

TABLET

JANUARY 2021 VOLUME XXIV NUMBER 7



שירו ליהוה שיר חדש שירו ליהוה כל־הארץ
SING UNTO GOD: ALL THE EARTH A NEW SONG

4631 South Lockwood Ridge Rd., Sarasota, FL 34231 (enter ONLY from Proctor Road between Beneva and Swift Roads) Phone (941) 924-1802 www.SINAISRQ.org





A FAMILY FRIENDLY FUN-RAISER

January 30, 2021 7:00-8:30 PM

A Variety Show highlighting many of our talented temple members.

The emcees are Rabbi Kahn

&

Chazzan Abramson and Maxwell Fletcher, youth group president.

Price: \$30 for a couple or family; \$15 for one
Virtual via Zoom.

"DESSERTS IN A BAG" will be available at the temple for pick-up

SPECIAL NOTES:

Though we are physically distancing ourselves for all our health and safety, we are continuing to find ways to socially and emotionally connect, grow and celebrate.

Please visit
Temple Sinai's website and
Facebook page for all the ways
to stay connected.

Temple Sinai's Website:

https://templesinai-sarasota.org/

Temple Sinai's Facebook Page:

https://www.facebook.com/ templesinaisarasota/?ref=bookmarks

During this Covid-19 crisis, if the temple office is not available, please contact

Temple Sinai Clergy directly for the following:

 If you hear of a congregant who is ill or in the hospital

* If you have a death to report

* If you have a Yahrzeit that you
would like read or changed

RABBI SAMANTHA KAHN rabbikahn@sinaisrq.org

CHAZZAN CLIFF ABRAMSON chazzancwa@ol.com

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

SINAI OFFICE (941) 924-1802

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION:

TINA BARAN PRESS 1
CONTROLLER/ADMINISTOR: PRESS 4

MARIAN SIEGEL

THE GAN: LAURA FREEDMAN (941) 926-9462

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH EDUCATION, OUTREACH

AND ENGAGEMENT:

BETHANY LEINWEBER (941) 263-2015

FROM YOUR CLERGY

For the human is like the tree in a field, like the human, the tree grows too; like the tree, the human is chopped down, and I don't know where I've been and where I'll be, like the tree in a field!

For the human is like the tree in a field, like the tree he strives upwards; like the human, it burns in fire, and I don't know where I've been and where I'll be, like the tree in a field!

I loved, and I hated too,
I tasted this and that;
I was buried in a plot of dust,
and I feel sour - sour in my mouth,
like the tree in a field!

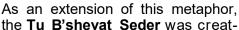
For the human is like the tree in a field, like the tree he's thirsty for water; like the human, it stays thirsty, and I don't know where I've been and where I'll be, like the tree in a field!

Set to music by Shalom Chanoch, these words written by Israeli poet, Natan Zach, play with the Biblical verse *ki ha'adam etz hasadeh* - for the human is like the tree of the field (Deut. 20:19). This verse is part of a longer passage imploring us not to destroy trees unnecessarily, and with it the Bible asks how a person might be similar to a tree.

This month, Jews across the world will contemplate this connection and other tree metaphors as we celebrate **Tu B'shevat** - focusing our thoughts on trees and the natural world. One of the four *New Years* mentioned in the Mishna, this "*New Year for the Trees*" leads many Jews to plant trees, eat fruits and nuts, and consider our relationship with the environment. As the holiday approaches, we will have opportunities to learn and discuss more about the ecological imperative of this holiday. Our Jewish stories, laws, and theology all recognize the life-sustaining significance of trees on humanity and compel us to take care of them and our world.

Trees are utilized as metaphors for understanding humanity, for relating to Torah, and for comprehending our relationship with the universe at large. We refer to the Torah itself as the Tree of Life. The Kabbalists brought to Judaism a belief in the cosmic tree of the *sefirot*, attributes/emanations in Kabbalah. With roots in heaven and the "fruit" of divine abundance appearing below in

the earthly realm, the tree-like diagram of the kabbalists is looked upon as the blueprint for creation and is meant to help us understand life.





ed in the 16th century by Rabbi Isaac Luria and other Kabbalists who sought to bring about spiritual perfection for people and the world through a creative new ritual. By shaping the Tu B'Shevat Seder with four courses of different sorts of fruit, nuts, and wine, the evening is split into four "spheres", each of which represents a different Kabbalistic relationship that we have with the earth: Assiya (Action), Yetzira (Formation), B'riyah (Creation), and Atzilut (Spirit).



This year, Bethany Leinweber and I are working together to offer our community a lovely, interactive, virtual Tu B'Shevat seder through Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 27th. Interested individuals will have

an opportunity to pick up supplies for the evening earlier in the day, enabling us all to engage in this delicious and spiritual experience together. Please see the website for more information and to register.

Together we will strive to open our hearts and hands to share the bounty of the Earth. We will celebrate the four seasons and explore how each one is tied to our relationship with God and to the physical world around us. We will be reminded of our obligation to nurture and care for our world, for our sake, for the sake of generations to come, for the sake of all the trees, the waters, the creatures, and plants, for the sake of all who are hungry, for the sake of cultivating gratitude and spiritual awareness. I hope you will join us as we embark on this spiritual journey that unites the mystical and physical worlds through food, wine, and fun!

Warmly,

Rabbi Samantha O. Kahn



CARING

Referring to our Gregorian calendar-Happy New Year! Reflecting back on 2020, and oh, what a year it was! We have to cherish all the people we knew, or did not know, who were lost to COVID 19 and care for members that we know who lost someone dear to them as we do when someone passes away from other causes.

The beginning of January reminds me of my B'nai Mitzvah in January 2001. We studied *Parashat Bo* found in Exodus. It is the Passover story of the plagues and Moses eventually leading the Israelites out of Egypt. Quoting from our seven women sermon, "It is about journeys from enslavement to liberation, from ignorance to enlightenment, from a life of isolation to a life as part of a community". "This Torah portion leads us to think about our own personal deliverances from our own mitzryems, our own narrow places, our movements from darkness into light, into being able to see the same old thing in a new light".

How fitting because this year we will at some point receive Covid-19 vaccines, information with more transparency and guidance on how to conduct ourselves and to take personal responsibility for the people around us. Isn't that the essence of Tikum Olam and what we as Jews practice everyday?

In closing, keep in mind College Connections is an offshoot of the Caring Committee; please let Joan Marlowe know if your kids will be starting freshman year. We will still be Zooming for a while. The Caring Committee is here to reach out to celebrate Mitzvot and to offer comfort in times of need and sorrow. **Please** reach out to us by being in touch with me or the temple office if you know someone who needs our help.

Rona Elias, Caring Committee Co-Ordinator



CHAVURAH DU SOLIEL

The one good thing about the pandemic is that our Chavurah has been able to meet with our snowbird members throughout the summer and fall via Zoom. Now that we are all back in Sarasota, we are anxious to meet in person once again, but will content ourselves with virtual gatherings for now.

We have had lively discussions on current events, trying our hardest to avoid the election and the pandemic – not so easy it turned out.

Although we have not been meeting in person here in Sarasota, we have been traveling the world together. So far we have been to Paris, Antarctica, Israel, Bhutan, the National Parks, Vietnam, and Washington, DC. We shared photos and experiences – it almost felt as though we were on a tour bus or cruise ship together. This month (December) we are being introspective. We are reflecting on the best advice we ever got, and the person who gave it to us. We'll end up talking about our families, our children and grandchildren and the challenges of being apart. In January, we will lighten things up with Yiddish expressions and Jewish humor.

We enjoy being with our Chavurah family no matter what the topic.

Marge Ellin

Memorial Plaques are available by calling (941) 924-1802 The **Tablet** is published for the sole purpose of disseminating information about the happenings and events at Temple Sinai.

Mickie Kaye, Editor Jerry Kaye, Consultant Proof Readers: Gail Glickman, Phyllis Lasky

SINAI MEN'S CLUB ...



"There's no place like home"
The Wizard of Oz

Still feeling that way? Perhaps better stated, "there is no place but home." All of this as an intro

via one of the most famous movie quotes to let you know that the Sinai Men's Club **Film Forum** meets this January 10th, Sunday evening, at 7:00 p.m. The movie up for discussion is "Dick Johnson is Dead". Don't let the title put you off. This is a critically acclaimed movie that bears watching. The New Yorker magazine lists it as one of the best films of 2020. Jim Wolfson will lead our discussion by providing background information on the film and thought provoking questions. If you haven't participated in the Film Forum, I strongly suggest that you give it a try.

In addition to our Film Forum, we are continuing to provide a monthly **Schmooze**, a **book group** that meets on the third Thursday of the month at 12:00, and our virtual **breakfasts with speakers**. The next breakfast will be held on Sunday, February 28th. The Sinai Men's Club will continue to bring programs via Zoom to keep us entertained and enlightened. To know what is happening, check out the weekly emails from *Temple Sinai Virtual Connections*, *ShulCloud or SMC Emails* and the monthly digital *Tablet*.

Despite all the difficulties that we have encountered these past nine months (yes, nine months), we have much for which to be thankful. I know from Greta's experience fielding calls from the Jewish Family and Children's Service that many of us have little to complain about. Our lives are mostly characterized by "inconvenience", not "hardship". For many of us, our problems are "first world problems". So, we continue to be vigilant and stay safe and healthy preparing for a better tomorrow. We must think also about those who need our assistance, emotional as well as financial. Please reach out to those who are alone or could benefit from hearing from a friendly voice during these difficult times. In addition, contributions to either the Sarasota All Faiths Food Bank or Manatee Meals on Wheels Plus are much needed.

Now that it is January, we can all hopefully look forward to a new and better year. I am optimistic that our country, as well as the world, will see better days ahead. I say this with 2020 hindsight. Let us all stay safe and well and be kind to one another.

L' Shalom.

Malcolm Roberts and Richard Brown, Co-Presidents



The Temple Sinai Men's Club (SMC) is comprised of members who value fellowship and who work together for the betterment of Temple Sinai.

The Club is dedicated to promoting and advancing spiritual and social activities.

Howard Polivy, Membership Chairman cell: (571)228-0063 teachtel21@frontier.com

ALL SMC BOOK CLUB MEETINGS WILL BE ON ZOOM ON THE 3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT 12:30PM.

Password details will be sent prior to each meeting.

JANUARY 21

AN OFFICER AND A SPY BY ROBERT HARRIS

Allan Schreiber, Co-Ordinator allanschreiber@yahoo.com





TREE OF LIFE

A Dove is \$300; a Leaf is \$150.

For information, contact Barry Friedman at barryafriedman@aol.com

SMC FAMOUS SCHMOOZES

For questions/reservations, contact Mark Criden criden@gmail.com (716) 713-0014

RITUAL

Happy New Year! The year 2020 was certainly unlike any we have experienced, and I pray that 2021 finds us all staying safe and healthy.

There are so many exciting events happening here at Temple Sinai. Even in this virtual world, we continue to offer a wide variety of services and activities. This year we will be celebrating the 30th year of the founding of Temple Sinai. On the first Erev Shabbat of each month, we will have a different "Sinaiversary" theme. Our January 1st service will be the kickoff service for a full year of celebrating and honoring all the wonderful people who make Temple Sinai the incredibly special place that we have all come to love.

I hope you have been enjoying our live streaming of **Erev Shabbat** services from the sanctuary. As soon as conditions permit, we will welcome members back into our sanctuary. Another wonderful service enhancement is our Saturday morning Torah Study, "Word by Word" at 9:30 a.m. This is followed by our 10:30 a.m. worship service. Please join us by Zoom for both meaningful gatherings.

The festival of **Tu B'Shevat** starts on the evening of January 27. It is observed on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shevat and is known as "Rosh HaShanah La'llanot", or the *New Year of Trees*. In Israel, it has



evolved into an ecological awareness observance, a "Jewish Arbor Day", and trees are planted. Here in the United States, it is a custom to collect money to plant trees in Israel. Another custom that has evolved is the Tu B'Shevat Seder, which started as a Kabbalistic way to celebrate the holiday. This Seder is divided into four sections to represent the four seasons. The fruits are sorted into three groups according to their textures, pits, shells, etc. It is modeled after the Passover Seder. Because of Covid we cannot gather for a Tu B'Shevat Seder. In its place, on January 31st, Bethany Leinweber and our clergy have planned a Tu B'Shevat "drive through" that is open to all. You will be able to drive up to where we have tents set up, stay in your car, get snacks, craft ideas, and other activities related to the holiday. Look for more information on our website and Facebook page.

We would love to have YOU do honors on our Erev Shabbat Services. Simply click on the Sign-Up Genius link that is on our website and weekly Virtual Connections. These honors will be done live from the sanctuary unless otherwise indicated. Don't worry, we will send you the prayers and guidelines,

and ,of course, Chazzan is there to assist you. Gillian Perlinski, our Chair of Honors, can help you sign up if you need assistance.

I want to thank everyone for their enthusiasm and kind words as we continue on our virtual journey with services and activities. I pray that 2021 finds us all safely reunited in our temple and enjoying each other's company.

Judy Swerdlow, VP Ritual

BOARD BRIEFS

November, 2020

The Temple Sinai Board of Trustees meeting was held on November 11th via Zoom teleconference. President Ellyn Bender gave an update about having a meeting with the Jewish Federation regarding the security at the Gan. She also shared that Temple Sinai will be having an in-person event on December 11th to celebrate Chanukah. Bethany will be giving out goodie bags, and members will stay in their cars during the gathering. Ellyn told the congregation that there will be an in-person Shabbat Service on January 1, 2021..

Marv Rosen reported that he had successfully recast the existing mortgage. The terms from the bank are a 10-year mortgage, amortized over 20 years, with a 3.9% interest for the first five years. The board approved the mortgage refinancing for the temple building.

Bethany Leinweber reported that a committee met to go over the Social Media and Communication Policy which states that all communication on social media, from both the board and the temple, must be respectful and tolerant of everyone. The board approved the Social Media Policy Proposal.

Gary Kravitz shared that he has begun the preliminary activity for nominating new board members for 2021.

Skye Mata, Secretary

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



Hasten unto us 2021!!

Is there anyone out there that is *not* looking forward to welcoming in 2021? As we sing *Auld Lang Syne* (and wonder exactly what it means but happy to welcome in the new year

singing it), will we miss *anything* from 2020, except of course, our ability to joyfully congregate together?

Let's look back, way back, into 2020 at Temple Sinai

- We welcomed Rabbi Samantha Kahn and her family to their first full year with Temple Sinai.
- We celebrated our Chavurah Shabbat and dinner in person.
- The Youth Group held an Escape Reality Event.
- Our Jewish Food Festival was a great gastronomic success with the energy of so many volunteers and Chef Adam.
- The Sinai's Men's Club hosted a night of Trivia and Dance.
- We listened to the beautiful sounds of the Perlman Suncoast Quartet.
- The Religious School hosted an all-day Mitzvah Event.
- We dedicated the Chapel in memory of Sherry Linhart.
- The Confirmation Class went to Washington DC on their L'Taken RAC trip.
- Rabbi Meir Azari visited and shared the challenges of progressive Judaism in Israel.
- Our Purim Ball Gala was a big success...and the last time that we all gathered together in the temple.

And then, we went *virtual*. From **Zoom** to the **digital** *Tablet* to the weekly *Virtual Connections* and Friday's *Shabbat Shalom* emails, to our new **ShulCloud** powered website that has become our lifeline to the temple calendar, and to each other. A perfect storm of planned (ShulCloud) and unplanned (COVID-19) events, has sent our daily lives into the cloud...and has kept us connected, albeit from a distance.

So, here we are. We're on the cusp of ushering in a new year, and with it hope for a vaccine, optimism for the promise of seeing and hugging our loved ones and friends, for holding that new baby, for the expectation that our children and grandchildren will be back inside school, that we will be able to work out at a gym, take that postponed vacation, eat out at a restaurant, and share the warmth of Temple Sinai, in person, at the synagogue.

As we move toward a new version of normal in 2021, let's take a moment and reflect on our accomplishments at Temple Sinai in spite of COVID. On the Administrative side, we brought in our new Controller/Administrator, implemented ShulCloud and transitioned over to QuickBooks. Our creative **Communications Team** partnered with ShulCloud to bring us a fabulous new website where all things Temple Sinai are now easy to access. Our clergy became Zoom conversant bringing us Visual T'Filah and the transformation of prayerbooks into beautiful slides. We partnered with LiveControl to remotely operate two newly installed cameras during our worship services to stream live from the Sanctuary. Coffee Talk and Virtual Welcome Receptions are just two of the innovative uses of Zoom created by our clergy in addition to new and stimulating adult education classes...and more to come in 2021.

The Gan opened in July for camp – a feat of courage and strength and adherence to CDC guidelines – when other early education schools shut down and camps were cancelled. Through the remainder of 2020, the Gan has remained open and free of COVID-19 – an amazing success. And then there is the Religious School and the Youth Group – we have flourished! With kids coming inperson as well as virtually, we have more children attending classes consistently than ever before! And talk about creativity! Kid friendly events have been enthusiastically embraced by adults as well.

Not missing a beat, the **Women of Sinai** and the **Sinai Men's Club** quickly got on board with their virtual happenings and soon had their Book Clubs, Movie Nights, Guest Speaker Series, and Schmoozes available to all. Our **Development and Outreach and Engagement Teams** gave us online Bingo, Trivia Night and Israeli Whiskey Tasting, Honey Tasting, Mugs and Meals, Animal Hour, and most recently our Chanukah Party Room.

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WOMEN OF SINAI



""Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right."

Oprah Winfrey

As we start a new calendar year, we are hopeful that things will be looking up. The Women of Sinai

has remained strong through a very difficult year, and we are excited about the future.

On January 7, 2021, we will welcome Christopher Wilson, PhD, representing Sarasota School of Architecture. The link for the zoom meeting will be available from the calendar on our website templesinai-sarasota.org. Clicking on the event name on the calendar is the easiest way for joining our zoom meetings.

The Women of Sinai held its popular Erev Shabbat on December 18th. Our thanks to **Dobbie Linick** for shepherding us through another successful event.

Report to Membership:

The WOS Board recently voted to increase the cost of our mitzvah cards from \$5.50 to \$7.00, or a package of 5 cards for \$30. The cost had not been increased since 2012. We hope you will remember to order cards to recognize your life cycle events. The Women of Sinai Mitzvah Fund was established to recognize the many contributions of Sylvia and Rich-

ard Bloom which is why it is officially called the "Women of Sinai Bloom Family Mitzvah Fund." Sylvia is truly royalty within the Women of Sinai. She was a founding member and one of our early presidents,



leading the way for a great future. When you wish to

make a donation to recognize a life cycle event - birthday, bar/bat mitzvah, new birth – or in memory of someone special, a card from our Mitzvah Fund to recognize your donation is a lovely gesture.

Contact Cecile Alexander at 2483 Vaccaro Drive, Sarasota, FL 34231 (941) 926-7799 or dcalexander@verizon.net.

"There is no free lunch" is a popular adage; this year it was validated. The annual Paid-Up Luncheon for WOS members was unfortunately canceled. We fully expect to resume the tradition in 2021.

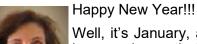
WOS has traditionally underwritten the Annual Gala. This year in the absence of the usual Gala, the WOS board voted to donate the standard amount of \$5,000 to the Annual Appeal. Holiday gratuities for the office staff were approved.

Peggy Miller, WOS President

lahjong and More On Zoom

March 4, 2021 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. guest speakers and prizes \$18.00 per person more information coming soon

WOS MITZVAH



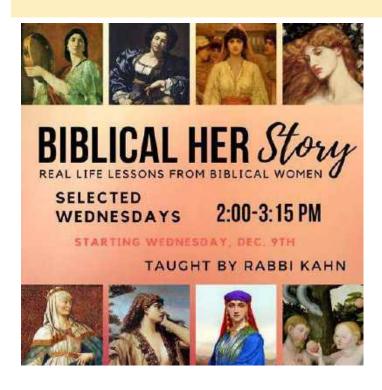
Well, it's January, and all we can do is hope and pray that this 2021 brings us lots of good health and happy times ahead. Some travel time to visit family and friends wouldn't' hurt either.

Please accept my sincere thanks to all of you who participated in the "Give a Gift Card to Hope Family Services." Hope Family Services is so appreciative and thankful for your generosity. I, too, am overwhelmed with how kind and generous you are when it comes to collecting for the community, where people are not as fortunate as we are. You are all "mensches" in my heart. Thank you so much!!

By the way, I volunteer every two weeks at the **Hope Chest** - the store open to clients of Hope Family Services. If you have adult or children's clothes or toys to donate to Hope, or are inclined to purchase diapers and wipes to donate, please let me know and I will make arrangements to pick them up and drop them off at Hope Chest. Thank you.

Judy Polivy, VP Mitzvah

LIFE & LEGACY™



DO YOU PLAY MAH JONGG?

Purchase your card from Women of Sinai to support your sisterhood.

Standard card: \$9.00; Large card: \$10.00

To order your card for 2021, make check out to WOS and send it to:

Barbara Bryden

13709 Trentino Street. Venice. FL 34293.

Checks must be received by January 15, 2021

Women of Sinai Bloom Family Mitzvah Fund

To honor someone, wish them a speedy recovery, offer condolences or thank them, consider making a donation to the WOS Mitzvah Fund.

Cards are available for a minimum of \$7.00 each and will be sent immediately.

If you wish to send the cards yourself, you may obtain packs of five for \$30.

Contact Cecile Alexander, 2483 Vaccaro Drive, Sarasota, FL 34231

(941) 926-7799 or sdcalexander@verizon.net.

LIFE & LEGACY LEGACY AND THE TO ADDRESS OF THE STATE OF T

A Beginning and an End

Happy New Year! The Life & Legacy[™] team wishes everyone a safe and healthy year ahead. As I

write this, with deadlines being what they are, there seems to be a dim light at the end of a long dark tunnel of covid. Hopefully, when you read this, we have made more progress moving through the tunnel and the light is even brighter.

Thankfully, we know most of our congregation has managed to stay well, with food on the table and technology to help us stay entertained and maintain communication with loved ones. However, we have missed seeing friends and family members up close, sharing experiences like travel or simply being able to move freely around in and out and around our community.

Optimistically, the new year brings an end to the pandemic. Soon, it will also be the end of our 4-year Harold Grinspoon Foundation's Life & Legacy™ program. Our endowment efforts will go on forever, but this particular initia-



tive concludes at the end of March. We have been pleased with the success we have achieved beginning with Mark Richmond (z"l) and his passion for protecting the future of Temple Sinai. It is not too late for you to be remembered forever as having been a part of this monumental opportunity. A gift from your will, trust, retirement account or life insurance can often easily be created. There is info on the temple website or contact co-chairs Laurie Lachowitzer or Mark Criden.

Laurie Lachowitzer

TABLET DEADLINE

articles, flyers and photographs

for the FEBRUARY issue, are due no later than JANUARY 1ST.

All text, flyers and best photos (refer to emailed info) must be e-mailed to

mickietablet@gmail.com.

ANNUAL APPEAL



Since August, we've been asking you to contribute to Temple Sinai's Annual Appeal campaign so that we can build a bridge to a better year. Guess what? 2021 might be about to launch, but *our* better year hasn't yet started. You haven't missed the chance to give!

Because of the generosity of our congregation and the hard work of our dedicated

Campaign Cabinet, we're thrilled that as of this writing, our Campaign is doing well, and we are building that bridge.

you haven't had opportunity with to join hundreds of our other members participating in our please campaign, now. Our website has all the details.

If you've already contributed but are looking to make additional year-end 2020 or early 2021 donations, please consider adding to your already generous gift.

Thank you to all who have given, thank you to all who have solicited, and thank you to our lay leadership and clergy, for allowing us to help build that bridge.

Mark & Laurie Criden, Co-Chairs

Temple Sinai

Building a Bridge to a Better Year Annual Appeal 2020/5781



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I cannot skip over two programs that ensure the future of Temple Sinai and the Jewish community in which we live: **The Annual Appeal** and **Life & Legacy**. With revenue dramatically down due to COVID, our members have stepped up by paying their commitment fees in full, if able, by donating generously to the Annual Appeal and by including us in their legacy plans. These two programs are the foundation of Temple Sinai and provide for our future.

The diversity of events and offerings throughout this unprecedented COVID year is an inspiration to us all that we have the resilience to not just survive, but by staying connected and celebrating together, albeit virtually for the most part, we are positioned to welcome 2021, our 30th anniversary celebrations, and more.

Happy 2021 to each of you! Happy 30th Anniversary to Temple Sinai! See you all soon!

Warmly.

Ellyn Bender, President



THANK YOU ANNUAL APPEAL DONORS

New Tamid \$10,000 - \$24,999

Adam & Emily Levin Donald & Betty Cahall Mitchell & Dawn Epstein

Magen David \$5,000 - \$9,999

Douglas & Janine Cohen Gwen Baseman Women of Sinai

Scribe \$1,800 - \$4,999

Alan & Fredda Chalfin Alan & Judith Fishbein Arnold Baer & Marilyn Lapidus Barbara & Jonathan Ryder Barbara Jacob Charles Labiner & Michelle Miller Cookie Bloom Evan & Natalie Salmore Gary & Sandy Kravitz Joseph & Barbara Sander Laurie Lachowitzer Leon & Margaret Ellin Mark & Jamie Heisler Mark & Laurie Criden Marvin Rosen & Sheila Namiot Myron & Kathy Bernstein Richard & Kathryn Stern Ronald & Janis Collier S. F. Hyde Stuart & Rhoda Friedman Temple Sinai Men's Club

Benefactor \$1,000 - \$1,799

Brian & Donna Oshrin
Herbert & Elinor Krasow
Herbert & Judith Gofman
Karen & Bert Harris
Larry Linhart
Leonard & Judith Swerdlow
Leonard & Susan Landau
Michael & Leigh Gordon
Paul & Marilyn Blankman
Robert & Judye Goldblatt
Stanford & Rona Ross
Stephany Richmond

Guardian \$500 - \$999

Alan & Joanne Trachtenberg
Anthony & Janet Joseph
Barry & Cecile Klayton
Bertram & Debra Dannheisser
Bruce & Eleanor Feldman
Delores Lustig
Elliot & Carol Livstone
Emilie Coopersmith
Hanford & Kitty Gross

Guardian (Continued)\$500 - \$999

Harvey & Bonnie Sussman Irving Mishkin
Lawrence & Diana Ehrlich Martha Magenheim Michael & Cindy Nash Milton Richter
Nancy A. Gold
Nathan & Colleen Merwitz
Paul & Laura Zatz
Peggy & Bob Miller
Richard & Barbara Brown
Richard & Betty Greenspan
Robert S. Haft

Double Chai \$360 - \$499

Bernice Niss Douglas & Marianne Weiss Elana & Mark Margolis Ellyn Bender & Pamela Paschall Henry & Ellen Mason Janet R. Tolbert Jerry & Susan Maliot John Malkin Louis & Janet Gross Louis Lasday Malcolm & Greta Roberts Marvin & Elyse Diamond Marvin & Jane Glusman Michael Strauss & Robin Klein-Strauss Michael & Sara Benesch Moshe & Kathy Horowitz Skve & Paul Mata Warren & Sheila Wollheim

Chai \$180 - \$359

Allan & Marty Gersman Amir & Lisa Arbisser Barbara & Michael Pollack Daryl & Karen Worobow David Freeman & Tiffany Caldwell David & Laura Einstein David & Toby Weiss David & Varsha Stein David Kaufman Earl Schaffer Eric & Judy Fox Fred & Carole Gorin George Neidich & Alene Wendrow Gloria Peretz Harriett Kittner Howard & Dorothy Katz Howard & Etta Raiken Howard & Judith Polivy Irwin & Sandra Livon Jason & Mary Collier Jay Handelman

Chai (Continued) \$180 - \$359

Jeanette Andriesse Jeffrey & Ilene Gelber Jim & Marsha Shuford Joan Sands Jody Bedard Chester & Gillian Perlinski Kenneth Kaufman Leonard & Ruth Shafer Marc & Harriet Rosen Mark & Dori Spector Mark Weinberg Michael & Suzanne Weinstein Norman & Diane Silverstein Paula & Arnold Spitalny Peter Livingston Philip Chaikin Rachel Dolan Richard & Carol Toppel Robert & Charlotte Hodes Robert & Judy Handleman Robert & Rae Ellen Levene Robert & Susan Goldstein Robert B. & Irene Fritsch Ron & Roz Rosenthal Ron & Sheila Bellamy Russell & Frances Brandt Seymour Ziegelman Shelley & Gregory Markus Shirley Rose Sidney & Ellen Rothschild Stanley & Betty G. Liner Chazzan & Jamie Abramson Theodore & Elaine Gast Victor & Diane Block William & Beverly Sloat Zvi & Judith Rogovin

Donor \$18 - \$179

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THE GAN



Laura Freedman **Director of Early Childhood Education**

The Gan at Temple Sinai Growing Minds, Strengthening Bodies, Nurturing souls

CALENDAR

January 5

School Resumes

January 11

Registration for 2021-22 School Year begins for currently enrolled

families

January 18

School Closed for Martin Luther

King Day

January 25

Deadline to register for currently

enrolled families

January 26

Registration for 2021-22 School

Year opens to all

January 29

Tu B'Shevat Celebration

Thanksgiving Showcase 2020 broadcasted on ZOOM



Tziporim (Birds) 15 month olds

Parparim

(Butterflies) 3 year olds

Shoshanim (Roses) 2 year olds



Umbrella Parade while learning about the sounds the letter "U" makes





Laila Golen

Devorim Aleph (Bumble Bees A) 4 year olds



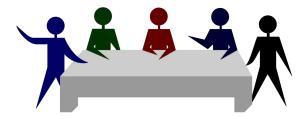
Devorim Bet



Devorim Bet (Bumble Bees B) 4 year olds

Oliver Bayus

MEMBERSHIP



Temple Sinai Founding History

In celebration of the 30th anniversary of Temple Sinai, we spoke with founding temple members Sheila and Warren Wollheim. They were one of six founding families who left one temple to establish a new one in the spring of 1990. The first six were the Dreffin, Marcus, Shuford, Weed, Weinsberg and Wollheim families.

The first Shabbat service was held at The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee. Norm O'Shansky was president at the time and a friend of Warren Wollheim. According to Warren, after that service the congregation became nomads. He said that services were held in multiple churches. Scott Dreffin had a big truck that they used to transport all the ritual objects safely.

"To me, the warm and welcoming reputation of Temple Sinai started right then", stated Warren. "The churches were most friendly and welcoming to us. We held fast to that tradition".

Many congregants hosted membership parties and the congregation grew. The temple rented a building on Bee Ridge Road to house offices and the sunday school. Because the congregation remained too small to retain a rabbi, services were conducted by guest rabbis. Eventually, the temple was referred to a rabbi in Virginia who wanted to return to Sarasota. Rabbi Koplin became the first Temple Sinai rabbi. He remained as rabbi for about two years according to Warren.

Temple Sinai initially did not belong to the Union of Reform Judaism because the membership fee was too high. Therefore, the search for a new rabbi was conducted through an ad in several rabbi related publications. A rabbi serving in a huge Los Angeles congregation expressed interest in the new temple. Rabbi Geoffrey Huntting conducted a service at Temple Sinai and immediately became rabbi. He served for 25 years and is now Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Sinai.

The temple membership continued to grow and they managed to purchase a property that housed the Grace Baptist Church. Eventually, the building developed expensive maintenance issues.

Fortunately, charter member Nancy Swart had a construction background and ties to the industry. It also was most fortunate that the Baptist Church property was located on a lake. A developer purchased the property for what was then a hefty sum. This profit enabled Temple Sinai to build a beautiful sanctuary of its own.

Warren Wollheim spoke about the first time he entered the newly built temple. "It was a very emotional experience" he said. "I had tears of joy".

The new sanctuary symbolizes the spirituality and dedication of the Temple Sinai spiritual leaders and congregation. It all began with six families 30 years ago.

Susan Maillot, Correspondent



Ellsworth, Beth 12580 Night View Drive Sarasota, FL 34238 (908) 216-5030 bethnhugo@aol.com

Milestone Anniversaries 25 years+

January 4 Emíly and Adam Levín

40 years

January 5 Bryna and Howard Tevlowítz 35 years



CELEBRATE!

Happy Special Birthday! 50 years+

January 1 Harold Tick 65 years January 5 Dale Mendelson 85 years January 8 Harriet Gersman 80 years January 9 Judíth Catalano 85 years January 11 Marc Rosen 75 years January 12 Michael Gruenberg 75 years January 14 Edith Piper 85 years January 22 Warren Wollheim 80 years January 23 Allan C. Schreiber 80 years January 24 Douglas Cohen 75 years January 26 Larry Linhart 75 years January 28 Charles Labiner 60 years January 31 Richard Heisler 80 years Please wish these fellow congregants a very Happy Birthday as they celebrate their special January day.

January 2 Lynn Rothenberg Beverly Sloat January 3 Joan Goodis	January 15 Howard Taylor Carole Gorin Beth Stone Susan Landau
January 4 Frank Bachenheimer	January 16 Leon Shlossberg
January 6 <i>Bernice Volk</i>	January 17 <i>Maxine Goodheim James Feldman</i>
January 7 Glenn Greenbaum Ernest Orlove	January 18 Robert Handleman
Howard Polivy	January 21 Jim Shuford
January 9 Joan Gastman Susan Ritzer	January 22 Kate Mitchell
January 10 Robert Grossman	January 24 Leonard Drexler
Barbara Jacob January 11	January 25 Lydia Landa
Judith Intrator Elinor Krasow	January 27 Debra Dannheisser
January 12 Richard Stern Eugene Evans	January 28 Michael Siegel
January 14 Marlene Miller Illene Dyrda	January 30 Polly Orbach
	January 31 Cecile Alexander Thomas Mitchell Bonnie Sussman

WOS Book Club

Thursday via zoom at 2:00 p.m..

The book that we will discuss on January 21st is *The Girl You Left Behind* by Jo Jo Moyes.

If you have any questions you can contact me at bookluvr1031@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP

Please join with us as we wish Happy Anniversary to our fellow congregants who are celebrating their special day in January:

January 1

Robin Klein Strauss and Michael Strauss

January 9

Carole and Fred Gorin

January 10

Alene Wendrow and George Neidich Margo and Barry Friedman

January 19

Hannah and Jack Michelson Alexandra and Quinn Pike

January 24

Judy and James Feldman

January 27

Donna and Ernest Orlove

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

The work of **Temple Sinai's Membership Committee** is crucial to the creation of a meaningful temple community.

While every member is, by nature, involved in membership, the committee is the primary group that focuses on attracting, recruiting, welcoming, integrating, engaging and retaining members to help them find a lifelong place for themselves within our temple family.

Contact Elana Margolis at elanatemple@aol.com (941) 966-0252



Tabs for Souls

This school project is an on-going campaign to collect 6 million tabs as a way of making more real the Jewish people's loss during the Holocaust.

Tabs of all sorts are accepted soda, energy drinks, beer, soup, cat food, tuna, etc.





YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

SAFETY - Grades 9 - 12 JOOSY - Grades 6 - 8

Kesher – Grades 3 – 5

Kesher means a knot, connection, link.

Please visit our webpage at http://www.templesinai-sarasota.org/youthgroup.php for more information about SAFETY, JOOSY, and Kesher.

Deb Bryan, Youth Group Advisor

dbryan@sinaisrq.org.

Youth Group-led Shabbat Service

On November 13th, SAFETY President Maxwell Fletcher, Social Action and Religious and Cultural VP Lucy Thomas, and eleven other teens participated in their first Youth

Group-led Shabbat Service of 2020-21. Temple Sinai's teens enjoyed putting it together for all of you, and we are looking forward to doing another Youth-led Shabbat Service in 2021!



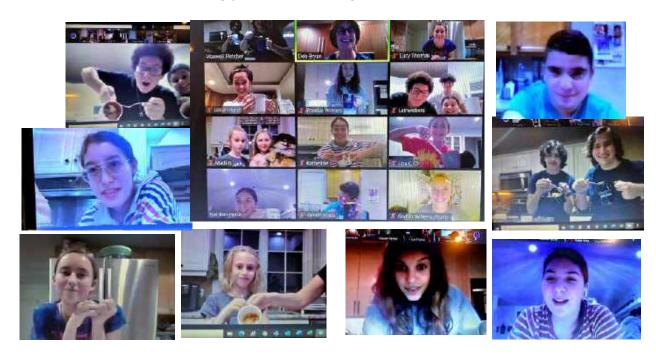
"Mugs n' Meals!"

Teens who have ever come home from school hungry and just wanted to know how to make a quick-andeasy snack (or meal) but were never quite sure how to do it, finally learned how to take control of their taste buds!

On November 14th, SAFETY Board members Maxwell Fletcher and Lucy Thomas taught 15 of our temple teens how to make Pleasing Pizza (main course), Mighty Mac n' Cheese (side dish), and Scrumptious S'mores (dessert). Before the event began, SAFETY Board Member Noah Leinweber led Havdalah and, in between courses, there were fast-food trivia questions and three lucky teens won door prizes.

After the event, all participants received the recipes and one parent texted the day after to say her son was able to make his own lunch (Mac n' Cheese). All in all, it was another successful event!

Special thanks go out to all the parents who were on hand to help their children and join in on the fun. We appreciated the assistance and having you with us that night



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL



Bethany Leinweber, Director of Youth Education, Outreach and Engagement

Looking Back

THANKSGIVING

The In-Person students at Temple Sinai Religious School met with Aviva residents via Zoom – they wished them a Happy Thanksgiving, shared cards/crafts (that were later delivered) and sung songs. They thoroughly enjoyed this experience, and you could hear them cheering in the hallways after class.

CHANUKAH

- We sent gifts home with in-person students/teachers.
- Women of Sinai and Sinai Men's Club delivered presents/crafts for online learners to their homes. Thank you, Peggy Miller, Judy Feldman, Judy Polivy, and Chester Pearlinski.
- Andrea Eiffert worked with Bethany along with "Pearl", David Weiss, Kevin from Sound, Josh Leinweber, and Horacio to make the **Drive-In Movie Night** a super fun and successful evening.
- We had many visitors come to the **Chanukah Party Room** to make each of the eight nights special engaging and especially festive!

MOVING TRADITIONS

Our teens continue to meet with Rabbi Kahn, Melanie Epstein and Matt Kahn once or twice a month (depending if they are on online or in-person) – it is very clear they are enjoying this time together and growing as a community.

We have met with the B'Nai Mitzvah families, parents and students, twice this year for programming (we have two sessions left) and Mar Matt has conducted the first of four preteen sessions. These gatherings are getting great involvement and feedback as well.

MADRICHIM

This year we have eighteen teenagers helping online and in-person. They are fully engaged, have amazing attendance records and have proven to be a critical part of our success!

Looking Ahead

January 31st – Tu Bishevat in the Parking Lot!

On Sunday January 31, 2021 from 10.a.m – 12 p.m. (instead of Sunday School) we are having a **Drive Thru Tu B'Shevat in the Parking Lot Experience**. Crafts and snacks inspired by the holiday will be prepackaged and handed out to all our Religious School Students by congregants and teachers. They will either take it home and enjoy or park and create/eat in the parking lot. We will be socially distanced and wearing masks.

Here are some fun crafts and snack ideas ideas:

https://www.pinterest.com/Julia L B/celebrate-tu-bshevat/

https://www.pinterest.com/pjlibrarydc/tu-bshevat/

https://www.pinterest.com/goldee5/tu-b-shevat-projects/

https://reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/tu-bishvat

https://www.myjewishlearning.com/category/celebrate/more-holidays/tu-bshevat/

https://www.jnf.org/our-work/education-and-advocacy/kindergarten/celebrate-tu-bishvat

https://pjlibrary.org/tubshevat

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

School Schedule

January 3 - NO SCHOOL

January 6 and 7 – MIDWEEK HEBREW

January 10 - SCHOOL

January 13 and 14 – MIDWEEK HEBREW

January 17 - NO SCHOOL - MLK WEEKEND

January 20, 21, 24 and 31 - SCHOOL

Elaine Gast, Bethany Leinweber delivering presents to JFCS for the 2 families and 2 seniors we adopted as our Holiday mitzvah,

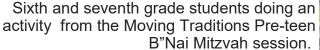






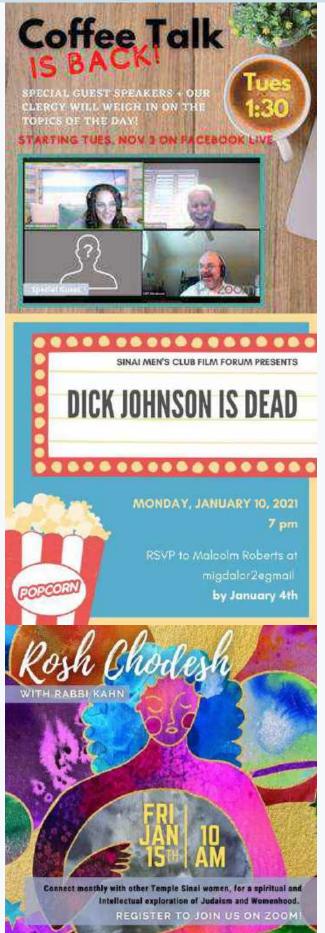
Bethany Leinweber, Laura

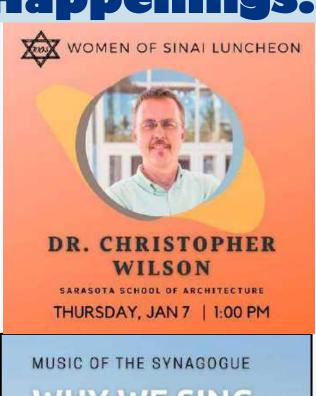
Einstein, Mary Collier, Kathy Stern, and Carole Gorin packing kits for Chanukah that went out to 41- 2nd grade classes in Sarasota County Schools - each had a Chanukah book, dreidels/gelt for the students, and coins to play the game. Rabbi Kahn, Randi Sofman, and Bethany Leinweber read to the classes via Zoom.





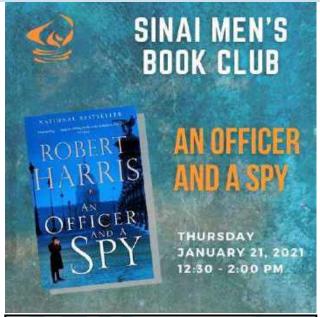
Temple Sinai Happenings:





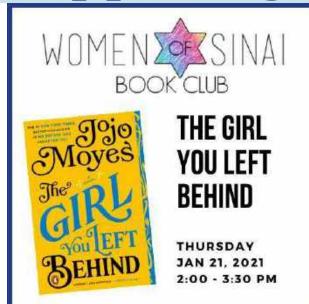


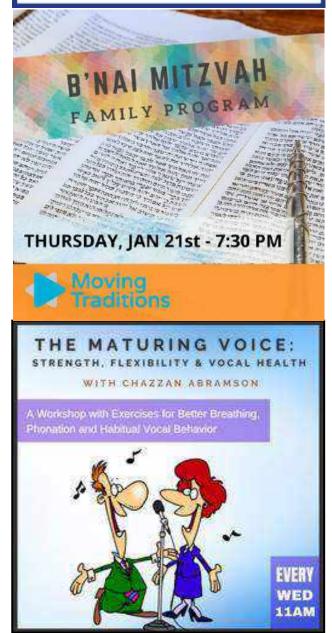
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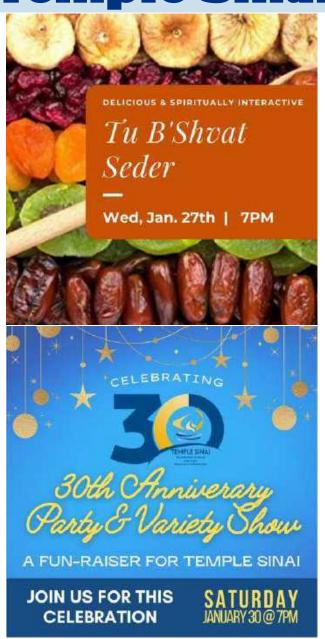


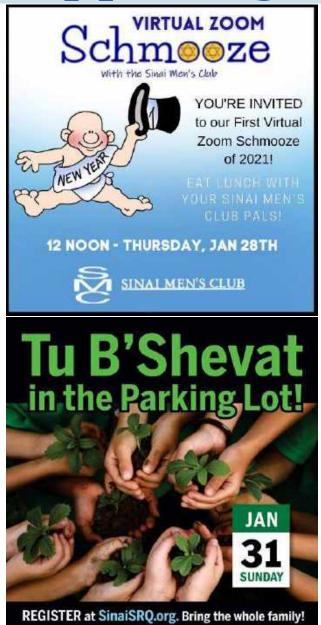






Temple Sinai Happenings:





For a full listing of Happenings visit

www.templesinai-sarasota.org



BECAUSE WE CARE...

The Board approved a minimum of \$9 for a donation to any of the Temple Sinai Restricted Funds.

TEMPLE SINAI GENERAL FUND

In Honor of:

Ellyn Bender for receiving the Acharai Award from the Sarasota-Manatee Jewish Federation: Carole and Fred Gorin

In Appreciation of:

Pearl Perlinski's efforts to ensure that Temple Sinai is secure: Ellyn Bender and Pam Paschall

In Memory of:

Daurice Trachtenberg: Randi Sofman's mother: Carole and

Fred Gorin

Theodore Bloomfield: Harriet and

Marc Rosen

Lillian Rosen: Sheila Namiot and

Marvin Rosen

Alexander Intrator: Carole and

Fred Gorin

Alexander Intrator: dedicated to loving memory and life of

Aleander Intrator: Robert Krasow Alexander Intrator: Judith and

Leonard Swerdlow

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Dr. Sam Rosenfeld: friend of Richard Greenspan: Betty and

Richard Greenspan

Joan Sands: congregant and friend: Betty and Richard

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Joan Sands: Carole and Fred

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In Honor of:

Shirley Rose 80th Birthday: Jane and Marvin Glusman

In Appreciation of:

Rabbi Kahn, and the time spent meeting with her: Deena Linett

Rabbi Kahn's High Holy Day Services: Rae Ellen and Robert Levene

CHAZZAN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Appreciation of:

Chazzan Abramson's High Holy Day Services: Rae Ellen and Robert Levene

The excellence of the Communication Team, Risa Segal, Jamie Heisler, Kari Ellingstad, David Einstein, Emily Levin: Ellyn Bender and Pam Paschall

In Memory of:

Dorothy Krantz: beloved mother of Gail Glickman

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In Memory of:

Edith Moloff: Fredda and Alan Chalfin

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In Appreciation of:

Marv Rosen and Alan Chalfin's efforts that successfully secured our mortgage refinancing and var-

ious grants: Ellyn Bender and Pam Paschall

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In Honor of:

Geri and Lenny Drexler for receiving the Ahava Award from the Sarasota-Manatee Jewish Federation: Judith and Leonard Swerdlow

Ellyn Bender for receiving the Acharai Awad from the Sarasota-Manatee Jewish Federation: Judith and Leonard Swerdlow

In Appreciation of:

Ellyn Bender's High Holy Day Services: Rae Ellen ad Robert Levene

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In Memory of:

Joseph Rosenfeld: Rae Ellen and Robert Levene

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(716) 713-0014.

WE REMEMBER THEM...

The Board approved \$9 as the minimum amount for any Yahrzeit donation.

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Jean Andriesse for father-in-law, Eugune Andriesse

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Murray Seitman

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Laura and Paul Zatz for Sarah



OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY PASSED.

Peter and Judith Intrator on the death of his father and her father-in-law, Alexander Intrator, who died on November 12, 2020.

The family of Joan Sands, who died on November 16, 2020



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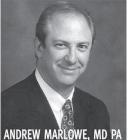
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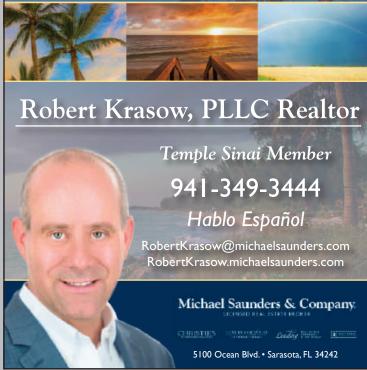




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ROBERT TOALE & SONS, Welcome to the Dignity Memorial family.



THE DIGNITY MEMORIAL NETWORK is pleased to welcome Robert Toale, Debbie Toale and their sons, Jason and Jeff, to our family of firms in Sarasota and Manatee County. As proud members of North America's largest network of funeral, cremation and cemetery service providers, the Toale family will continue their commitment to serving families with personal, compassionate care.

In honor of the Toales and in recognition of their longstanding dedication to the Sarasota and Bradenton area communities, three local funeral homes will be renamed to reflect this change in leadership, and two of the funeral homes will undergo renovations to better serve our community with beautiful new facilities and enhanced capabilities. Rely on the Toale family and your local Dignity Memorial professionals to help you and your loved ones celebrate each life like no other.

For more information, call or visit today.

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