

# TABLET BRIEFS

March 2023 | Issue 10

## **Purim: The Most Fun Holiday!**

Our Purim Carnival, Connect With Sinai Open House, Marx Brothers Purim Spiel and Dueling Piano Extravaganza fill an action-packed holiday weekend complete with silliness, costumes, games, food and so much more.

You won't want to miss any of it! Read on for all the details.

## **This Month's Featured Articles**

- *Why do we laugh at Purim?* by Chazzan Cliff Abramson
- *Women of Sinai Celebrates Purim* by Peggy Miller
- *Community* by Alan Chalfin

# WHY DO WE LAUGH AT PURIM?



The question above may seem almost rhetorical to some. Shouldn't the answer simply be; because it's fun? This year we use the Marx Brothers as the vehicle to tell the story. It is a funny vehicle for a spiel but the actual reason for the holiday itself is more complicated.

The annual holiday celebration helped the Jewish people in the dark days of their history to maintain their trust in the ultimate deliverance from the dangers and difficulties besetting them. All of the merrymaking, feasting and masquerading during Purim served as a much-needed relief from the serious life the Jews led during most of the year. After all, the anti-Semitic trope of dual loyalty that Haman utters: "There is a certain people ... dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from those of every people; neither keep they the king's laws", is an argument that has been used against the Jews for centuries. It relies upon a false claim – that Jews are incapable of devotion to their own community and their neighbors and fellow citizens. In the Purim story, the irony of this claim could not be starker: the king's life is saved by a Jew and his queen is Jewish as well. There are many "Hamans" in every generation. So why do we laugh, play and make merry? Perhaps we can learn a lesson from Mel Brooks.

Years ago, I was present at the premiere of Mel Brooks' Broadway production of "The Producers." When the characters in the play began to talk and sing about the show within the show "Springtime for Hitler," several couples got up and left the theater, not understanding the purpose of the song. When interviewed some months later, Brooks said "If you can make fun of Hitler, if you can have people laugh at him, then you win."

Isn't it better to defeat our enemies by weakening their power over us by laughing at them rather than fighting them? Yes, in our Purim spiels, we learn that Haman gets hanged. But Purim reminds us that he was a fool the first time we hear the grogger.

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# WOMEN OF SINAI

## *Celebrates Purim*

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By Peggy Miller

There is a “lot” going on during the month of March, not the least of which is Purim. The word “purim” literally means “lots” in ancient Persian. Purim was thus named because Haman had thrown lots to determine when he would carry out his diabolical scheme.

Accordingly, the Women of Sinai also have a “lot” going on during March, pardon the pun. On March 5 from 12:00pm to 4:00pm, we will join other synagogue arms during the Connect with Sinai open house where we will welcome visitors and provide tours and information about Temple Sinai.

On March 6 we join the congregation in celebrating Purim. Later in March, we sponsor Mah Jongg and More, one of our most successful fundraisers. Mah Jongg and More takes place on March 16 and it's a whole-day affair open to the whole community. It takes a village to put on this event and we have a terrific committee led by our Co-President, Patty Schreiber. The busy month of March is the whole megillah, if you will.

While Purim is considered a happy holiday, it was founded to remember a scary and not very happy occurrence in our history. While there are many fun aspects in celebrating Purim it is also instructive to examine other little-known facts about Purim that are perhaps less fun. For example, in the early 1950s, Joseph Stalin, the ruthless butcher of millions of innocent people, had bloody plans for dealing with the “Jewish problem” in the U.S.S.R. Just as things were reaching a crisis point in 1953, Stalin died....on Purim!

I hope every female member of Temple Sinai will consider joining the Women of Sinai and helping us to celebrate all the facets of our history and our future together.

## Board of Trustees

## MEETING SUMMARY

*January 18, 2023*

**President Chalfin** welcomed new board member Myron Bernstein who will be completing the term of Bob Handleman serving as VP of Administration.

Guest **Lucy Thomas** shared that her Girl Scout troop will prepare a five-course meal for thirty people before the March 15 board meeting. This will serve as a fundraiser for the synagogue and the troop will earn a badge.

Kitchen and Catering – **Myron Bernstein, VP of Administration and Jerry Thomas, Kitchen Manager**, stated that they are working on guidelines to ensure events held at the synagogue are profitable. Jerry will perform a cost analysis to review the cost of air conditioning, consumables, lights, etc. before finalizing the guidelines. A closed-circuit camera system has been installed to allow the kitchen manager to observe activity in the kitchen. The list of approved caterers is being reviewed and will be expanded.

Line of Credit Drawdown – **Marvin Rosen, VP of Finance** is completing the paperwork required to obtain a drawdown of funds from a line of credit before the February 23 deadline. He has received a verbal acceptance from the bank.

*Continued on the next page.*

## Board of Trustees

## MEETING SUMMARY

*continued*

Proposed Purchase of Cemetery Lots – **Myron Bernstein**. First, Myron conveyed that Temple Sinai's location in the cemetery was in disrepair and he negotiated a commitment from the cemetery to clear debris and replace broken headstones. Next, Myron proposed the purchase of additional plots since Temple Sinai is running out of space in the cemetery. The board discussed and decided to first try to sell the remaining plots to generate some revenue to purchase additional plots.

New Caterer Approval – **Pearl Perlinski** motioned to approve Atria Café as the caterer for the upcoming Casino Night fundraiser. He has collected the required licensing from them and will schedule an orientation in the kitchen for them as per synagogue bylaws.

Member Resignations – **Alan** discussed the non-payment of outstanding dues balances when a member resigns mid-year. Discussions continued regarding updating the policies and applications during members' annual renewals.

Weekly Welcome Receptions will be resumed beginning February 3. **President-Elect Sherry Thomas** requested volunteers and sponsors. The fee for a basic reception is \$250. A reception will run from 5:00pm to 5:45pm, allowing fifteen minutes for clean up before services begin.

Good and Welfare mentioned that the Temple Sinai website redesign is underway and that Rabbi Huntting will assist Chazzan Abramson in leading the Passover Seder.





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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

This month finding a topic to write about was easy: COMMUNITY. Seeing so many folks at our recent Jewish Food Festival underscored the joy we all felt being together as one community! The constant flow of people and the great feedback we received all reminded me of how things were before the pandemic. There was an electricity in the air that I had all but forgotten. During COVID we got used to staying home, and avoiding crowds and other people; in other words, it put a huge dent in our connection to the community.

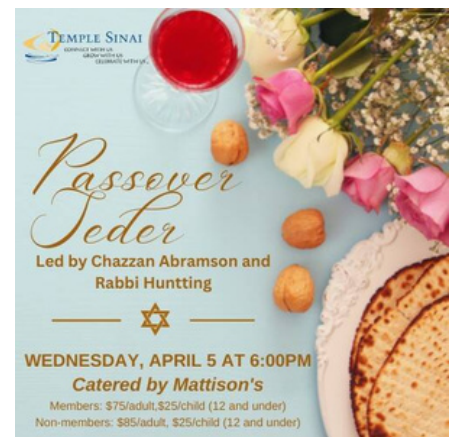
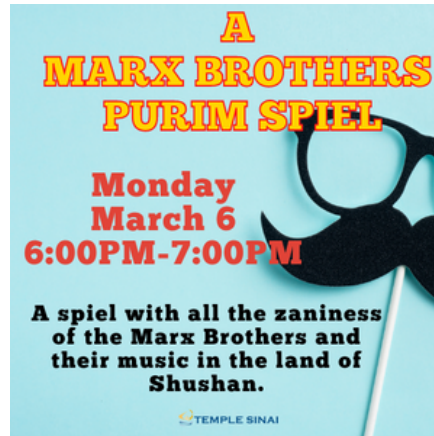
The recent Chavurah Shabbat was another opportunity to be together and feel that strong sense of community. Thank you to Bonnie Sussman and Beth Stone for sponsoring the reception; it was wonderful! We all love to eat and our weekly welcome receptions are a way to bring in more people to nosh and socialize before the Erev Shabbat service each week.

Please help us spread the word and invite your friends!

Temple Sinai's warmth and sense of community attracted my wife and me when we visited for the first time. We have both missed it very much! Help us attract new members by inviting them to events and welcoming them in ways that will impart warm and friendly feelings! We are planning intergenerational events that will be open to the community such as our upcoming Purim carnival on March 5, Purim Spiel followed by a Dueling Pianos Purim Party on March 6, Artist-in-Residence weekend March 24-26 featuring Jacob "Spike" Kraus, congregational Passover Seder on April 5 and Family Seder on April 6. We look forward to seeing you there and to welcoming in as many new people as possible.

*L'shalom,*  
Alan Chalfin

## Upcoming Featured EVENTS



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND OUR COMPLETE CALENDAR, VISIT:  
[www.templesinai-sarasota.org/calendar](http://www.templesinai-sarasota.org/calendar)



*Temple Sinai Past Presidents cordially  
invite you to participate in this year's  
ANNUAL APPEAL.*

*Every gift is a commitment to Temple  
Sinai's future, building towards a  
stronger tomorrow.*

[Donate Now](#)

## SINAI GARDEN CEMETERY PLOTS AT PALMS MEMORIAL PARK

Limited cremation and burial plots available at  
discounted rate.

\$4500 per burial plot or \$3000 per cremation plot

Once these spaces sell out, prices will increase so act quickly.  
Contact [office@templesinai-sarasota.org](mailto:office@templesinai-sarasota.org)





**For the 2023 Temple Sinai Donor Roll through  
February 10, [click here](#).**

## **\*Donors to Temple Sinai Annual Campaign through February 10, 2023**

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**TEMPLE SINAI**

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

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Gail Glickman  
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Arthur & Annette Kirshner  
Carole Kleinberg  
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Michelle Miller  
Laurie Lachowitz  
Steven & Sheena Lambright  
Adam & Emily Levin



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Phyllis & Stephen Swerdlow  
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 Alan & Joanne Trachtenberg  
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 David & Toby Weiss  
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 Women of Sinai  
 Daryl & Karen Worobow  
 Roslyn Worobow  
 Paul & Laura Zatz  
 Anonymous  
 Anonymous  
 Anonymous  
 Anonymous  
 Anonymous  
 Anonymous



*\*Received and Recorded*



# TRIBUTES

## **TEMPLE SINAI GENERAL FUND**

Amy Drachman, for Purim Fundraiser  
Jamie and Mark Heisler and the Havurah,  
for the Intergenerational Shabbaton  
Jill and Chris Malkin, for the  
Intergenerational Shabbaton  
Heidi and Harris Schild and the Havurah,  
for the Intergenerational Shabbaton  
Sherry and Jerry Thomas, for the  
Intergenerational Shabbaton

## **In Honor of Holly Schirtzer's 75th Birthday:**

Fredda and Alan Chalfin  
Ree and Tom Marko and Mer Dundon

## **In Honor of:**

Donna and Jeff Orlove's 60th Wedding  
Anniversary: Joanne and Alan  
Trachtenberg  
Mark Spector's Special Birthday:  
Joan Beyer

## **Speedy Recovery of:**

Sherry Thomas: Judith and  
Leonard Swerdlow  
Lenny Drexler: Betty and Don Cahall

## **In Memory of:**

Les Singer: Sandy and Gary Kravitz  
William R. Greenspan, Esq: Betty and  
Richard Greenspan  
Arnold Spitalny: Terri Gordon  
Michael Peretz: Gloria Peretz  
Father of David Rosen: Karen Witte

## **In Memory of Hyman Schirtzer:**

Gillian and Chester 'Pearl' Perlinski  
Harriet and Marc Rosen  
Ellyn Bender and Pamela Paschall  
Fredda and Alan Chalfin

## **In Memory of Sheila Lash:**

Judy and Zvi Rogovin  
Sherry and Jerry Thomas  
Karen Witte  
Caren Carr and Anthony DiRamio  
Sandy and Gary Kravitz  
Judith and Leonard Swerdlow  
Betty and Donald Cahall  
Joanne and Alan Trachtenberg  
Fredda and Alan Chalfin

## **CHAZZAN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

### **In Honor of:**

Holly Schirtzer's Special Birthday:  
Kathy and Myron Bernstein  
Michael Rubin's 70th Birthday:  
Gillian and Chester 'Pearl' Perlinski  
Sadie Schwartz becoming a Bat Mitzvah:  
Ellyn Bender and Pamela Paschall

### **In Appreciation of:**

Rabbi Huntting's excellent Shabbat Service  
on December 30, 2022: Ellyn Bender and  
Pamela Paschall  
Allison Shapira:  
Betty and Richard Greenspan

### **In Memory of:**

Jeanne B. Kaufman: Kenneth Kaufman

# TRIBUTES (CONTINUED)

## **CHAZZAN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

### **In Memory of:**

Milton Richter: Marlene Penn  
Edward Rudnitsky, uncle of Vivian McDorman: Vivian McDorman  
Esther and Joseph Krasow, parents of Herbert Krasow, grandparents of Rob Krasow and Kathy Benedict: Elinor and Herbert Krasow  
Kenneth Krasow, son of Elinor and Herbert Krasow, brother of Rob Krasow and Kathy Benedict: Elinor and Herbert Krasow  
Rachel Epstein, parents of Elinor Krasow, grandparents of Rob Krasow and Kathy Benedict: Elinor and Herbert Krasow

### **In Memory of Hyman Schirtzer:**

Caren Carr and Anthony DiRamio  
Gail Glickman

### **In Memory of Sheila Lash:**

Jane and Marvin Glusman  
Doris and Ronald Benice  
Elinor and Herbert Krasow  
Elana and Mark Margolis

## **DIRECTOR OF YOUTH EDUCATION'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Snait and Gil Ben-Herut, for Artist in Residence Weekend  
Tiffany Caldwell and David Freeman, for the Cooking Class  
Amy and Lance Cassell, for JQuest Cooking  
Kate Dumbaugh, for JQuest

## **DIRECTOR OF YOUTH EDUCATION'S DISCRETIONARY FUND (cont'd)**

Michala and Nicholas Chipurnoi, for the Cooking Class  
Amy Drachman, sponsor Camp Lunch  
Renee and Wyatt Fletcher, for Artist in Residence Weekend  
Leigh and Michael Gordon, for Artist in Residence Weekend  
Laurie Lachowitzer, Happy Purim  
Kate and Thomas Mitchell, for the Cooking Class  
Gillian and Chester 'Pearl' Perlinski  
Melissa Servetz, for the Yoga Class  
Women of Sinai

### **In Appreciation of:**

Bethany Leinweber's fabulous Hanukkah road trip extravaganza: Laurie Lachowitzer  
Bethany Leinweber for the planning, work and actualization of a fabulous Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat Challah Bake: Ronni and George Freed  
Andrea Eiffert, for the planning, work and actualization of a fabulous Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat Challah Bake: Ronni and George Freed

### **In Memory of:**

Hyman Schirtzer: Anne, Michael, Nate and Levi Katz

# TRIBUTES (CONTINUED)

## **DIRECTOR OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Women of Sinai

## **GAN FUND**

Gillian and Chester 'Pearl' Perlinski, for  
Gan Security

### **In Honor of:**

Great Granddaughter Winona Jean:  
Joyce and Roger Fine

### **In Memory of:**

Hyman Schirtzer: Judith and Leonard  
Swerdlow

Hyman Schirtzer: Laura Freedman  
Sheila Lash: Laura Freedman

## **REB ARI ADULT EDUCATION FUND**

### **In Honor of:**

Reb Ari Shapiro, a patient teacher:  
Maggie and Mark Sharff

## **CECILE T. ALEXANDER SOUND & PRODUCTION ENHANCEMENT FUND**

### **In Memory of:**

Hyman Schirtzer: Cecile Alexander  
Sheila Lash: Cecile Alexander

## **THE PICK ME UP RIDES PROGRAM FUND**

### **In Memory of:**

Mildred Sunshine, aunt of  
Sunny Brownrout: Sunny Brownrout

## **HORAY SINAI FUND**

### **In Honor of:**

Jonah Portnow-Rivas becoming a Bar  
Mitzvah: Rabbi Geoffrey and Sue Kittner  
Hunting

Eli Winters becoming a Bar Mitzvah:  
Rabbi Geoffrey and Sue Kittner Hunting

### **Speedy Recovery of:**

Sherry Thomas: Ellyn Bender and  
Pamela Paschall

## **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND**

Sheena and Steven Lambright

## **YOUTH GROUP FUND**

Jeanne and Andrew Marlowe for the  
Intergenerational Shabbaton  
Women of Sinai

## **ANCHIN FUND**

### **In Memory of:**

Alden Kirshner, father of Arthur Kirshner:  
Annette and Arthur Kirshner

## **URJ SUMMER PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Kardon/Kittner/Hunting Foundation

# TRIBUTES (CONTINUED)

## URJ SUMMER PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP FUND

### In Memory of:

Sonya Woolf: Laurie Lachowitzer  
Ben Lachowitzer, father of Laurie  
Lachowitzer: Laurie Lachowitzer

## ROBERT L. BASEMAN FUND FOR THE ENHANCEMENT AND PROMOTION OF TEMPLE SINAI

### In Honor of:

Holly Schirtzer's 75th Birthday: Elana and  
Mark Margolis

### In Memory of:

Hyman Schirtzer: Elana and Mark  
Margolis  
Anna Weinblatt: Elana and Mark Margolis

## FANCHON D. ROSENSTEIN SOCIAL ACTION FUND

### In Memory of:

Merle Greenwald: Shirley Rose  
Dr. Ian Sunshine, brother of  
Sunny Brownrout: Sunny Brownrout

## ADULT PROGRAM FUND

### In Appreciation of:

Pearl Perlinski's outstanding Letter to the  
Editor in the January 2023 Tablet Briefs:  
Ellyn Bender and Pamela Paschall

### Speedy Recovery of:

Paula Spitalny: Ellyn Bender and Pamela  
Paschall

### In Memory of:

Karen Sander, daughter of Barbara and  
Joe Sander: Sunny Brownrout  
Sheila Lash: Ellyn Bender and Pamela  
Paschall

## SHERRY LINHART FLOWER FUND

Mark Schwartz  
Gillian and Chester 'Pearl' Perlinski

### In Memory of:

Hyman Schirtzer: Marilyn and  
Paul Blankman  
Sheila Lash: Marilyn and Paul Blankman

*Thank you*



# CONDOLENCES AND YAHREZEITS

## WE REMEMBER THEM

Hollace Schirtzer on the death of her husband and our congregant Hyman Schirtzer, who died on January 28, 2023.

Gillian and Chester Perlinski on the death of Gillian's mother and Chester's mother-in-law Sheila Lash, who died on February 6, 2023.

Jeanette Andriesse in memory of Everett 'Andy' Andriesse.

Ellyn Bender and Pamela Paschall in memory of Pamela's mother, Mary A. Paschall.

Sheila and Ron Bellamy in memory of Lois Dubois.

Diane and Victor Block in memory of sister, Adele Gabrielle, father, Louis Friedman and cousin, Shirley Snofsky.

Sunny Brownrout in memory of father-in-law, Al Brownrout and mother-in-law, Lillian Brownrout.

Betty and Donald Cahall in memory of Jean Morris, Dorothy Cahall and Betty's mother, Freda Lee Burstyn.

Philip Chaikin in memory of Bruce Chaikin.

Diana and Lawrence Ehrlich in memory of Esther Ehrlich.

Eleanor and Bruce Feldman in memory of Phyllis Feldman, Julian Feldman, Devera Feldman, Lurie Feldman and Philip Feldman.

Laura Freedman in memory of Linda Politzer.

Elaine and Theodore Gast in memory of Elaine's mother, Hella Bussel.

Jane and Marvin Glusman in memory of Bernard Glusman.

Judye and Bob Goldblatt in memory of Sheila Lash.

Marilyn and Stuart Goldfarb in memory of Benjamin Goldfarb.

Maxine Goodheim in memory of Alvin Grossman, Leon Grossman and Garson Grossman.

Carole and Fred Gorin in memory of Carole's mother, Gertrude Plotkin.

Barbara and Jim Honeycutt in memory of Bernice and Robert Volk.

Rabbi Geoff and Sue Kittner Huntting in memory of William Huntting.

Sammy Hyde in memory of Sheila Finkelstein Mallow.

Irene Hyman in memory of her husband, Alvin Hyman.

Marilyn Katz in memory of her beloved father, David Gottlieb.

Myrna and Herbert Lauber in memory of Adele Lauber.

Lois and Brian Levinsohn in memory of Esther Kirschman.

# CONDOLENCES AND YAHREZEITS

## (CONTINUED)

Itzel Lieberman in memory of David A. Lieberman.

Deborah and Richard Levine in memory of Richard's father, Bernard Levine.

Betty and Stanley Liner in memory of Mina Goodman.

Dobbie Linick in memory of Victor Roskin.

Delores Lustig in memory of Esther Goldberg and Scott M. Lustig.

Shelley and Gregory Markus in memory of their grandparents, Abraham and Rose Rice.

Peggy and Bob Miller in memory of Edwin B. Miller.

Sheila Namiot and Marvin Rosen in memory of Sheila Lash.

Gail Perer in memory of her father, Harold Bahm.

Gloria Peretz in memory of her mother, Ruth Fliegelman.

Judith and Howard Polivy in memory of Judy's father, Lester Grubman and Howard's mother, Anita Polivy.

Harriet and Marc Rosen in memory of Sarah Elizabeth Zimmerman.

Ellen and Sidney Rothschild in memory of Dorothy Brotz.

Barbara and Jonathan Ryder in memory of Bertha Gershon.

Barbara and Joseph Sander in memory of Sarah Sander.

Francine and Paul Schatz in memory of Samuel Schatz.

Patricia and Allan Schreiber in memory of Charles Schreiber and Flora Biggard.

Inna and Gerald Sideman in memory of Emily Sideman and Samuel Fox.

Paula Spitalny in memory of Hyman Schirtzer and Sheila Lash.

Kathy and Richard Stern in memory of June Stern.

Sherry and Jerry Thomas in memory of Sherry's mom, Naomi Ozrowitz.

Karen and Daryl Worobow in memory of Saul Finkel, Jack Finkel, Thelma Finkel and Stella Rulnick.

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

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