TEMPLE SINAI TABLET

CONNECT WITH US, GROW WITH US, CELEBRATE WITH US...

Covid-19 Temple Sinai Tablet Digital Edition

THE MENORAH REMINDS US
TO SPREAD THE LIGHT TODAY AND EVERY DAY.



A colorful, light-filled Menorah photograph by by Bryce Dallas Howard.

A table-top replica of the Knesset Menorah in Jerusalem with candles distressed by the heat and humidity of Sarasota.



DECEMBER 2020 VOLUME XXIV NUMBER 6

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



The Knesset Menorah

The **Knesset Menorah** is in bronze and located at the edge of the Rose Garden opposite the Knesset. It was designed by Benno Elkan (1877–1960), a Jewish sculptor who escaped from his native Germany to Britain. It was presented to the Knesset as a gift from the Parliament of the United Kingdom on April 15, 1956 in honor of the eighth anniversary of Israeli independence.

The menorah was modelled after the golden candelabrum that stood in the Temple in Jerusalem. A series of bronze reliefs on the menorah depict the struggles to survive of the Jewish people, depicting formative events, images and concepts from the Hebrew Bible and Jewish history. The engravings on the six branches of the menorah portray episodes since the Jewish exile from the Land of Israel. Those on the central branch portray the fate of the Jews from the biblical return to the Land of Israel to the establishment of the modern State of Israel. It has been described as a visual "textbook" of Jewish history.

The menorah pictured here was given to us by my parents after their trip to Israel in 1957. Editor

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

TABLET DEADLINE

articles, flyers and photographs

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

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

mickietablet@gmail.com.

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 refer to pages 10-11 of this tablet along with visiting Temple Sinai's website and Facebook page.

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

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THE GAN: LAURA FREEDMAN (941) 926-9462

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH EDUCATION, OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT:

BETHANY LEINWEBER (941) 263-2015

FROM YOUR CLERGY



"MR. LUCKY" DECEMBER 8TH 1:30 PM

Does the title above describe you? I suppose that if that were my intention, the article should read "Mr. or Mrs. Lucky." The fact is that if you can follow my reasoning you will learn that MR. LUCKY is far more

than an article title; it is a wonderful book, written by a wonderful man, who has agreed to speak to the entire congregation (virtually), so that we can learn about his unexpected journey to success.

Temple Sinai's own Mitchell Epstein is the author of the new book, MR. LUCKY. Mitchell has agreed to be our guest on CLERGY COFFEE TALK, Temple Sinai's Tuesday 1:30 p.m. ZOOM talk show on **December 8th.** Every week at that time, Rabbi Kahn, Rabbi Huntting and I discuss issues of the day with congregants who contact us via direct link or Facebook live. On the 8th, Mitchell will be our guest. Why am I so excited? While it is always a pleasure to speak with Mitchell, his wife, Dawn, or his daughter, Melanie, who have been active and generous Sinai Members since 2008, Mitchell's book is a game changer. I have read the book cover to cover three times and I am a dyslexic. If that is not enough proof about how special Mitchell's book is, read what Dick Vitale, the ESPN Hall of Fame Sportscaster had to say:

"If you are looking to be inspired and motivated for success in whatever you do in life, I recommend that you read **Mr. Lucky**. It is awesome, baby, with a capital A!"

Why am I personally excited about the book and Mitchell's scheduled live conversation with us? It's the *Meta* message of the book that has really affected me. "Mitchell Epstein demonstrates that you do not have to be the smartest person in the room to succeed in the business 'the stupidest idea' one co-worker had ever heard and build the foundation for his very successful business, which allowed him to retire at the age of 47."

Normally, when I would read what was quoted in the paragraph above, I would think: "This is great PR, but it probably won't work for me". Well, I know Mitchell, you may know Mitchell; the book is such a well put together, down to earth extrapolation of very usable and practical ways of approaching many of "Life's Lessons" that you will see that it is for you. Best of all we get to have Mitchell Epstein speak about it to all of us who tune in to

Clergy Coffee Talk on Tuesday, December 8th, at 1:30

Don't worry about how to become part of this experience. The link will be available, as it is every week, in the Virtual Events section of our website, our weekly email, as well as upcoming notices about the event.

You won't want to miss this.

L'Shalom,

Chag Sameach...



Chazzan Cliff Abramson





SINAI MEN'S CLUB ...



"When you can't do what you do, You do what you can."

Jon Bon Jovi (2020)

How do we cope? It's been months, literally! Let me count the

ways. Okay, by now you may have coping down to a science. It's getting cooler which means that we will be able to spend more comfortable time outdoors. I am looking forward to walking the trails in the morning as opposed to the UTC mall walking hours. Walking the trails for me means taking along my camera and shooting pictures of the wildlife that Greta and I witness along the way. I have been able to capture some beautiful birds, deer feeding and some beautiful landscapes.

We have been engaged in organizing our lives; mostly for when we are able to resume our normal routines, but also in preparation for when we are no longer able to do what we are able to do now. Perhaps a bit morbid, but reality sometimes bites. The reward of being able to find things without endless searching, however, is immense. We may even finish the scrapbooks for the kids that we promised that we would work on during snow days!

At the Sinai Men's Club we have also been working on bringing programing to the temple community. The schmoozes, book group, breakfasts and film forum are all open to the temple community as opportunities to connect, explore both secular as well as Jewish themes and provide invaluable learning experiences. Come along on our adventures as we continue our explorations in the virtual world.

And, please: **do** look at the temple website and the temple and SMC emails that are sent by the hard working folks in the office. Risa and Jamie have been such a tremendous asset not only to the SMC, but also to all who depend on publicizing our programs.

December dates: 13th, Breakfast,;14th, Film Forum (*The Chicago 7*); 17th, Book Club (*Oil and Marble*); 18th, Schmooze.

We all pine for the day when we will be able to gather in person, but in the meanwhile, let's all stay connected in our virtual temple world.

L' Shalom,

Malcolm Roberts Richard Brown Co-Presidents

SMC FAMOUS SCHMOOZES

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

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.

DECEMBER 17 OIL AND MARBLE

BY STEPHANIE STOREY

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



CARING



Writing about December in November is somewhat strange, because we are still in uncharted waters. What comes first, the pandemic or the election? What does this mean for the Caring

Committee? It is the continuation of being thoughtful, considerate and civil as we try to reach out to our congregants at Temple Sinai. There is still a void of not seeing each other and striking up conversations about issues, which we will not take for granted again. The Chanukah celebration is early this year. It is an opportunity to try Sephardic **cassola** which are sweet cheese pancakes and



shamilias fried pastry frills (**sufganiyot**). This festive holiday celebrates the story of a small group of Jewish rebels who won a civil war against Syria and re-dedicated the Second Temple.

Don't we all have a bit of "Jewish Rebel" inside of us? Aren't we fighting for aggressive moves to ramp up more testing and safe delivery and distribution of a COVID vaccine at no charge for everyone? We can only hope that our new administration will move forward and deliver on what our country needs now. Much like recovering from an illness or accident, all of us must heal and that takes time. Like the Maccabbees, we must fight back.

May 2021 be a year where we listen to each more other intensely and hug when we meet in our sanctuary at Temple Sinai.

Rona Elias, Caring Committee Chair



November 11, 2020

Dear SMC Member,

As I write this letter on Veteran's Day, I reflect on the service that many of you and many of our family members gave to our country and in some instances, made the ultimate sacrifice. I think of my Uncle Karlie who gave his life on the beaches of Normandy.

I hope that you were able to tune into our Veteran's Day Shabbat Service (this past Friday). Our live participation in the service greatly enhanced our ability to connect to one another.

I am also thinking of how much our world has changed in these past few months and how we are learning to adapt to this new normal. The SMC has worked to keep our members engaged during the period of uncertainty by providing a variety of virtual programming. We hope that you are able to connect with us through these various programs. Whether it is by tuning in via Zoom to our monthly schmoozes, the book club, the film forum, or one of our breakfasts we are working to connect with you.

We welcome your suggestions for any additional programming that would enable us to connect with you and with the temple. We, of course, all look forward to the time when we will all be together again, but in the meanwhile, please know that our membership is much more than a group of men who literally paid their dues; we are here for one another.

L' Shalom,

Richard Brown Malcolm Roberts Co-Presidents



BOARD BRIEFS

SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

The Temple Sinai Board of Trustees Meeting was held on September 9, 2020 via Zoom teleconference. Rabbi Kahn led us in a beautiful opening prayer. Chazzan discussed the importance of patience. Rabbi Kahn, Chazzan and many others have been preparing and working on the virtual High Holy Day Services. They are excited to share this different but still beautiful and meaningful service.

Leigh Gordon updated us on the **Temple Telephone Tree**. She explained how wonderful it has been dealing with a mix of supporting one another, and connecting with temple members thus forming a real sense of community during this difficult time. Leigh is continuing to work and connect with our temple members.

Marv Rosen addressed the fact that the budget for this year is a deficit. Our revenue has taken a big hit, as a direct result of the pandemic. A lot of the different revenue streams have stopped due to the global pandemic. Expenses are still high, and revenue is going down. There are difficulties ahead for Temple Sinai, but our clergy and the board are working hard to make the most of these unprecedented times. Alan Chalfin gave an update on the refinancing of the temple's mortgage. The balloon payment is coming due in January 2021. Marv and Alan are investigating other options to find the best option and rates for Temple Sinai.

Ellyn Bender reported that there is significant water damage all over the temple due to roof leaks. Ellyn and David Weiss received quotes from roofing companies; they will continue their search to find the best and most affordable solution.

Ellyn Bender shared that the African American Cultural Coalition had reached out to Temple Sinai; they are planning to build a **Sarasota African American Museum.** The Coalition reached out to Temple Sinai, to ask us to support/endorse them, not financially but just with our emotional support. Temple Sinai is a partner of, and supports, the African American Cultural Coalition.

Skye Mata, Secretary

0CT0BER 14, 2020

The Temple Sinai Board of Trustees Meeting was held on October 14th, 2020 via Zoom. Rabbi Kahn led us in a beautiful opening prayer. sSe then reflected on the conclusion of the High Holy Days. Rabbi Kahn shared that despite some technical difficulties, she had a beautiful and meaningful High Holy Days. She also said that she is looking forward to being live on Zoom and back in the Sanctuary.

President Ellyn Bender gave an update that we should be expecting plexiglass and other COVID safety precautions to arrive at the temple, to start preparing us for the next steps. Ellyn gave an update on the roof and said that they found a reputable contractor, with the most competitive price. Ellyn also shared that the Mold Patrol, would be taking care of the mold that has occurred due to the leaks. She also gave an update on the vandalism that occurred at the temple; a painter has been scheduled to paint and correct the damage done. Ellyn and David Weiss walked around the building showing Mr. Martinez's public defender as well as the prosecuting attorney where the vandalism occurred. Mr. Martinez's attorney shared that his client, who went to a mental hospital, wanted to apologize to Temple Sinai and all of its members for what he did.

Laurie Criden updated us on how the **Annual Appeal** for Temple Sinai is going. We have had over 186 donations thus far. Laurie further stated how important it is to support Temple Sinai and ensure that we have our Temple Sinai for years to come. Especially during this difficult time, it is important for all our members to remember all the things we love about Temple Sinai.

Elana Margolis reported that she had some membership concerns, after a few members from Temple Sinai had mentioed that they were not **feeling as connected**. The board discussed how Temple Sinai has been engaging and organizing in daily services, events and/or social gathering, and that we need to share and remind our temple family of these gathering that the clergy and temple members have been working so hard to put on these events. The rabbi and board members discussed different ways to ensure that our temple members remain connected during this time.

Marv reported that the **financials** from the month of September seem to not be as negative as anticipated. He said that revenue is greater than expected and expenses are less than expected. The financials thus far are in accordance with 2021. Marv and the rest of the board will continue to monitor and manage the temple's finances during these very unprecedented times.

Skye Mata, Secretary

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

"When life seems to put out every light you have, it is better to light a candle than to complain about the darkness." -Unknown

The pandemic is raging across the country. Over 250,000 of us have died.

Thanksgiving was more of a solitary affair rather than a time to feast with friends and family. Curfews have been enacted. Mask requirements are becoming mandated. We are limited to spending face-to-face time with a very small "bubble" of people. And although streaming live from the sanctuary this month, we are not together in that space to welcome the Bride of Shabbat. Or, to light the candles of our menorahs together, or to ring in the New Year with hugs and kisses.

And yet...there it is, a. pinpoint of light, of hope, starting to place its grip on me. I cannot stop it. She is there. Waving. Beckoning. Smiling. But we have just spent nine months in one form or another of lockdown, missing life cycle events from births to funerals, from graduations to weddings. We are Zoom weary. We have almost forgotten what it feels like to reach out and physically touch someone.

Maybe it is the increasing likelihood of a vaccine in the almost foreseeable future that has encouraged this hope. Maybe it is the return to live streaming in the sanctuary. Maybe it is the burst of joyful programming being planned to celebrate Chanukah and the New Year together as we usher in Temple Sinai's 30th anniversary year in 2021. We are active. We are alive. We are reaching out to connect with each other.

We are soon to light the first candle on the menorah. We light this candle, and the others that are lit each following night, as a reminder of the faith, hope, and dedication of our ancestors who in 168 BCE rededicated the Temple in Jerusalem after its desecration. It also serves as a reminder of the message that the flame conveys — it separates darkness from light, it celebrates victory over darkness. We need this light, this flame, this illumination, now more than ever, and with it, the hope it kindles within us.

"There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflets it." - Edith Wharton

"We cannot hold a torch to light another's path without brightening our own." – Ben Sweetland

As we light our menorahs, let us share the light and the hope for brighter times ahead. Be the light for others, and thereby instill hope and light within ourselves.

I wish you and yours a bright and joyful Chanukah as we look to brighter times ahead.

Ellyn Bender, President

Do you have advertising sales experience?

If so, we need your expertise!

Please email Bob Handelman
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WOMEN OF SINAI



"Every now and then it helps to be a little deaf . . that advice has stood me in good stead. Not simply in dealing with my marriage, but in dealing with my colleagues." Ruth Bader Ginsberg

On Thursday, December 3, the Women of Sinai is pleased to welcome Frank Alcock. Dr. Alcock is an Associate Professor of Political Science at New College of Florida



where he has taught courses on world politics, international law, and environmental policy since 2003. He has over 25 years of professional experience working on energy and environment issues, but his political and public policy interests are wide and varied. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Duke University, a M.A. in International Affairs from George Washington University, and a B.A. in Economics from Binghamton University Political Analyst.



Someone once said: "Those who can do, do. Those who can do more, volunteer." During these difficult times, even volunteering becomes more challenging, but no less important. The Women of Sinai is very proud to

have **Greta Roberts** as our VP of Administration. She was recently recognized during a drive-by celebration for her service to JFCS. Congratulations!

Fund raising is another area impacted by the Covid-19 crisis. Our **Movie and More** event was offered free to the temple congregation but donations were encouraged. We raised \$300 which was donated equally to Meals on Wheels and All Faiths Food Bank Thank you to everyone who participated and donated.

Our popular **Book Club** continues via Zoom. The links to join the Zoom meetings will be available on the website calendar. The next book club meeting will be held December 17 at 2 p.m. The book s "The Lost Girls of Paris"; the discussion will be led by **Ellen Rothschild.**

Report to Members – We currently have 178 members including eight new members, an excellent showing considering the circumstances. The *Simchagram* letter was mailed out in early November and must be returned by December 11 (beginning of Chanukah). This is a WOS members' fund raiser, and you don't want to be left out.

Stay safe, stay optimistic, stay well. Peggy Miller, WOS President

WOS Mitzvah



Wow...It is now December. Where has this year gone? It is time to think about the holidays and the season of giving to others. I am excited to suggest a way we can give again to the community of **Hope Family Services**. Remember, Hope Family Services helps and

supports victims of domestic abuse.

I would like to suggest that we purchase gift cards to either Target or Walmart. These would go to the children of the Hope families in need. A \$10 gift card can give a child something their parents may not be able to buy and surely put a smile on his/her face.

Please consider this as you think about your Chanukah gifts for your own children and grandchildren. You can drop off your gift card at the temple. Please put it in an envelope addressed to me. You can also call me, and I will pick it up from you or meet you somewhere convenient. I am very thankful for your past generosity. I would appreciate it if you can consider giving once again to this wonderful organization of support, Hope Family Services.

Thank you so much,

Judy Polivy

home: (941) 355-1184 cell: (703) 624-7093

Guest Speaker at the WOS November 5 Zoom Meeting





Women of Sinai's first monthly program, November 5, was a great way to kick off the year! The featured speaker, Heather Todd, Executive Director of Teen Court of Sarasota, shared enthusiasm for the program Teen Court provides and gave an emotional recounting of stories about several individuals who succeeded after participating in the court sessions.

Teen Court of Sarasota, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing law-related education to over 4,000 students in Sarasota County annually that

prevents at-risk youth from having a criminal charge or conviction on their record, allowing them a second chance at a bright future. Teen Court of Sarasota introduces area youth to activities and services that promote feelings of self-esteem and self-improvement as they develop a healthy attitude toward authority. All organizational activities instill and teach the benefits of law-abiding citizenship and civic engagement.

The programs and services delivered by Teen Court of Sarasota not only improve individual lives, but also improve our community as a whole. The Women of Sinai had many interesting questions and a lively discussion followed. Everyone gained insight into this organization and appreciated Heather Todd's obvious dedication to helping young people succeed.

Gail Glickman

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

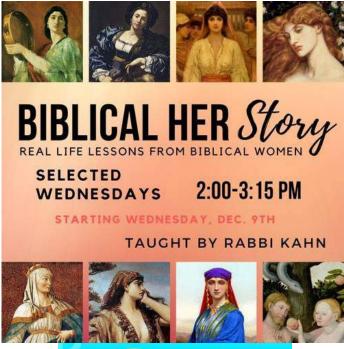
To honor someone, wish them a speedy recovery, offer condolences or thank them, consider making a donation to the WOS Mitzvah Fund.

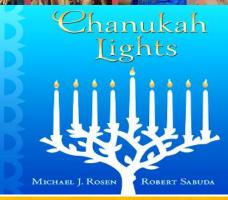
Cards are available for a minimum of \$5.50 each and will be sent immediately.

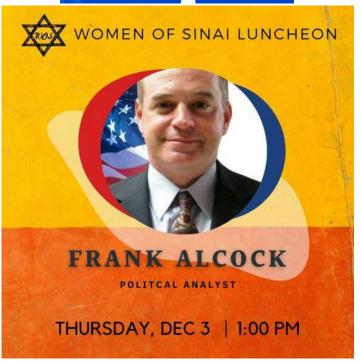
If you wish to send the cards yourself, you may obtain packs of five for \$25.

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

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







ANNUAL APPEAL

Light a Candle for Temple Sinai



As we enter the season of Chanukah, we remember that it commemorates not only the victory of Judah Maccabee and his followers, but also the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem. The celebration was enhanced when a miracle occurred: a one-day supply of oil burned for eight days.

Thus, it is appropriate that we turn to you at this time of year to help Temple Sinai to rededicate and renew itself, to help us stretch our resources just as the Chanukah miracle stretched the oil.

The nightly kindling of the menorah with its increasingly brighter light is an opportunity for each of us to light a candle for Temple Sinai. We have much to be grateful for and much to support; in the spirit of Chanukah, we will name a mere eight – we are sure you can add to our list:



A loving, caring community serving hundreds of families devoted to Jewish values



Our wonderful Rabbi Samantha Kahn



Our terrific Chazzan Cliff Abramson



A wonderful Religious School & Gan Preschool



Exceptional programs and services from our Women of Sinai & Sinai Men's Club



Fulfilling Adult Education programs



Magnificent facilities providing a home for life's milestones and celebrations



A commitment to social justice for our entire community

We have thrived for 30 years, as President Ellyn Bender has written, because of the strength and commitment of our members. Your commitment has so far resulted in a highly successful Annual Appeal.

But our work is not yet finished. Because we do not have the luxury of relying solely on God's miracles to keep our candles lit, we ask you, as you light your Chanukah candles this year, to add your flame – your check – to those of fellow congregants and to make a year-end gift to the Temple Sinai Annual Appeal to make our flame to grow ever brighter.

Chag Sameach Chanukah!

Laurie & Mark Criden, Chairs

THANK YOU ANNUAL APPEAL DONORS

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

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

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Kahn, Samantha & Matt

Handelman, Benjamin



THANK

>>>>>>>

YOU

.....

Your generosity made a difference

THE GAN



Laura Freedman
Director of Early Childhood
Education

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



December 11 Virtual Shabbat/Hanukkah in a Bag for Families with Young Children

at 5:15 p.m.

December 16 Gulf Gate Library Virtual

Chanukkah Celebration with Geveret Laura at 5:30 p.m.

December 18 School Closed for Parent/Teacher

Virtual Conferences

December 21- January 4 Winter Break

Simchat Torah Socially Distanced Parade



Geveret Laura beginning the parade route.



Charlie Greber with his flag and bells to parade around his classroom.



Kaelynn Kaplan showing off her flag to wave.



Shoshanim with their flags learning about our holiday and Torah.

Brand New Science Lab



Elle Reuter and Warren Walker all "geared up."

Ezra Pallegar and Noah Feinsilber amazed with their science experiment!



Some Tziporim scientists exploring and observing in their lab coats.

Laura

MEMBERSHIP

INTRODUCING Kitty and Hanford Gross

We purchased our home in University Park four years ago; we have a second home in Saint Louis, Missouri where we are members of Kohl Rina Synagogue.

We are the proud parents of four sons. The oldest is 44 years old and the youngest is 34. All are married, and we have seven grand daughters and one grandson. All our children have dogs, plus my husband and I are "owned" by a Bernese Mountain dog called YOYO.

Our hobbies and interests are varied. I love to read, play mah jongg, and try new recipes. My husband, Hanford, is an avid tennis player and loves cars. He recently acquired a brand-new Corvette. At this time, he is doing research for a book about a relative who served in the Czech air force after escaping occupied Czechoslovakia during World War II.

We are new members of Temple Sinai, having joined this year. After attending Friday night Services, we decided that this temple was a good fit for us. We like the Friday services and look forward to attending in person again after the COVID-19 Pandemic is over. We attended the past Food Festival and eventually will join a Chavurah.

Kitty



Marilyn and Paul Blankman for their grandson Jake becoming a Bar Mitzvah on October 3, 2020.

Greta Roberts on being honored by the JFCS for her volunteer service during 2019.

If you wish to have a Mazel Tov published in the TABLET, please call the temple office with your information.



Welcome to our Temple Sinai Family:

Pike, Alexandra and Quinn

6212 Horse Mill Place Palmetto, FL 34221

Alexandra: alex.morgan.pike@gmail.com

(305)318-9316

Quinn: quinn.pike19@gmail.com

(512)318-6010

Lichterman, Mary Jo and Brian

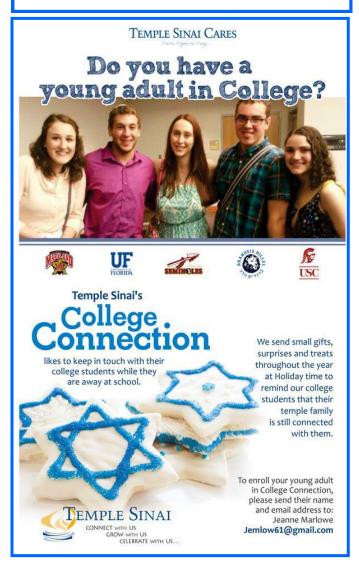
6912 White Willow Court Sarasota, FL 34243

Mary Jo: weloveparis3@aol.com

(941)779-7194

Brian: brianL@visionplanning2.com

(941)780-4166



MEMBERSHIP

Milestone Anniversaries 25 years+

December 11

Myrna and Herbert Lauber 65 years

December 14

Lori and Glenn Greenbaum 45 years

December 16

Judy and Eric Fox 25 years

December 17

Trudi and Jay Krames 25 years



Happy Special Birthday! 50 years+

December 7
Sandy Kravitz
70 years

December 9

Alan Friedberg 75 years

December 12

Judith Kenley 65 years Racelle Weiman 65 years

December 13

Dawn Epstein 60 years

December 27

Geraldine Drexler 75 years



Please wish these fellow congregants a very Happy Anniversary as they celebrate their special December day.

December 1

Diane and Victor Block

December 2

Kate and Thomas Mitchell

December 5

Janet and Anthony Joseph

December 10

Lisa Naiburg and Daniel Kisch

December 14

Marlene and Calvin Miller

December 16

Mikki and Joel Pertofsky

December 17

Jamie and Mark Heisler

December 20

Laura and David Einstein

December 21

Iris and Jay Leonard

December 23

Mickie and Jerry Kaye

December 24

Harriet and Marc Rosen

December 26

Judith and Leonard Swerdlow

December 27

Eldene and Norman Mohl

December 29

Sylvia and Richard Bloom Antonia and James Wolfson

December 30

Janet and Melville Moses

December 31

Barbara and Joseph Sander



BIRTHDAYS

RITUAL

Please join with us as we wish Happy Birthday to our fellow congregants who are celebrating their special day in December..

December 1
Isabella Lehrer

December 2
Billie Medoff
Russel Herz

December 3
Myron Mendelson

December 5
Martha Magenheim

December 6
Maggie Hilton

December 7 S.F. Hyde

December 9

Janice Weintraub

December 10
Roberta Bachenheimer

December 11
Bradley Weitzner

December 12 *Michael Lipson*

December 13
Gary Kravitz
Dena Wirt

December 14
Howard Herman
Harold Kornman
Dori Spector

December 15
Barbara Mandel

December 16 Richard Brown Nance Liebgott Jeffrey Pearl

December 17
Joseph Ray

December 21
Jason Collier
Shelley Markus

December 22
Jamie Heisler
Joel Pertofsky

December 23
Philip Chaikin
Benjamin Handelman

December 24

Jonathan Ryder

December 26 Sara Benesch Bob Miller

December 27
Geri Jo Manson

December 28
Benay Coffman

December 29
Amy Cassell
Pierre Menard
Richard Scissors

December 30 Lorraine Asarch Louis B. Gross Greta Roberts

December 31 Randi Sofman



As we enter the month of Kislev, we are continuing to enhance and evolve our platform for Erev Shabbat services during the global pandemic. During the month of November, we live zoomed our services from home. Starting in December, we will be live streaming from the sanctuary. During December, the congregation will not be in the sanctuary, just the clergy and service participants. All necessary protections such as plexiglass barriers, social distancing, masks, etc. will be implemented. These services will be available on our website, and again the service links will be sent to you. As soon as we can safely bring our congregation together, we will do so.

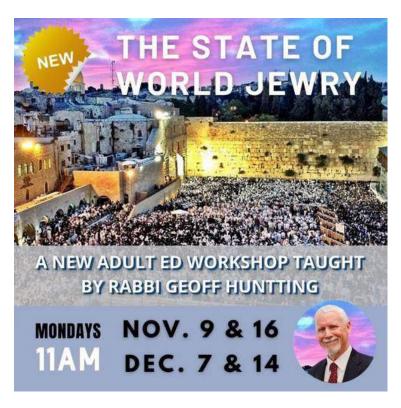
Another enhancement we are piloting this month is using Sign Up Genius for Erev Shabbat honors. There is a tile right on the website. There is also a link on the weekly Virtual Connections. If you have never used Sign Up Genius in the past you will need to create a log in. The plan is for these honors to be done in the sanctuary during regular service times, and all 3 blessings (candles, kiddush, motzi) will be done by the same person/couple/family. This is for your safety, so we have limited number of people in the sanctuary. We will not be having members on the bimah for the ark opening due to Covid. You will be sent the Covid guidelines we have developed for service participants. If you are not fluent in Hebrew, no problem. Chazzan will be there to assist you. Any questions, please contact Gillian Perlinski, our chair of bimah honors who will be happy to assist you.

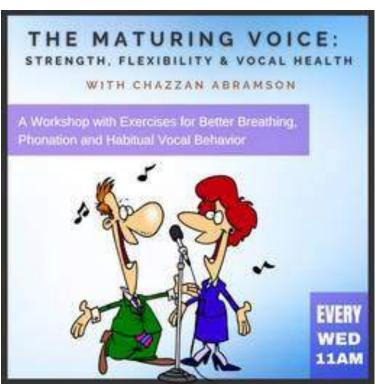
Chanukkah begins on the 25th of Kislev and ends on the 3rd of Tevet. In the past we have gathered as a community for a Chanukkah service, reception, and celebration. And once again, we have reimagined our celebration. Bethany Leinweber, our Director of Youth Education and Outreach has organized an exciting evening for December 11. We will have a drive-in service, where you can view the service on a big screen and listen through your car radio. You MUST register with Bethany, as parking is extremely limited to 20 cars. Our regular service will start at 6:00pm, all cars need to be parked by 5:45pm. After the service there will be a family friendly Disney Jewish movie, "Full Court Miracle". Rabbi Kahn and Chazzan will pass out gelt and popcorn. There is no charge for the service, and a nominal \$5.00 charge for the movie. You are free to just stay for the service. And of course, you can always view our services on the Temple Website and YouTube. Please check the website for registration and details.

So, light your hanukkiyah, spin the dreidel, indulge in latkes and sufaniyot, sing songs, and exchange presents. The word Chanukah means, "dedication". As we bask in the glow of the candles, lets also remember the light within each one of us. Take the time to continue to dedicate yourself to tikkun olam during this unique Chanukah season.

I want to thank all of you for your patience and support as we continue to enhance our services during this pandemic. Chag Urim Sameach, Happy Festival of Lights.

Judy Swerdlow, VP of Ritual





MEMBERSHIP MAT-TERS

The work of **Temple Sinai's Member- ship**

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



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL



Bethany Leinweber, Director of Youth Education, Outreach and Engagement

Looking Back

Sukkot – We visited the sukkah, Rabbi joined me to say the blessings, sing songs and decorate with each class.

Consecration Shabbat Service was beautiful – each student received a Torah and two certificates. Some were hand delivered to their homes.



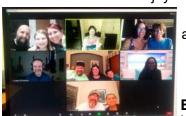
Simchat Torah – Students looked inside the real Torah on Sunday morning. We had a nice turn out for Family Programming, students engaged with the SAFETY board in games/dancing, while adults did Torah Trivia with me, Rabbi, and Chazzan. Suzie Mata with Morah Snait and Geveret Bethany played "Finding a Hebrew letter in the Torah as pictured here....





Shabbat with 3rd/4th grade class participation was lovely. We were able to incorporate both the in person and online students.

Animal Hour was a huge success with volunteers from the outside community and our temple educating everyone and participating in the program. Students and adults enjoyed and learned.



Moving Traditions Teen Program has full attendance and positive feed back. Amelia Hilton, Else Weinstein, Sitar Ben-Herut, Abby Brandt, and Lucy

Thomas at their first Moving Traditions Rosh Chodesh Class with Rabbi Kahn



B'nai Mitzvah Retreat also had complete attendance; parents and children had a chance to ask questions and meet with Rabbi and Chazzan and me. Each

made their very own hand blown glass Yad for their special day. The Lenerz Family, Geveret Bethany,, Mitchell Family, Chazzan, The Gordon Family, Rabbi, and the Leinweber Family at the first ever B'nai Mitzvah Retreat

Looking Ahead (Calendar of Events)

Chanukah Party Room! For All Ages! Everyone is Welcome to all events! All events except the small drive in fee are FREE!

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85785400895?pwd=SXFMZ3Ntb0ZzYIRNamIrM2k5eDRmQT09

Meeting ID: 857 8540 0895 Passcode: Hannukah!

5 p.m. every night (except 2nd night, Shabbat)

Everyone will have access to our Channukah Party Bitmoji Room on Google Slides: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1a6_b2O5-H_el_Rk9kWTinNJR4bMqY8VNf2jxLO-t_x4/edit#slide=id.p

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

1st night - Thursday December 10th: Menorah making and lighting - story time and songs

2nd night - Friday, December 11: *Tot Shabbat/Chanukah in a bag* - pick up your bag from the school beforehand then log into zoom at 5:15 p.m. with Geveret Laura and Geveret Bethany. Let's welcome Shabbat together with songs, blessings, dancing, and a story!

Drive In Services and Movie Night - 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. - **Shabbat and Chanukah in the Parking Lot \$5 per car** - bring lawn chairs, dinner, snacks, drinks, enjoy the service on a blow up screen and stay late for the movie! Light the menorah, sing songs, Popcorn and gelt will be served.

3rd night Saturday December 12: Bingo Chanukah style - 7:30 p.m. - win cash prizes - light the menorah together!

4th night - Sunday December 13: Cooking Demo with local chefs - lots-o-latkes! Chef Adam Woldman will cook a traditional Latke while Chef Ethan Blumenstein cooks a more modern latke! Recipes and ingredients will be shared!

5th night - Monday December 14: Dreidel Spinning Contest - inspired by the game "spinagogue"-Bring your dreidel and your skills - prizes to be won!

6th night - Tuesday December 15: Home Decoration Contest - send us photos of your home, and we will vote for the most creative, best use of space and brightest lights!

7th Night - Wednesday December 16th: A Night of Mitzvot with Jewish Family and Children's Services. Watch our Adopt a Senior/Family for the Holidays come to life! Karen Pharo will speak about the program from JFCS; and we will show photos, videos of our congregants delivering. Hopefully we can get some video footage of families receiving and/or thanking us that we can show. Following this event, we will join Geveret Laura at the Gulf Gate Library for an interactive and fun Chanukah celebration!

8th night - Thursday December 17: Let's play dreidel - virtual style - win chocolate and real gelt! Light the menorah and listen to a great story about Jeremy's Dreidel.

Each night we will begin or end with a song, story and/or lighting the menorah

School Schedule

Sunday School (both in person and online) – 12/6, 12/13 **Midweek Hebrew** –12/2 & 3, 12/9 & 10, 12/16 & 17 **NO SCHOOL** from 12/20 - 1/3SSSS





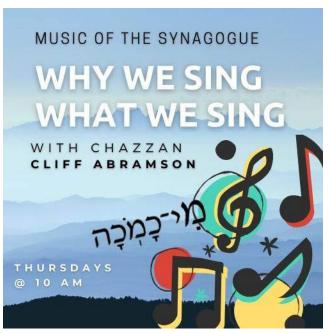
CHAZZAN ABRAMSON PRESENTS

Overcoming Stage Fright

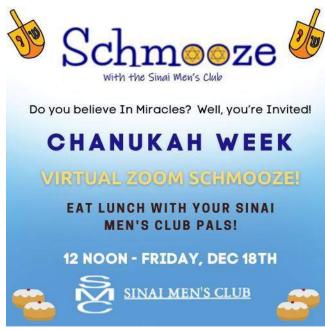
A WORKSHOP

TUESDAYS @ 11 AM











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.



"Kahoot Game Night!"

This enjoyable evening on October 17 for youth in grades 6 and up included Havdalah and challenging but fun *Kahoots*. The following *Kahoots* were played during the event that lasted almost 2 ½ hours: Logos, Candy, Superheroes (Marvel or DC), Animals, US History, and Toy Trends.

The following youth were the happy winners:



Gryffin Wilkens-Plumley 1st Place Katherine Carnes 2nd Place Sitar Ben-Herut 3rd Place Iyar Ben-Herut **MVP**

Youth Group-led Shabbat Service

On November 13, SAFETY President Maxwell Fletcher, Social Action and Religious and Cultural VP Lucy Thomas, and 11 other teens participated in their first Youth Group-led Shabbat Service of 2020-21. The teens collaborated to create an incredible Shabbat Service which will be reported on in the next edition of *The Tablet!*

"Mugs n' Meals!"

Imagine teens who come home from school hungry and just want to know how to make a quick-and-easy snack (or meal) but were never quite sure how to do it. Thee teens took control of their taste buds and learned how to make three delicious items that together make for a fun and easy meal. On November 14, SAFETY Board members taught many of our temple teens how to make Pleasing Pizza (main course), Mighty Mac n' Cheese (side dish), and Scrumptious S'mores (dessert). We will report on this special event in the next edition of *The Tablet!*

Looking at December

12/6 @ 4:00 PM – SAFETY Board Meeting 12/13 @ 4:00 PM – Social Action/Mitzvah Project Event for Grades 6-12

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

Dana Asher
Laura and David Einstein
Abby Gerrity
Dale and David Goldheim
Louise and Stanley Issokson
Laura Fried Koeppel
Susan and John Michelman
Patricia and Allan Schreiber
Donna and Brian Oshrin
Debbie VanPraag and Stanley
Goldsmith
Allen Weintraub
Elizabeth and Alan Zimtbaum

In Honor of:

Ilene and Jeffrey Gelber on the marriage of their son Ross to Mika: Laurie and Mark Criden Diane and Norman Silverstein: Carol and Richard Toppel Ellyn Bender for receiving the Acharai Award from the Sarasota-Manatee Jewish Federation: Judy and Eric Fox Geri and Lenny Drexler for receiving the Ahava Award from the Sarasota-Manatee Jewish Federation: Judy and Eric Fox

In Appreciation of:

Dobbie Linick's wonderful Torah reading at the Sukkot Service:
Carole and Fred Gorin Delores Lustig's wonderful Torah reading at the Sukkot Service:
Carole and Fred Gorin Paula Spitalny's wonderful Torah reading at the Sukkot Service:
Carole and Fred Gorin Rabbi Kahn and Chazzan Abramson's inspirational High Holy Days services and music: Betty and Don Cahall

Speedy Recovery of:

Diane Silverstein: Jean Danoff Allan Gersman: Jean Danoff

In Memory of:

Lydia Weisberg: Bonnie and Harvey Sussman

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor of:

Rabbi Samantha and Matt Kahn's 10th Wedding Anniversary: Betty and Donald Cahall

In Appreciation of:

Rabbi Kahn's beautiful service during the High Holy Days: Micki Sherin Evans and Eugene Evans

In Memory of:

Edward Glickman, father-in-law: Gail Glickman

CHAZZAN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Kira Gordon and Maya Gordon

Speedy Recovery of:

Dobbie Linick: Gail Glickman

RABBI GEOFF HUNTTING/LIFE AND LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND

In Appreciation of:

Diane and Norman Silverstein, for their hospitality and friendship: Mickie and Jerry Kaye and Chavurah Shalom

Speedy Recovery of:

Diane Silverstein: Mickie and Jerry Kaye Allan Gersman: Diane and Norman Silverstein Dene Bergman: Diane and Norman Silverstein

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH EDUCATION'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor of:

The 2nd Grade Religious School students, in support of their Chanukah program: Michelle Miller and Charles Labiner

BUILDING AND

MAINTENANCE FUND

In Memory of:

Penny Buss: Betty and Donald

Cahall

Life and Legacy_™ Program

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For further information, visit our temple website: lifeandlegacy@sinaisrq.org or call Mark Criden, Co-Chair (716) 713-0014.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Eternal Light

The Eternal Light, the *Ner Tamid,* hangs above the Ark. This light is always burning as a symbol of God's presence. It also represents the pillar of fire that guided the Jewish people on their journey from Egypt to Israel.

The Ner Tamid is also used to draw parallels between God and fire, or light, a metaphor which is emphasized throughout the book of Exodus in the Torah

In our sanctuary, the Ner Tamid has an independent power source so that even during power outages, the light is never extinguished.

WE REMEMBER THEM...

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

Diane and Victor Block for father of Diane Block, Louis Friedman Geraldine and Leonard Drexler for Anne Okonowsky Brooks Sally Ruth Elkes for father-in-law, Dr. Elchanan Elkes Sally Ruth Elkes for husband, Dr. Joel Elkes Marge and Leon Ellin for father of Marge, Harold Miller Micki Sherin Evans and Eugene Evans for Mike Molack Eleanor and Bruce Feldman for Morton Baker Coleen and Marc Friedman for Anne Erdman Judye and Robert Goldblatt for Walter Arbeiter Judye and Robert Goldblatt for Mina Goldblatt Maxine Goodheim for husband, Willard Goodheim Maxine Goodheim for mother-inlaw. Rebecca Goodheim Janet and Louis Gross for Benjamin Gross Barbara Bryden Gruenberg and Michael Gruenberg for Maria Norina Gorelick Harriet Kaufman for Abramham Kaufman Harriet Kaufman for husband, Dr. Sumner Kaufman Sandy and Gary Kravitz for

David Landau
Susan and Leonard Landau for
Herman Petricoff
Marilyn Lapidus and Arnold Baer
for Irving Lapidus
Myrna and Herbert Lauber for
Harry Mayersohn
Delores Lustig for Stan Lustig
Shelley and Gregory Markus for
mom and grandma-spectacular
and beloved, Dori Davis
Claire McCarthy for Jack
Borkowsky
Claire McCarthy for Ruth
Borkowsky

Jeannette Rothbarth

Susan and Leonard Landau for

Colleen and Nathan Merwitz for Harry Merwitz
Gillian L. and Chester W.
Perlinski for Jonathan D. Lash
Gillian L. and Chester W.
Perlinski for Ruth Perlinski
Eve Pokornicky for Lillian
Neviaser

Judith and Zvi Rogovin for father of Judy, Paul Schoenfeld Barbara and Jonathan Ryder for Simon Gershon

Francine and Paul Schatz for Robert Miller

Gail and Ronald Schimel for mother of Ronald Schimel, Jane Schimel

Gail and Ronald Schimel for stepmother of Gail Schimel, Ruth Springer

Beverly and William Sloat for Edward Fink

Robin Klein Strauss and Michael Strauss for Charlotte Strauss Janet Tolbert for mother and father, Eve and Leon Rintzler Antonia and James Wolfson for Paul Wolfson



Memorial Plaques

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Plaque will commemorate
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eternity.

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Temple Sinai Gardens is our very own Jewish section in the Robert Toale & Sons Funeral Home at Palms Memorial Park.

For information, contact
Marv Glusman
mglus1@verizon.net



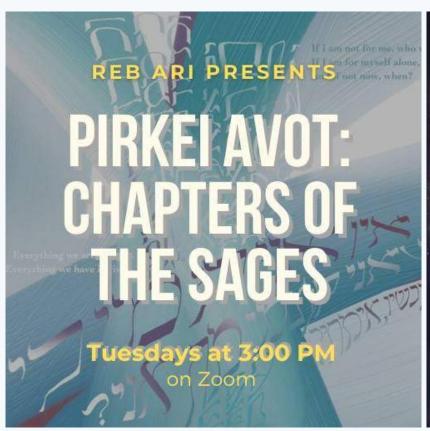
OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY PASSED.

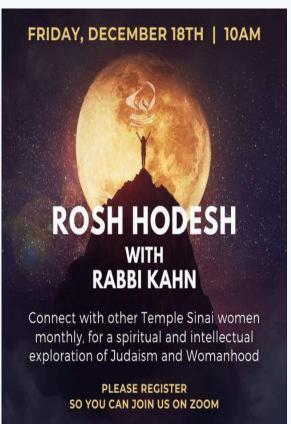
Roberta Gerlach on the death of her cousin, Dan Johnson, who died on October 8, 2020.

Susan and Robert Goldstein on the death of her mother and his mother-in-law, Charlotte Held, who died on October 20, 2020.

Randi Sofman on the death of her mother, Daurice Trachtenberg, who died on October 21, 2020.

The family of Roz Bassin, who died on October 25, 2020.





Chavurah Am Ha Yam

Like every other chavurah at Temple Sinai, our chavurah, Am Ha Yam has been struggling to keep our friendships alive during this stressful time. Obviously, we keep in touch via Facebook, so we can share everything going on in our personal lives.

For the last three months, we have participated in a group movie night. We have chosen different movies to watch. We then have a Sunday night each month when we have a Zoom meeting to discuss the movie. Of course, the discussion always turns to other things going on in the world and in our own lives.

We are open to hearing what other chavurot are doing, so that we can expand our options!

Karen Worobow

Chavurah Shalom

Chavurah Shalom had a most enjoyable evening in October at an outdoor social distancing Pizza Party. We were so glad to be together, as we hadn't seen each other since February. After "catching up", enjoying the pizza, drinks and snacks, we participated in a fun program. Each couple had to offer two or three Yiddish expressions, while the others had to guess what they meant. Yiddish expressions can be very amusing, and it made for a lot of laughs. We all agreed humor was something we all need in these strange and difficult times!

Diane Silverstein



JOIN A CHAVURAH



Thank you for creating a brighter future

Chazzan Cliff and Jamie Abramson Anonymous (3) Jean Andriesse Gwen Baseman Ellyn Bender and Pamela Paschall Myron and Kathy Bernstein Roberta Berson Paul and Marilyn Blankman Cookie Bloom Richard and Sylvia Bloom Terry and Eileen Blumenstein Don and Betty Cahall Alan and Fredda Chalfin Rabbi M. Churgel and Shara Newman Doug and Janine Cohen Stanley Cohen Aubie and Sandra Coran Mark and Laurie Criden Mark and Beth Del Pico Len and Geri Drexler Leon and Marge Ellin Ellie Feldman Alan (z"l) and Beverly Fendrick Eric and Judy Fox Laura Freedman Barry and Margo Friedman Jeffrey and Ilene Gelber Don and Harriet Gersman Patty Glah and sons Nancy Gold Roy Good for Wendy (z"I) Good Richard and Betty Greenspan

Cindy Davis Guttman Mo Guttman Bert and Karen Harris Rabbi Geoff and Sue Huntting Barbara Jacob Ken Kaufman Gary and Sandy Kravitz Laurie Lachowitzer Bob and Rae Ellen Levene Adam and Emily Levin Larry and Sherry (z"l) Linhart Faye Lipkins for Stan (z"l) Lipkins Martha Magenheim Ing-Marie Malkin Mark and Elana Margolis Greg and Shelley Markus Ardis Mauger Bob and Peggy Miller Brian and Marcy Miller Gisele Pintchuck Mark (z"l) and Stephany Richmond Allan and Gail Shaivitz Arnold and Paula Spitalny Harvey and Bonnie Sussman Len and Judy Swerdlow Harold Tick Richard and Carol Toppel Steven Weintraub and Sarah Johns Bruce and Naomi (z"l) Wertheimer Scott J. Woolf

Daryl and Karen Worobow

Temple Sinai wants to recognize and thank those who have committed to help sustain us with a gift in their will, trust, retirement account or life insurance policy. We are grateful for your support during these last three years of the Life and Legacy™ program. Thank you also to those had the foresight to give a legacy gift before this program was launched in the area.





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COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

At a time when our community and many charitable organizations continue to struggle, they need our support more than ever. 5% of my fees received from personal injury litigation will be donated to Judaic organizations & other local charities.

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MICHAEL'S

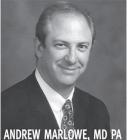
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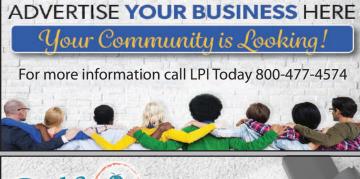
Bradley Abrams, D.O.

3328 Bee Ridge Rd | 941.926.2300 | abramsderm.com





From Our House to Yours
- Happy Thanksgiving







LICHTENSTEIN
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& SABELLA, PLLC

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L'Dor Vador

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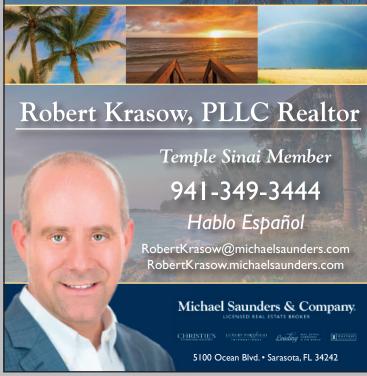




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In honor of the Toales and in recognition of their longstanding dedication to the Sarasota and Bradenton area communities, three local funeral homes will be renamed to reflect this change in leadership, and two of the funeral homes will undergo renovations 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.

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