforts; wherever in the world catastrophe strikes, support teams of Israelis are among the first on the scene. Israel has provided medical treatment to victims of the civil war in Syria. It regularly provides advanced medical care to Arab citizens of neighboring countries.

I say all this not to imply that Israel is perfect, or to minimize the many and significant challenges it faces. But Israel is truly a remarkable nation and a homeland in which we can—and should—take great pride; how fortunate we are to live in the era of Israel's statehood.

#### Special Cantor's Café to Honor Israel's 70th, February 3

Our Temple Sinai community will celebrate Israel's 70<sup>th</sup> with a number of events during the coming months, including a "special edition" of Cantor's Café! On Saturday evening, February 3, our auditorium will be transformed into an intimate coffeehouse in which I will entertain audience members with a wide array of songs representing the best of Israeli music, including songs of the pioneers, music from the Israeli Chasidic Song Festivals, prize-winning Eurovision songs, and more. You'll hear music by some of Israel's most beloved songwriters/performers, including Naomi Shemer, Nurit Hirsh, Effie Netzer and David Broza, to name but a few.

And I expect that you will sing along with me throughout the evening as I include some of the most popular songs ever to have come out of Israel: Bashana Haba-ah, Y'rushalayim shel Zahav, Halleluyah, and many, many more!

Israeli-style refreshments will be served, adding to the flavor (pun intended!) of the evening, and wine will be available for purchase. Reserve your place through Chaverweb or by dropping off a reservation form and check to the synagogue office.

Israel's 70<sup>th</sup> is something to celebrate—plan now to join in the festivities!







# from the president's desk

#### Tobey Grand



In our continued efforts to enhance *Temple Sinai News*, I have reached out to some of you to write articles and share stories with us. We all have stories and some of you are very talented writers. I came to Temple Sinai about 15 years ago, and in many respects I am a newcomer. So, let me share a bit of my story with you.

I grew up in West Philadelphia on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania where my father owned a restaurant. Penn was my playground, and after graduating from Girls' High I went to Penn for undergraduate work. I joined the Peace Corps in 1966 and spent nearly two years in India teaching. Following that, I taught in an inner city school in Philadelphia, married, gave birth to my daughter, and then went to Taiwan (a safe haven for families), as my husband was working at the consulate in Da Nang, Vietnam. My son was born in Taipei, but does not look Chinese, although he does love Chinese food. And...yes,

he had a brit mila at the hospital on the naval base with the Jewish surgeon performing the circumcision and an Israeli rabbi, who just happened to be traveling in the area, performing the ceremony. We moved to Vietnam in 1974, and were there for only six months when we were evacuated from Da Nang and then Saigon in April 1975.

Shortly after this, my children and I made aliyah to Israel, where I taught and they grew from babies to Israeli teenagers. Initially, we had joined an American group that settled in a little town called Yamit in the Sinai Desert, which subsequently was evacuated in 1982, as part of the peace agreement with Egypt. In 1986, after five years in a lovely home overlooking the Mediterranean Sea in Ashkelon, we returned to the United States and our family here. I taught in the Abington School District and eventually became the Principal of Roslyn Elementary School.

The years passed by and during those years my children grew up, married, and gave me six grandchildren. As I neared retirement, I was left with the question: what do I do with the rest of my life? I had become a member of Temple Sinai and offered to work in the office as a volunteer once a week doing whatever I could to assist. This turned into a six-year volunteer position writing and sending out the tribute cards to congregants. I started our Temple Sinai book club so I could share my love for books and good stories with others. I grew to know many of you during this time, attended Shabbat services and programs, and grew to love this community. Eventually, I was asked to join the board of directors and then the executive committee as vice president of education. One little step at the moment of my retirement led me to now: my having the privilege of being president of this vibrant, thriving, and welcoming synagogue. What is it like to be president of Temple Sinai? I'll leave that story—I write with a smile—for another time. Stay tuned.

For now, here are my eight best reasons to be an active member of Temple Sinai, in no particular order:

- 1) The people!
- 2) It gives me a place to share my love of Judaism and Israel with my children and grandchildren: My grandson is in the Religious School and will have a Bar Mitzvah here at a place that means so much to me, and with a rabbi and cantor who know our family.
- 3) It keeps me young at heart: There is always something to do, attend, or participate in at our synagogue. The Religious School, Preschool, arms of our synagogue, Hazak, Sisterhood and Men's Club provide opportunities to connect to one another and enjoy each other's company.
- 4) The community spirit: We never need to be alone or feel alone in joy or in sorrow. When my mother died, Rabbi Wohlberg's eulogy was so eloquent and meaningful that I knew I had found a home here.
- 5) Our rabbi! Where can you find a rabbi as warm, compassionate, and accessible? His sense of humor always surprises me, and he contributes to the feeling of welcome and comfort whenever I am here.
- 6) The chance to contribute to our community: Temple Sinai offers members the chance to be part of something larger than ourselves. *Everyone* is needed and valued.
- 7) Services and Jewish Holy Days: Attending synagogue regularly on Shabbat, High Holy Days, and holidays enriches me as a Jew and continues my growth and knowledge of Judaism.
- 8) Chanting from Torah! Who knew I could or would do this?

I'm sure you have your own list. Whatever the reasons you have for being here, I am happy that you are.

### education**update**



Director of Education
Shira Weisshach

Every week at Sinai High, we spend 30 minutes as a mixed-age-group community, learning together, celebrating a holiday, having a discussion, or playing a game. The content or activity of this 30-minute block of time changes week to week. One Tuesday in November, we spent time studying the words of the *Hatikvah*, Israel's national anthem. The students created a new version of the anthem that reflected their link to Israel. This is just one example of how we help the teens (and younger students) explore their connection to Israel. Every Sunday our students (K-6) recite the *Hatikvah* together as part of our closing ritual, with each grade having the opportunity to lead. This is a powerful moment for the school to come together as a reminder that we are connected to something bigger than our synagogue *kehillah* (community).

We have had a very fun and busy fall at the Religious School. We had our October Shabbat sleepover with nearly 40 participants; held family education programs for the Gan, Gimel, Hey, and Vav classes; took trips to Mitzvah Circle Foundation and JRA (Jewish Relief Agency); and had our first session of after school electives for students in grades K-4.

Our teachers had the opportunity to attend the citywide *Yom Limmud* (day of study) for supplementary school teachers and participated in a workshop at Temple Sinai on Election Day. Our Chanukah program was a wonderful way to come together and celebrate the Festival of Lights. We look forward to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day weekend events in January as well our annual Tu B'Shevat program.

# Save the Date

Saturday, April 28, 2018
7:15 pm
at Temple Sinai, Dresher, PA



A Celebration of 70 Years of Israeli Independence.

Join us as we mark this momentous anniversary and look forward to the future.

HONORING
Karen and Bill Kramer





### education**update**



# Early Childhood Director Beth Rabinowitz

You have probably heard that this year Israel is having a big birthday. My mother, who is 72, would say she is getting old, but with Israel turning 70, that number seems pretty young.

Preschool children love to talk about their birthdays. They have quarter birthdays, half birthdays, and they are planning their next party before the present one is over. A birthday is a much easier to discuss, with preschool-age children, than Israel. One of the goals, in our preschool, is for children to love Israel, but this is not an easy task.

If someone asks you to sit back, close your eyes, and imagine you are in the Caribbean, you will probably think of the warm sun on your face, tropical music in the background, waves crashing onto your feet. If you ask the same question to someone who has never been to Israel, one cannot have the same depiction of this magical place without being there. We can eat falafel, listen to Israeli music, look

up pictures on the internet, but one still cannot capture the feeling of being there. So how do we get preschool-age children to "feel" Israel? How do we get them to really "experience" Israel? This is a task, for the upcoming year, put upon our preschool teachers. We will work as a team to incorporate Israel into our lesson plans and programming. Our goal is for our students to think Israel is a place they *must* get to. We will be developing age-appropriate activities include cooking, sensory exploration, music, storytelling, and shared experiences.

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, three of our preschool teachers and I will join 50 early childhood educators from around the country for a 10-day trip to Israel. Two of us have been to Israel and for the other two, this is their first visit. We will not only have the opportunity to learn from Israeli educators and see the sights, but visit early childhood centers. One of the benefits of having teachers go to Israel, is the feeling and firsthand knowledge they can bring back with them. We will be traveling with a stuffed animal, yet to be named, who will bring back lots of pictures and stories to be shared with the children. The children will have the opportunity to taste the olive oil that we bring back, play with actual sand from the Dead Sea, eat the treats from the local market, and hear the music that we bring back with us. How lucky are we that we get to visit Israel during this special year and convey what we learn to our children and their families.

My hope is that all our preschoolers get an opportunity to visit Israel, whether it's through a youth group, camp, family trip, or Birthright Israel. Until then, our own little school can be a loving special place just like Israel.

# A good time was had by all at our **HANUKKAH HOOPLA 2017!**











23rd No Limit





#### **Tournament**

\$50 Buy-In

Sunday, January 28 5:30pm Registration 6:00pm Start

Seating is Limited 1401 North Limekiln Pike Dresher, PA 19025

**Dinner Included** 

Make Your Reservation Now: samuelmdomsky@gmail.com

All proceeds benefit Project H.O.P.E. on March 25







Saturday, February 3 7:30pm

Temple Sinai 1401 N. Limekiln Pike • Dresher

Spend an evening with Cantor Freedman as we celebrate Israel's 70th Birthday



Enjoy great music and Israeli style refreshments.

Admission \$25/person in advance \$30 at the door

For more information call 215.643.6510



# sisterhoodnews Amy Brody & Beth Chernoff Co-presidents

In our half-year tenure as co-presidents, we have experienced many moments of Temple Sinai pride. At the Women's League Convention this past summer, our Sisterhood was honored with the Jewels in the Crown Award, recognizing excellence in programming, education, and social action. Then, on November 12, at the annual Founder's Day, Ilene Blatman was called up to receive the Torah Fund Award of Honor, recognizing her committee's work—and all of Sisterhood's—in meeting last year's Torah Fund campaign goal. Temple Sinai's contingent at this event was the largest of any Sisterhood in the region. In addition, three of the five who sat on the dais have Temple Sinai connections: Debbi Goldich (moderator) and panelists Nancy Fagan and Karen Lewin (Faye Laveson's daughter). If you can, plan to attend Founder's Day 2018 when the Women's League of Conservative Judaism will celebrate 100 years!

Our Membership Appreciation Dinner, Latkes and Libations, featured a delicious dinner, plenty of latkes and laughter, and a presentation by restaurateur Andrew Schloss. He introduced us to the newest European craze in after-dinner cocktails: a "bittering agent" called Amari. Hebrew speakers will see a familiar *shoresh* (root) in that word.

Sisterhood Shabbat will take place on January 13, and we welcome everyone's participation. Please contact Nancy Fagan (nfaganmsw@gmail.com) if you would like a part. A newer, but equally lovely tradition, is the annual Tu B'Shevat Seder, which will take place January 27. Sara Wenger brought this and several other delightful (and enduring) programs to our Sisterhood, including the Rosh Chodesh study group. Upcoming Rosh Chodesh dates are January 20 (Carolyn Savitsky, leader) and February 17 (Elana Rivel, leader). You will leave any one of these programs elevated and inspired.

This spring we'll be trying out a new project: sending out Purim packages to college students. We expect a good response, as kids enjoy the holiday of Purim, and they are actually at school that week to receive their packages. Please communicate with us if you have any suggestions about what should go into the packages, and watch for a flyer with all the details. College Purim packages will be just as cool, but not exactly the same as Sisterhood's *Shalach Manot*, which we all love and look forward to. (Please note date change of package assembly to Tuesday, February 20.)

Speaking of fun gifts, our beautiful and well-stocked gift shop has just the right item that you've been seeking. And don't forget to also treat yourself; a good way to do that is by making a \$180 donation to Torah Fund (fully tax deductible) to receive this year's beautiful Torah Fund pin. The 100 (upper-left corner) represents 100 years of Women's League, and the words *mah tovu* mean "how good." This perfectly expresses how we feel about welcoming an exciting new year with our sisters.



#### **Upcoming Events:**

January 13 Sisterhood Shabbat

January 20 Rosh Chodesh study group

January 27 Tu B'Shevat Seder

February 17 Rosh Chodesh study group February 20 Shalach Manot assembly

April 15 Torah Fund brunch

# sisterhood jewishliving Joan Winokur

Do you believe there are no Jewish holidays in January or February? You don't? Then you are correct. January 17 is Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat, and January 31 is Tu B'Shevat, the new year of the trees. Then, February 15 and 17 is a two-day Rosh Chodesh Adar and finally, February 28 is Erev Purim. Pretty full schedule, isn't it? Add to that our weekly Shabbat, and we have days and days for celebration.

Let's focus on Rosh Chodesh: the first of the month. Traditionally, it's a women's holiday. God granted us a "half" holiday every month. We don't do housework, but we can cook and shop. Services are spiced with "half" hallel (songs of praise), Torah reading, and an extra Amidah. We sing, praise God, and learn with few of the proscriptions of Shabbat. Why? It's because our foremothers didn't contribute their gold to build the golden calf. Yeah, ladies!

Don't squander your heritage, ladies. Savor Rosh Chodesh. Make it the big deal it should be, and enjoy!

#### A few photos from Sisterhood Founder's Day





# hazak**news** *Marty & Gail Weiss*



By now we have all eaten the last bites of turkey and latkes shared with family and friends. We hope everyone enjoyed a season of bright lights, health' and happiness as we celebrated another joyous Hanukkah, and move forward into a wonderful 2018.

Below is a look at our upcoming events:

January is all about our driving skills. We are again offering two different **AARP driving** courses at Temple Sinai:

**January 11 and 18, 12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** This two-part course is for people 55 and older who have never taken the AARP driving course.

**January 25, 12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** This one-day refresher course is for those who have already taken the two-day course.

The cost is \$20 per participant, with a \$5 discount for AARP members. Each course is limited to 20 people. Please contact Renata Fisher at 215.628.2088 to register. Once you complete the course, you will be eligible to receive a discount on your auto insurance. (The discount amount varies, depending on your insurance company.)

#### February 20, Brunch with Bill Wine

Are you thinking of attending the Academy Awards in February? Rather than traveling all of the way to California to see the Oscars presented, why not come to our February 25 brunch and hear Bill Wine discuss the Oscar contenders? See if you can determine the winners before the statues are handed out!

#### May 16, Triumph of Love at Bristol Riverside Theater

Finally, don't forget to reserve your ticket for the May 16 Bristol Riverside Theater's performance of *Triumph of Love*. Tickets are \$80 per person, if purchased by January 31, and the package includes your ticket, round-trip bus transportation from Temple Sinai, water, and snacks. This should be a fantastic afternoon—one you should not miss!

We hope to continue to offer outstanding and varied programs in 2018-2019. Do you have any programming ideas? Please let us know!

### meetyourboard



#### Joan & Bobby Parkin

Joan and Robert (Bob) joined Temple Sinai in 1968 when they moved with their three young children, Mitchell, Lee, and Hope, from Mount Airy to Dresher. Bob became active in the Men's Club, becoming president in 1979. Joan got involved with the Sisterhood, serving as president in 1985. Bob took on the challenge of building chairman for our current facility in 1977, coming to the building site each morning to review progress. While Bob focused on its structure, Joan was an integral part of the decorating committee.

They, along with their children, continued to be active members. Mitchell, Lee, and Hope often helped in the kitchen for Men's Club dinners and other events, and were active in Hebrew School, Hebrew High School and USY, USCJ's youth movement. All three children celebrated B'nai Mitzvot and became confirmed at Temple Sinai. Mitchell was married here in 1992.

The family was also part of the first Havurah group in the late 1970's. This group became lifelong friends, and still get together monthly for Shabbat services, dinners, and social events.

Bob has been attending the morning Minyan at least twice a week since 1970 and helped start the Sunday morning Minyan. He served as president of the synagogue from 1985-1987. Joan was a member of the first adult Bat Mitzvah class in 1976. In 1980, Bob and Joan were the honorees at the annual Israeli Bond Dinner. Dedicated to Judiaism, community, and our Temple Sinai family, the Parkins are lifetime members of the board of directors.

#### Larry Allen

Larry and his wife Myrna have been members of Temple Sinai for over 50 years. Larry is a past president of the synagogue; he has served on the housing and fund-raising committees; and he currently serves on the religious committee, while also being one of the coordinators of our daily *minyanim*. Larry co-chaired the committee responsible for the merger of Congregation Ramat El with Temple Sinai, as well as Rabbi Greenberg's 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary party. In addition to being a past president of Temple Sinai's Men's Club, Larry is also a past international president of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs.

Larry worked as the executive vice president of Technical Advisory Service for Attorneys. He and Myrna raised three children (Barry, Andrea, and Suzan), all of whom attended Temple Sinai Religious School, Hebrew High School and confirmation class. Larry is proud grandfather of four grandchildren who were all named at Temple Sinai.







#### Men's Club Announces Annual Scholarship Program: Apprentice in the Kitchen

Over the past few years, the Temple Sinai Men's Club (TSMC) board has developed a staple of events for young fathers. The Daddy/Daughter Dance is a success beyond all of our imaginations and has proven to be a magical event for young girls and their fathers. Each year, we also take our school-age kids to the rock climbing gym in Doylestown, and every other year, the Oy'lympics is a fun time for the whole family that coincides with the last day of Religious School. However, at some point, our teenage kids' schedules become too busy for kids to make time for dear old dad. Our new scholarship program, Apprentice in the Kitchen, aims to establish an event for fathers to share with their teenage children.

While quality time with dad is an admirable, hopeful outcome of this program, the goals of the Apprentice in the Kitchen scholarship program are far more broad. The program offers a worthwhile means for teens to support their community and earn valuable service hours for their college resumes. Men in the Kitchen is always in need of volunteers, and we hope that the scholarship program entices Temple Sinai's teens to get more involved while learning kitchen skills, meal planning, dining service, and the universally reviled chore of cleanup.

To qualify for the \$1,000 scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Interested students must volunteer at six full Men in the Kitchen events throughout their four-year high school career. Each event should be properly recorded with TSMC.
- College-bound seniors must complete an application, which will be made available on the Temple Sinai website at www.TSinai.com/scholarship.
- With the application, students will submit an essay of at least 500 words about their experiences in the Temple Sinai kitchen.

A committee of Men's Club volunteers will evaluate each of the applications in March and announce the winner in April. If you have any questions about Apprentice in the Kitchen, please contact us at mensclub@tsinai.com.

#### Dear Temple Sinai friends,

Alan and I want you to know how much your kindness means to us. We are overwhelmed at the outpouring of care and support being shown to us and our family.

The loss of our beautiful daughter, Susan, will remain our loss, always. It helps, however, to know others are thinking of us. Each days mail has brought notes, letters, donations, all of which are appreciated beyond our ability to express.

With our most sincere gratitude and appreciation,

Sheila, Alan & Family

# Contributions: Thank You For Your Support 10/1 - 11/30/17

Florence H. Albert Preschool Activities	Chernoff Interfaith Activities
In Honor of Donor	In Honor of Donor
Max Kronstadt becoming a Bar Mitzvah	Birth of Emmett Jack "MJ" Fagan
Noah Pomerantz becoming a Bar Mitzvah	
Birth of Keira Rebecca Mizrahi	In Memory of Donor
Birth of Mia Riley HanesFarrah, Larry and Daniela Barow	Anna Reider Emanuel Reider Albert Nosheny Stanley & Krendelle Nosheny
Flossie Albert's new homeJoan Winokur	Marty Ersner
In Memory of Donor	Dr. Jay Berger
Susan J. Holley	Susan J. Holley
Arthur Allen	Laurie CohenKrendelle & Stanley Nosheny
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Sidney FeinbergFarrah, Larry and Daniela Barow	In Memory of Donor Sidney FeinbergCindy & Stu Lamberg
Dr. Ronald H. LebbyFlossie Albert	llene & Arthur Blatman
Mary BarufkinHelen Barufkin	Jack Hahn
Ivin Carp	Garry SpearDonna & Shelly Kamp
Sarry SpearLaura Libove	Joan Winokur
	Faith Rubin's Thursday Morning Class
Boy Scout	Abraham Brodsky Ellen Spear
In Honor of Donor	Alex Kulman
ingagement of Aaron Smerling to Angela Taviv	Marcia Glick Markham Ilene Blatman
Sirth of Emmett Jack "MJ" FaganFrank & Roz Romanoski & Family	Sidney FeinbergSusan J. HolleyKaren & Bill Petkun
Marriage of Adam Romanoski & Kayla Ross	Laurie CohenSusan & Steve Teich
Marlene & Alan Zubrow & Family	
In Memory of Donor	Abby Cooper Religious School Scholarship
Betty Lee Fein Daniel Fein	In Honor of Donor
Philip GreiverNadine Canter	Cindy & Stu Lamberg's Simchat Torah honor
Risé Bressler Chesed	waxine & Asner Stutman's Simchat Toran nonor
In Honor of Donor	In Memory of Donor
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Barry Bressler & Betty Gross Eisenberg	Susan J. HolleyMartin & Joyce Gometz
Birth of Judah Benjamin Schwartz Kutler	
Barry Bressler & Betty Gross Eisenberg & Families	Lilly Dubin Children's Garden In Memory of Donor
In Memory of Donor	Dr. Ronald H. Lebby Mike & Jen Thomas & Family
Susan J. HolleyBarry Bressler & Betty Gross Eisenberg	Pete & Risa Thomas & Family
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Cantor's Charity	Dina & Hal Rovner & Family
In Honor of Donor	In Memory of Donor
arriage of Josh Dembowitz & Lindy Wisotsky	Arthur Allen Dina & Hal Rovner
Diane & Howard Becker	Samuel Dworkin
Farrah, Larry and Daniela Barow	Fannie Dworkin Dina & Hal Rovner & Family
Sara & Bob Wenger	Shirley SeligsohnJackie Silverman
Cantor Stephen Freedman Harold Katz & Family	Ruth Silverman Stanley Silverman
Helen Feinberg & Family	
Susan & Steve Teich & Family  Irew Kagnoff becoming a Bar Mitzvah	Etz Hayim Chumash
Joyce & Fred Kempner	In Memory of Donor
In Memory of Donor	Nadine LubarskyTemple Sinai Sisterhood
Susan J. HolleyAndrea & Scott Rosenthal	Herbert L. Goldfine Scholarship
aurie Cohen	In Memory of Donor
arry BlumbergDebra Drossner	Herbert L. Goldfine
idney FeinbergDiane & Howard Becker	Estelle K. GoldfineMarilyn Keesal
The Kepniss Family	Martyn S. & Fannie Goldstein Minyan
azzan Saul Z. Hammerman	In Honor of Donor
Ellen & Ralph Levin & Family	Maxine & Asher Stutman's Simchat Torah honor
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Samuel Pinkenson Lana Pinkenson	Barbara Goldstein & Family
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Dr. Owen Belmont	Cindy & Stu Lamberg's Simchat Torah honor
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# Martyn S. & Fannie Goldstein Minyan (continued)

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#### Martyn S. & Fannie Goldstein Minyan (continued)

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Nita Laver's 75th birthday  In Memory of	Deena Laver & Family <b>Donor</b>
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Arthur Allen	
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PEACE OF MIND - OBTAIN IT NOW

When there's a death in the family, decisions tend to be colored by grief, not governed by reason. You can save your family unnecessary stress by purchasing your gravesite now and prearranging your funeral.

Buying a cemetery plot is a decision you can make today for a time when your family must go on without you or a loved one. Making these inevitable decisions during a time of calm and clarity will ease the burden faced by your loved ones and will ensure that your wishes are fulfilled. In order to address our congregants' needs, Temple Sinai purchased grave sites at nearby King David Memorial Park in Bensalem. These are available to members and their families at a reasonable price, substantially less than at other cemeteries. For additional information please call the Temple Sinai office,

215-643-6510 or www.tsinai.com

# **Celebrate Purim**

#### **Send Shalach Manot to Family and Friends!**

Packages ordered for synagogue members will be delivered, if possible, by Sisterhood volunteers living in the same neighborhoods. If delivery cannot be arranged, recipients will be called. Packages ordered for non-synagogue members cannot be delivered, but can be picked up at Temple Sinai.

1st ten packages\$12.00 each2nd ten packages\$9.00 eachAdditional packages\$7.00 eachTeacher & Staff packages\$7.00 each



Baskets to non-Temple Sinai members and non-preschool families are \$14 (to defray the actual cost of a single basket).

### **ORDER EARLY ONLINE at tsinai.happypurim.com!**

Purim begins February 28-Order deadline is Monday, February 12

It's an easy, convenient, and secure way to purchase your baskets!

You will receive a Welcome Email with your personalized code and instructions for placing your order. If you do not receive this email (check your spam folder, too!), please contact a committee member.

#### YOU MAY ALSO USE THE ATTACHED FORM BELOW

# SHALACH MANOT ORDER FORM Your Name\_\_\_\_\_\_ Your Phone\_\_\_\_\_ Please include a list of the Shalach Manot recipients and indicate whether they are Temple Sinai members. Total packages for Temple Sinai members, Sisterhood members and Preschool families.: @ \$12\_\_\_\_\_\$9\_\_\_\_\$7\_\_\_\_ Non-Member/Non-Preschool baskets @ \$14\_\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed payable to Temple Sinai Sisterhood for total of \$\_\_\_\_\_ Mail to: Marlene Zubrow 1431 Barton Drive

Fort Washington, PA 19034

Volunteer to get involved in the fun!
Our Shalach Manot Assembly Day is
Tuesday, February 20th at 9:00am
For more info, please call:
Ruth Segal 267.977.0370
Marlene Zubrow 215.641.9682 or
Sarah Vogel 215.563.5639
You can also reach us at purimorders@gmail.com
Order forms are available
in the main office,

synagogue foyer, and gift shop.

#### JUDAISM AND THE ETHICS OF WAR

The following is a summary of the Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh presentation given by Barbara Rosenau on November 11, 2017, which coincided with Veterans Day.

#### Highlights of the Jewish Ethical Question of War

- Judaism does not regard violence and war to promote justice as always wrong. It accepts that certain kinds of war are ethically justified, and that it is sometimes morally acceptable to kill people.
- Before declaring war or starting a battle there must be a genuine attempt to make peace and avoid the conflict.
- Jewish law only permits combatants to be deliberately killed in war. Innocent civilians must be given every opportunity to leave the field of combat before a battle starts.

#### Torah: In the Image of God/The Value of Human Life

"And God created man in his own image. In the divine image God created him; male and female he created them. . . And God saw all that He had made, and found it very good." (Genesis 1:27, 31)

Judaism believes that we were created in God's image and expects humans to continue the creative process begun by God. While God created the world, humans are expected to maintain and repair the world. Humans are also expected to emulate God by seeking justice and righteousness. Therefore, taking a human life is to diminish God in the world.

"Whoever sheds the blood of a human being by human beings shall his blood be shed, for in the divine image did God make humanity." (Genesis 9:6)

"When one destroys a single individual, it is as if they destroyed the whole world." (Sanhedrin 4:5)

#### **Preserve the Ecological Needs of the Environment**

"When in your war against a city. . . you must not destroy its trees, wielding the ax against them. You may eat of them, but you must not cut them down." (Deuteronomy 20:19)

The Torah instructs soldiers to preserve the environment's ecological needs even when waging war. Jewish soldiers are commanded to avoid destroying trees when besieging a city.

#### The Bible: Filled With Jewish Longing for Peace

"They shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore." (Isaiah 2:4)

"Be of the disciple of Aaron, Seek Peace and pursue it!" (Pirke Avot 1:12)

#### The Right Not to Fight

Both explicitly and implicitly, Judaism has long recognized that some people need not serve in a war or in the armed forces. It underscores the primary objective to pursue life and peace. There is emphasis on keeping those out of war who do not wish to fight—not just for their own sake, but so as not to adversely affect the valor or courage of those who do.

"Then the officials shall address the troops as follows, 'Is there anyone that has built a house but has not dedicated it? Let him go back to his home, lest he die in battle and another dedicate it. Is there anyone who has planted a vineyard but has never harvested it? Let him go back to his home, lest he die in battle and another initiate it. Is there anyone that has spoken for a woman in marriage, but who has not yet married her? Let him go back to his home; lest he die in battle and another marry her. . .Is there anyone afraid and disheartened? WHY-Let him go back to his home, lest the courage of his comrade's flag like his." (Deuteronomy 20:5-8)

#### The Jewish Way to Fight a War—Summary

- When the time for war has arrived, Jewish soldiers are expected to abide by specific laws and values when fighting.
- Jewish war ethics attempts to balance the value of maintaining human life with the necessity of fighting a war.
- Judaism is somewhat unique in that it demands adherence to Jewish values even while fighting a war.
- Those who do not wish to engage in combat for whatever reason are excused from fighting, but may be
  obligated to serve the cause in a non-combative way.

#### Conclusion

War is not glorious or desirable, and Judaism is founded on a vision of brotherhood among all peoples. Yet in an imperfect world, war is sometimes a necessary means to realize this vision. The challenge is to carry out the means without losing sight of the ends.

Indeed, the very idea that there are laws of warfare, limitations on the freedom of military commanders and conquerors, bears a very important ethical message for all nations.

# B'nai Mitzvah



# Ethan Werner • January 6 son of Dana & Dean Werner

Ethan is a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student at the Wissahickon Middle School where he is a member of both the Select Boys Chorus and Drama Club. Along with his interests in the arts, Ethan enjoys playing golf and basketball. He attends Pinemere Camp in

the summer, and enjoys spending time with his family and friends.

For his Mitzvah Project, Ethan worked closely with the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders at the Temple Sinai Religious School on various Sunday mornings. He also worked at Mitzvah Circle where he participated in boxing up clothing and necessities for those less fortunate than himself. Both experiences were very positive, and he would like to continue this work throughout the year and beyond.

Thank you to everyone who has helped Ethan reach this important milestone. We love you all!

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# EASY HAMENTASCHEN RECIPE



#### **INGREDIENTS:**

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3 eggs
- 4 cups flour

jam or chocolate chips (or other fillings)

#### DIRECTIONS:

Beat butter, sugar, eggs, and vanilla together.

Add flour.

Form into 3 inch logs, wrap and freeze.

Before making, remove from freezer and let thaw slightly.

Slice in 1/4 inch slices.

Put some filling in the center of each slice.

Fold each circle into a triangular shape, pinching the edges closed.

\*Note that the dough needs to have defrosted all the way to fold it.

Place onto cookie sheet lined with parchment paper.

Bake at 350°F until done, about 20 minutes.



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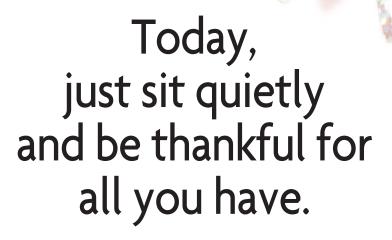






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			January 2018			
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Years Day / Offices / Preschool / Infant Center Closed 8:45am Moming Minyan	2 7:30am Moming Minyan 4:30pm Religious School 6:45pm Sinai High 7pm Adult B'not Torah 7:30pm Evening Minyan	377:30am Morning Minyan9:30am Adult Ed w/ Rabbi7:30pm Evening Minyan7:30pm Evening Minyan8pm Sisterhood Board Mtg.	<b>4</b> 7:15am Moming Minyan 10:30am Bible Study w/ Faith	57.30am Morning Minyan 7.30am Braiding Bunch 4.31pm Candle Lighting 6pm Minyan Same'ach with Jr. Choir	<b>6</b> Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Werner 9:30am Shabbat Services 11am Tot Shabbat w/ Brunch
7 8:45am Morning Minyan 8:45am Junior Choir 9:30am Religious School 12pm Yad Squad	8 7:15am Moming Minyan 1:30pm Creative Crafting w/ Faith 7:30pm Evening Minyan 8pm RS Comm. Mtg.	9 7:30am Moming Minyan 4:30pm Religious School 6pm Confirmation Class 6:45pm Sinai High 7pm Adult B'not Torah 7:30pm Evening Minyan	7.30am Moming Minyan 7.30am Adult Ed w/ Rabbi 7.30pm Evening Minyan 8pm Executive Comm. Mtg.	<b>11</b> 7:15am Moming Minyan 10:30am Bible Study w/ Faith 12:30pm Hazak AARP 6pm Preschool Wellness Night	12 7:30am Morning Minyan 9am Braiding Bunch 4:38pm Candle Lighting 6pm Minyan Same'ach	13 Sisterhood Shabbat 9:30am Shabbat Services 12pm Sisterhood Shabbat Luncheon
14 No Religious School 8:45am Morning Minyan 1pm MLK Day of Service 3pm 3 <sup>rd</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Sleepover	15 PS & Infant Center Closed 7:15am Moming Minyan 1:30pm Creative Crafting w/ Faith 7:30pm Evening Minyan	16 7:30am Moming Minyan 4:30pm Religious School 6:45pm Preparing for Jewish Life 6:45pm Sinai High 7pm Adult B'not Torah 7:30pm Evening Minyan	17 Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat 7:00am Moming Minyan 9:30am Adult Ed w/ Rabbi 6:45pm Food for Thought 7:30pm Evening Minyan 8pm Board Meeting	<b>18</b> 7am Cook for a Friend 7:15am Moming Minyan 10:30am Bible Study w/ Faith 12:30pm Hazak AARP	<b>19</b> 7.30am Morning Minyan 9am Braiding Bunch 4.46pm Candle Lighting 6pm Minyan Same'ach	<b>20</b> 9:30am Shabbat Services 12:15pm Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh
<b>21</b> 8:45am Morning Minyan 9:30am Religious School	<b>22</b> 7:15am Moming Minyan 1:30pm Creative Crafting w/ Faith 7:30pm Evening Minyan	<b>23</b> 7:30am Moming Minyan 4:30pm Religious School 6:45pm Sinai High 7pm Adult B'not Torah 7:30pm Evening Minyan	<b>24</b> 7:30am Moming Minyan 9:30am Adult Ed w/ Rabbi 7:30pm Evening Minyan	<b>25</b> 7:15am Moming Minyan 10:30am Bible Study w/ Faith 12:30pm Hazak AARP (Snow Date)	26 7:30am Morning Minyan 9am Braiding Bunch 4:55pm Candle Lightling 6pm Mattan Siddur Dinner and service 7pm Minyan Same'ach	<b>27</b> 9:30am Shabbat Services
8:45am Morning Minyan 8:45am Junior Choir 9:30am Religious School 9:30am TSMC: Hearing Men's Voices 12pm Yad Squad 3pm Women's Mini Retreat 6pm TSMC: Poker Night	7:15am Morning Minyan 1:30pm Creative Crafting w/ Faith 7pm Sisterhood Tu B'Shvat Seder 7:30pm Evening Minyan	<b>30</b> 7:30am Moming Minyan 4:30pm Religious School 6pm Confirmation Class 6:45pm Sinai High 7:30pm Evening Minyan	<b>31</b> Tu B'Shvat 7:30am Moming Minyan 9:30am Adult Ed w/ Rabbi 7:30pm Evening Minyan			

			February 2018	m		
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 7:15 Moming Minyan 10:30am Bible Study w/ Faith	27:30am Moming Minyan 9am Braiding Bunch 5:03pm Candle Lighting 6pm Minyan Same'ach w/ Jr. Choir	3 9:30am Shabbat Services 10:30am Shabbat Experience with lunch (grades 3-6) 11am Tot Shabbat w/ Brunch 8pm Cantor's Café
48:45am Morning Minyan 8:45am Junior Choir 8:30am Religious School 9:30am TSMC: World Wide Wrap 12pm Yad Squad	57:15am Morning Minyan 7:30am Moming Minyan 1:30pm Creative Crafting w/ Faith 4:30pm Religious School 7:30pm Evening Minyan 6:45pm Sinai High 7pm Adult B not Torah Cl 8pm Finance Comm. Mtg. 7:30pm Evening Minyan	67.30am Moming Minyan 7.30am Religious School 6.45pm Sinai High 7pm Adult B'not Torah Class 7.30pm Evening Minyan	77:30am Morning Minyan 9:30am Adult Ed w/ Rabbi 7:30pm Evening Minyan 8pm Religious Comm. Mtg.	<b>8</b> 7:15am Morning Minyan 10:30am Bible Study w/ Faith	9 7:30am Moming Minyan 9am Braiding Bunch 4:30pm Mechina Shabbat Program 5:11pm Candle Lighting 6pm Minyan Same ach	10 Bat Mitzvah of Amanda Davis 9:30am Shabbat Services 7pm Z'ahava Date Night (offsite)
11 8:45am Morning Minyan 8:45am Junior Choir 8:30am Religious School 9:30am Daled Family Ed Program 11am PS Character Brunch 12pm Yad Squad	<b>12</b> 7.15am Morning Minyan 1.30pm Creative Crafting w/ Faith 7.30pm Evening Minyan	13 7:30am Moming Minyan 7:30am Religious School 6:30pm Religious School 6:45pm Sinai High 6:45pm Preparing for Jewish Life 7pm Adult B not Torah Class 7:30pm Evening Minyan 8pm TSMC: Board Mtg	<b>14</b> 7:30am Morning Minyan 9:30am Adult Ed w/ Rabbi 7:30pm Evening Minyan 8pm Executive Comm. Mtg.	<b>15</b> Rosh Chodesh Adar 7:00am Morning Minyan 10:30am Bible Study w/ Faith	16 Rosh Chosesh Adar 7:00am Moming Minyan 9am Braiding Bunch 5:20pm Candle Lighting 6pm Minyan Same'ach	<b>17</b> 9:30am Shabbat Services 12:15pm Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh
<b>18</b> No Religious School 8:45am Morning Minyan 10:30am Book Club	19 Presidents Day Offices & PS & IC Closed 7:15am Morning Minyan 7:30pm Evening Minyan	<b>20</b> 7:30am Moming Minyan 7:30am Religious School 6:45pm Sinai High 7pm Adult Brot Torah Class 7:30pm Evening Minyan	<b>21</b> 7:30am Morning Minyan 9:30am Adult Ed w/ Rabbi 6:45pm Food for Thought 7:30pm Evening Minyan 8pm Board Meeting	<b>22</b> 7am Cook for a Friend 7:15am Morning Minyan 10:30am Bible Study w/ Faith 8pm TSMC: Pub Night (offsite)	<b>23</b> 7:00am Moming Minyan 7:00am Moming Minyan 9:28pm Candle Lighting 6pm PS Shabbat Happening Dinner & Service 6pm Minyan Same'ach	<b>24</b> TSMC & Scout Shabbat 9:30am Shabbat Services 12:00 TSMC & Scout Shabbat Luncheon 6:45pm Kallah: Night of Jewish Learning (offsite)
8:45am Morning Minyan 8:45am Junior Choir 8:30am Religious School 9:30am Bet Family Ed Program 10am Hazak Program 12pm Yad Squad 1pm Hamentaschen Bake-Off (grades 3.4)	<b>26</b> 7:15am Morning Minyan 1:30pm Creative Crafting w/ Faith 7:30pm Evening Minyan	<b>27</b> No Religious School 7:30am Moming Minyan 7pm Adult Brot Torah Class 7:30pm Evening Minyan	<b>28</b> Erev Purim 7:15am Moming Minyan 6pm Congregational Purim Celebration w/ Jr. Choir			





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The next Temple Sinai News deadline is January 15, 2017 for the March/April 2018 issue.



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