

# TABLET BRIEFS

July 2022 | Issue 2

## Summer Fun!

As it heats up in Sarasota we hope you're enjoying your summer and filling your days with fun activities with family. This is the last full month before we start the countdown for school to be back in session, so let's soak up the sunshine (with plenty of SPF, of course), and live each day to its fullest.

Best wishes for a wonderful summer!

## This Month's Featured Articles

- "500 Words or Less" from Chazzan Cliff Abramson
- Membership Update: "Where Do We Go From Here?"



TEMPLE SINAI



# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

June was an exciting and productive month; we addressed some of the congregation's uneasiness and secured a plan for our future by installing Chazzan Abramson as our sole clergy member. Our new trustees participated in a training session conducted by President-Elect Sherry Thomas and me to outline job responsibilities and provide them with resources. Both our religious school and The Gan at Temple Sinai have wrapped up another successful school year and our deepest thanks go to Bethany, Laura, Josh, all our teachers, staff and *madrachim* for a job well done!

I would like to begin addressing member concerns which have been brought to the attention of synagogue leadership. A number of you inquired about why visitors to our board meetings are not permitted to speak. We listened, we heard and we offer this compromise:

1. First and foremost, board meetings serve the purpose of conducting the business of the synagogue and I believe you will agree that the board must be able to use that meeting time accordingly. That said, we value and respect your input and also want to hear from you. So, we decided at June's board meeting to share the meeting agenda with members before each board meeting and permit questions related to agenda items at the end of the board meeting. Those attending the meeting in person will be given two minutes to ask their questions and those attending via Zoom will be asked to submit their questions ahead of time.



Photo from Hope from the Harp event on June 26.  
Pictured from left to right: Dr. Michael Gordon,  
Emergency USA CEO Elie Rubinstein,  
harpist Giuseppina Ciarla and  
Chazzan Cliff Abramson

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONTINUED)

2. While only board members can request items to be placed on the agenda, we encourage and invite synagogue members to call or schedule a meeting with the respective VP if they would like to raise an agenda item. In this way, the VP can prepare and present items that reflect your concerns and act on your behalf.

3. In an effort to address concerns, suggestions and ideas outside of those discussed during the board meetings, we have scheduled periodic open forum meetings, the first of which will be at 5:00pm on Wednesday, July 13. This will be an opportunity to hear about the issues that matter most to you.

Finally, I want to mention the return of our Friday evening Erev Shabbat Welcome Receptions. After a two-year hiatus due to Covid, we are ready to come back together as a community. We miss being with each other and are eager to re-establish our friendships, as these are all the things that make Temple Sinai the warm and loving place we have come to cherish. As Jews, nothing brings us together like food does! Jerry Thomas has graciously taken on the role of volunteer kitchen manager and we invite you all to join us on Fridays beginning late July at 5:15 for wine, cheese and other light noshes. If you would like to volunteer to help Jerry prepare and serve at these receptions, please let us know.

L'shalom, Alan Chalfin, President



From Chazzan Abramson

# 500 HUNDRED WORDS OR LESS

Five hundred words or less is the space constraint I have for this article, so it is going to be difficult. I had planned to share with you what will be happening with programs and services beginning in the fall. While summer may seem quiet, it is the time when our staff and lay leaders begin the planning for all that happens around Temple Sinai during the upcoming year. We are busy creating curriculum, lining up speakers, planning events and programs and, of course, preparing for the High Holy Days. There is a lot to cover but I will do my best to provide a good overview.

First, we will be implementing elements of instrumentation and vocal harmony that have not previously been part of our Shabbat services. While Rhythm and Jews services will continue once a month, we will also be adding new and exciting musical features on other weeks and each service will be different.

We will also be scheduling a “Day of Learning” during which, from morning until evening, we will provide back-to-back classes of interest that you have requested (but with a lunch break, of course). History, Torah, text study and music are just some of the classes in the works and if it turns out that one day of study is not enough, we may add another. We will also be scheduling various workshops on everything from “Service Ritual Practices” to “Learning the Canon of the Books of Study.”

There are plans to re-implement an old favorite weekly program, “Sundays at Sinai.” On several Sunday afternoons during the course of the year, we will invite musical guest artists of all kinds who will come to share their art at Temple Sinai. Attendees will have a chance to spend a lovely Sunday afternoon with some of the area’s top musicians. The best part of this is that it will be at no cost to our congregants.

Guest speakers, artists-in-residence, scholars and panels presenting on current events are also part of this coming year’s programming. Quite frankly, there are simply too many details to cover in one article, but I thought a taste of the year to come would be of interest to all of you. The problem most people will have will be deciding which of the many programs to attend!

I am saving the High Holy Days for my next article when I will elaborate on what you can expect during our services and programs. In the meantime, I want to wish all of you a peaceful, relaxing and safe summer.

You see, I did it in 500 words or less (442 to be exact).

L’shalom,  
Chazzan Abramson

**July 2022 | Issue 2**



# MAY 18

## BOARD OF TRUSTEE

### MEETING BRIEF

The board meeting began with all board members present and around 25 additional congregants in attendance.

- The president established ground rules for attendance at the meeting: congregants wishing to attend must register a couple of days in advance in order for the room to be set up to accommodate the number of attendees in addition to the board.
- The meeting then moved on to a presentation by URJ representative Debbie Niederman to go over the results of the URJ benchmark survey the board completed in October 2021. There were: data review, questions asked and comments made in the areas of exploration and next steps. These results will soon be made public to the congregation once organized in an easily presentable and understandable way so information may be manipulated for goal development and used for future leadership training.
- The Board revisited how the flow of information surrounding the monthly board meetings would be organized. The president will set the agenda one week prior to the meeting. Then congregants may request additions to the agenda via respective board members who would then communicate with the president to request an update to the agenda. Once the agenda is complete, it will be sent out to other board members and the congregation by the Monday prior to the Wednesday meeting.
- The meeting then moved to discuss the reopening of the kitchen with a goal of creating a community feeling with communal dinners and events and restarting welcome receptions prior to Friday night services. The board then reviewed a projection of what to anticipate, including generating income and costs associated with the kitchen opening.



# MAY 18

## BOARD OF TRUSTEE

### MEETING BRIEF

### (CONTINUED)

- The board then voted on a change of policy to allow congregants to be able to consume food and beverages inside the synagogue. Discussion continued on what opening the kitchen entailed, including who would be in charge and whether to fill with a hired or volunteer position. Discussion included some possible community candidates as well as who would be responsible for the organization of the kitchen. It was decided that leadership of the kitchen would be discussed further at a later date.
- Next, visiting congregants who are members of a group called Sarasota Temple Sinai Concerned Congregants expressed concern regarding the timeline from when Chazzan Abramson assumed his new role until this meeting; they claimed that there has not been a formal contract signed. Jason Collier spoke on behalf of the board stating that proceedings were already in place and provided information about the timeline regarding the budget and other dates in question. He stated that timeline is happening as quickly as possible and that it is everyone's top priority to complete the contract to move on with Chazzan Abramson with the title, Senior Clergy of Temple Sinai.
- The meeting was then adjourned and a closed executive session with the executive board followed.



**BOARD MEETING**



WEDNESDAY  
JULY 20  
7:00PM

Please pre-register. Meeting agenda and Zoom link will be sent via separate email.

# Membership Highlight

## WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

By Daryl Worobow

First, let me introduce myself as your new VP of Membership and thank my predecessor, Elana Margolis, for all of her efforts as a leader at Temple Sinai, particularly in all things membership, for the past several years. Temple Sinai thrived under her membership initiatives and leadership.

Having served on the board previously myself, I am aware of some of the challenges we currently face, with impacts from Covid and the economy intensifying these challenges, but I would like to inform all of you on the major areas where the membership team will focus their efforts to address and overcome many of these challenges:

1. Our first and most important priority is to grow our membership at all levels through recruitment efforts. We will also work to diminish member resignations. We know that Sarasota's population is growing, and that includes the Jewish population, and it is our charge to find new ways to find and connect with potential members.
2. We will work closely with the new board to provide timely and effective communication to our membership, regardless of the issue.
3. We will re-establish outreach events such as welcome receptions, and implement new activities which will bring our temple community together with greater frequency. Furthermore, we have: a seasoned Chazzan who understands the needs of our Jewish community; innovative religious, educational, and social programs; accredited schools and the most warm and welcoming members which are all incentives for potential new residents to connect with us.



This year, we are splitting membership development into the following committees: Caring Community, Outreach and Engagement, Event Greeters/Ushers/Ambassadors and Turnover/Attrition. For more information on membership initiatives or to join one of our committees, please contact me at: [drwor@aol.com](mailto:drwor@aol.com) or (860) 716-5730. I welcome all of your feedback and please remember that "membership is a play in which we are all actors!"

# Upcoming Featured Events



## OPEN FORUM

Wednesday, July 13  
5:00PM - 6:30PM

Temple Sinai members are invited to share their ideas about the ways in which we can move forward as a congregation and community. Join in person or on Zoom. For those joining on Zoom, please submit your question ahead of time using the registration link [here](#). Time will be set aside to address these questions during the meeting. If you have additional questions during the forum they may be added to the Zoom chat and will be addressed if time permits.

## RHYTHM AND JEWS EREV SHABBAT SERVICE

Friday, July 29  
5:00PM-7:00PM

Music infuses all aspects of our monthly "Rhythm and Jews" Erev Shabbat celebration, a favorite of congregants and visitors. Invite a friend and join us for this festive Friday night service.



FOR MORE EVENTS VISIT: [www.temple Sinai-sarasota.org/events](http://www.temple Sinai-sarasota.org/events)

# WHO WE ARE

## STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION



### CHAZZAN CLIFF ABRAMSON SENIOR CLERGY

Email: [ChazzanAbramson@templesinai-sarasota.org](mailto:ChazzanAbramson@templesinai-sarasota.org)

### SENIOR STAFF MEMBERS

ANDREA EIFFERT | DIRECTOR OF  
COMMUNICATIONS AND PROGRAMMING

Email: [aeiffert@templesinai-sarasota.org](mailto:aeiffert@templesinai-sarasota.org)

Phone: (941) 924-1802, option 6

LAURA FREEDMAN | DIRECTOR OF EARLY  
CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Email: [laura@templesinai-sarasota.org](mailto:laura@templesinai-sarasota.org)

Phone: (941) 926-9462

BETHANY LEINWEBER | DIRECTOR OF YOUTH  
EDUCATION AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Email: [bleinweber@templesinai-sarasota.org](mailto:bleinweber@templesinai-sarasota.org)

Phone: (941) 263-2015



## STAFF MEMBERS

### OFFICE

MARIAN SIEGEL

Controller/Administrator

[msiegel@templesinai-sarasota.org](mailto:msiegel@templesinai-sarasota.org)

TINA BARAN

Office Administration

[tina@templesinai-sarasota.org](mailto:tina@templesinai-sarasota.org)

### CUSTODIAL

HORACIO VALDIVIA DELGADILLO

[custodian@templesinai-sarasota.org](mailto:custodian@templesinai-sarasota.org)

### YOUTH

JOSH LEINWEBER

Email: [jleinweber@templesinai-sarasota.org](mailto:jleinweber@templesinai-sarasota.org)

## CONTACT US



(941) 924-1802



[office@templesinai-sarasota.org](mailto:office@templesinai-sarasota.org)



[www.templesinai-sarasota.org](http://www.templesinai-sarasota.org)



4631 S Lockwood Ridge Rd.  
Sarasota, FL 34231

# TRIBUTES

TEMPLE SINAI GENERAL FUND

Aravilla

Ellyn Bender and Pamela Paschall

Elizabeth Richardson

In Honor of:

Chester (Pearl) Perlinski's conversion:

Patricia Pyka

Alan Chalfin being elected our new

President: Judith and Leonard

Swerdlow

Laura Freedman and Bethany

Leinweber-for all you do every day

for the kids and families at Temple

Sinai: Fredda and Alan Chalfin and

Sherry and Jerry Thomas

Elana and Mark Margolis 50th

Wedding Anniversary: Judge and

Robert Goldblatt

Elana and Mark Margolis 50th

Wedding Anniversary: Betty and

Donald Cahall

Madeline Gersh becoming a Bat

Mitzvah: Fredda and Alan Chalfin

In Appreciation of:

Elana Margolis, for all you have done  
getting new members and retaining

them: Carole and Fred Gorin

Ellyn Bender, for all you have done to

keep the temple together-you have

been an inspiring President: Carole

and Fred Gorin

In Memory of:

Amy Hahn, beloved daughter of Laurie

and Mark Criden: Bonnie and Harvey

Sussman

Marcy Ann Hollinger: Sheila Namiot and

Marvin Rosen

Dr. Harold Goodis: Fredda and Alan

Chalfin

Mark Richmond, beloved husband:

Stephany Richmond

Anita and Murray Sandler, beloved

parents: Stephany Richmond

Suki Tall: Sheila Namiot and Marvin

Rosen

Bea S. Wollheim, mother of Warren

Wollheim: Sheila and Warren Wollheim

CHAZZAN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Rabbi Geoff and Susan Huntting

Stephany Richmond

In Honor of:

Elana and Mark Margolis 50th Wedding

Anniversary: Kathy and Richard Stern

Elana and Mark Margolis 50th Wedding

Anniversary: Elyse and Marvin Diamond

Elana and Mark Margolis 50th Wedding

Anniversary: Joanne and Alan

Trachtenberg

Elana and Mark Margolis 50th Wedding

Anniversary: Jane and Marvin Glusman

Elana and Mark Margolis 50th Wedding

Anniversary: Cindy and Michael Nash

Madeline Gersh becoming a Bat Mitzvah:

Ellyn Bender and Pamela Paschall

# TRIBUTES (CONTINUED)

In Appreciation of:

Chazzan Abramson's Rhythm & Jews  
Service: Sheila Fleischer  
Ellyn Bender's hard work and  
dedication to Temple Sinai as  
President: Laurie Lachowitzer

RABBI GEOFF HUNTTING/LIFE AND  
LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND  
Karen and Daryl Worobow

In Honor of:

Stephany Richmond, on the birth of  
your granddaughter Nicole Rose  
Richmond  
Elana and Mark Margolis 50th Wedding  
Anniversary: Rae Ellen and Robert  
Levene

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH EDUCATION'S  
DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor of:

Temple Sinai's Confirmation Class:  
Fredda and Alan Chalfin

Speedy Recovery of:

Harriet Heisler: Jamie and Mark Heisler

GAN FUND

Dionel M. Aviles

CNB Group Enterprises LLC-DBA Soccer  
Shots

Joyce and Roger Fine

Sandra and James Karman

Gillian and Chester (Pearl) Perlinski-Gan  
Security

Amy and Timothy Spell, for Fundraising  
Goals

In Honor of:

Elana and Mark Margolis 50th Wedding  
Anniversary: Judith and Leonard  
Swerdlow

HORAY SINAI FUND

In Memory of:

Itzhak Gigi: Jamie and Mark Heisler

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE FUND

In Memory of:

Harry Weiss: Toby and David Weiss

URJ SUMMER PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP  
FUND

In Memory of:

Milton Stein: Elaine Merker

# TRIBUTES (CONTINUED)

## FANCHON D. ROSENSTEIN SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In Honor of:

Elana and Mark Margolis 50th Wedding  
Anniversary: Dale and David Goldheim

## ADULT PROGRAM FUND

In Honor of:

Barbara Pollack, Happy Mother's Day:  
Matthew Pollack

Alan Chalfin, Temple Sinai President,  
looking forward to the next two years  
with you at the helm: Andrea and Eric  
Eiffert

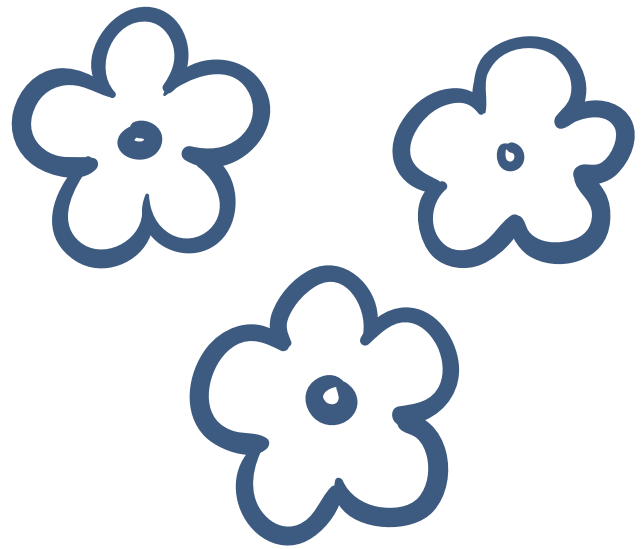
Ellyn Bender, Immediate Past  
President, your dedication and hard  
work are a testament to your love and  
commitment to Temple Sinai: Andrea  
and Eric Eiffert

## SHERRY LINHART FLOWER FUND

In Honor of:

Elana and Mark Margolis 50th Wedding  
Anniversary: Ellyn Bender and Pamela  
Paschall

*Thank you*



# CONDOLENCES AND YAHREZEITS (WE REMEMBER THEM)

Sherry and Jerry Thomas and family on the death of her aunt Sandy Wasserman, who passed away on May 17, 2022.

Sheila and Ron Bellamy for father, Arthur Carmel

Eleanor and Bruce Feldman for Maurice Marenberg

Judy and James Feldman for Sadie Feldman

Elaine and Theodore Gast for Fay Gast

Sammy Hyde for Herman Finkelstein

Allison Dayan Juceam for Isaac Dayan

Clara and Lawrence Kahn for Marjorie Kahn

Lois and Brian Levinsohn for Estelle Levinsohn

Martha Magenheim for Ret Turner

Claire McCarthy for Bruce L. Duben

Claire McCarthy for Renee F. Goldstein

Irving Mishkin for Simon Mishkin

Gail Perer for mother, Helen Bahm

Eve Pokornicky for father-in-law, Edward Long

Patricia and Allan Schreiber for Donald Biggard

Helena Simmons for parents, Sarah and Joseph Shields

Diane and Robert Weiss for J. Jack Weiss

Karen and Daryl Worobow for Marion Finkel

Laura and Paul Zatz for Herman Wilkinsky

*Zichronam Livracha -  
May their memories  
be for a blessing.*