TABLET

DECEMBER 2021 A publication of Temple Sinai, Sarasota

Enter the Photo Contest

Our new Tablet is filled with photos. Maybe yours can be the next cover.

A word from Chazzan Abramson

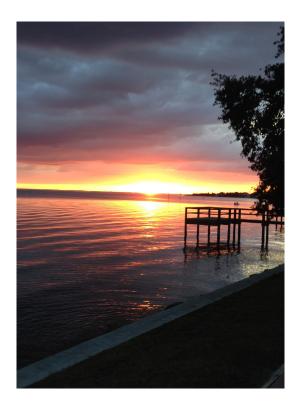
What have we learned through these many months of online and hybrid worship?

What can a dinosaur teach us?

Ellyn Bender reflects on a peculiar yet precious gift that has guided her through the years.



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Photo Contest

Let's put your picture right up front. Temple Sinai has launched a photo contest and the winner gets their photo on the cover of the Tablet.

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A word from your Clergy

Chazzan Abramson discusses the surprising upside of all those Zoom services.

The Tablet is published for the sole purpose of disseminating information about the happenings and events at Temple Sinai.
Les Gilbert, Editor
Mickie Kaye, Editor Emeritus
Gail Glickman, Consultant
Proofreaders: Gail Glickman, Phyllis Lasky and Eve Pokornicky

Tablet deadline for submission of content for the January issue: December 1. Send to tablet@templesinai-sarasota.org.



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Ellyn's Dinosaur

A whimsical figure offers some valuable lessons.

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Tablet:

Les Gilbert Press 5 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 you would like read or changed

Rabbi Samantha Kahn rabbikahn@sinaisrq.org

Chazzan Cliff Abramson cliff@templesinai-sarasota.org

The Tablet Photo Contest

his is a call for your photos! Now that the new Tablet is up and running we want to feature your photos on the cover. Temple Sinai is located in a beautiful area blessed with waterways, abundant sunshine, great architecture, and lots of happy people. And our temple, along with all that it houses, is something of which we are proud. So we would like to get as many photos of all this beauty as we can and incorporate them into each issue of the Tablet.

We are interested in seeing what you love about Temple Sinai and the Sarasota area. So get your (cellphone) cameras ready and take some shots as you go about your day. Then email them to tablet@templesinai-sarasota.org. Each month the communications team will review all submissions and vote for their favorite photo. The winner gets their photo on the cover of the Tablet. Thank you in advance for sending some great shots.

Les Gilbert Editor





Temple Sinai Stained Glass Detail. Photo by Ellyn Bender

FROM YOUR CLERGY

What we've learned

ow that Thanksgiving and Chanukah are over, it is customary for people to start making resolutions about the year ahead. While this can be an interesting and sometimes helpful endeavor, I thought that looking back at the past year would be a better exercise. I know some will think that I am something of a masochist, yet I believe there is something to be learned by doing this.

As we entered this second, incredibly difficult year of COVID, we hoped it would never happen again. Yet 2021 affirms a tenant of Judaism that Dr. Rabbi Michael Marmer taught me when I was living in Jerusalem during the second Intifada when the amount of violence and death was at its height. He shared with me that the Jewish response to fear is hope. We learned many things from that hope. Some of what we learned was about ourselves and some were about how to cope with adversity

Many people now see the word Zoom as a four letter word of the worst kind, yet it was a way for us to stay connected even though we could not be physically together. What we learned is that classes, services, talk shows and meetings could all be held through this technology. Sure, this distance is a second best to being in person as many of us are doing now. However, many of our members found that this way of being part of our congregation was a more convenient and necessary way of staying connected to the synagogue.

The homebound and those who were dependent on rides to the building were still able to come to services. In fact, our Saturday Morning services are still so highly attended through Zoom, that we have arranged to have those services be carried by Zoom in addition to being done in person.

At this year's High Holidays when the traditional break the fast was not possible, the idea of boxed take home meals came to life and was very successful. Life cycle events from weddings to funerals could be done by long distance. And, the use of live streaming on YouTube, which was planned before the pandemic, served a dual purpose of broadcasting services and life cycle events to family members who could not travel as well as those who could not come to the building because of Covid.

Despite all this, I believe that the most important lesson that we learned is that, just like our ancestors before us, we are survivors. And now that COVID related issues appear to be getting safer after almost two years, that reconnecting in person post-Covid, has made our relationships stronger. Of course, it is our hope that we never have to go through this again. Yet I hope we know now more than ever that we could and did survive it and carry on our traditions and way of life from generation to generation.

L'shalom, Chazzan Clifford Abramson



FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

My Dinosaur

t was 1986. My boss, a senior VP, called me into her office and handed me a dinosaur. New to the company and to this brilliant and eccentric woman, I had no real understanding of what she was trying to tell me. But I knew that I had better take this little creature to heart – that one day I would truly "get" the importance of this gift.

I have taken that small and pliable dinosaur with me on every move I have made and today, in 2021, it continues to remind me that change is inevitable, if we are to survive. The world will change, and we need to adapt or, like the dinosaur, we will become extinct. Change is an essential element of life.

"Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future." —John F. Kennedy

But it is not easy to change. We seem to be hardwired to resist change, perhaps a survival instinct itself. Habit reduces stress and increases a feeling of comfort and familiarity, difficult to overcome.

As we light the Chanukah candles and remind ourselves of the miracle of hope that sustained our ancestors, and as we begin our goodbyes to 2021 and welcome in 2022, our world has changed and is changing, both physically and emotionally, by the impact of climate shifts and the COVID pandemic. We are

approaching the 2-year mark of living with the fallout of both these enormously impactful situations. We wonder about the meaning of "returning to

normal." It appears that we are in the midst of redefining normal. A change that was unexpected. And that applies to almost every sphere of our lives – including Temple Sinai.

So, as we approach and welcome another new year, we at Temple Sinai are working hard to adapt to a changing environment, both for our congregants and our staff. We are working to respond to changing needs with flexibility. We are doing our best, although admittedly sometimes not quite achieving the best, to continue being relevant to each of you. As Tori Amos said: "You've gotta know when it's time to turn the page."

Thank you for your support and your continuing dedication to Temple Sinai as we forge ahead to greet, meet, and adapt to the challenges of 2022. I wish each of you a Happy Chanukah and a healthy and peaceful new year!

L'shalom,

Ellyn

Ellyn Bender President



T

SINAI MEN'S CLUB

re would like to welcome our newest Temple Sinai/SMC member – Joel Wittenberg. We are happy to have you join us! With our new sponsorship program in place, we are looking for SMC members who would like to volunteer to be a sponsor. If interested in this program, please contact Marc Rosen at harmar67@aol.com.

November was a very busy month for Temple Sinai Men's Club. Besides our monthly Book Club, Film Forum and Schmoozes, we also had the following programs.

November 11: SMC hosted a Lunch & Learn. We learned about the Sarasota Jewish Theater with its Artistic Director, Temple Sinai's very own, Carole Kleinberg! The Program was very informative and we want to thank Carole Kleinberg for making this wonderful presentation and past SMC President Malcolm Roberts for coordinating the event.

November 12: was our Annual Veterans Shabbat Service. Thanks to Rabbi Huntting for speaking to the congregation and to all the Veterans who participated in this wonderful program. A special thank you to SMC Board Member Zvi Rogovin for coordinating the program.

November 13: Trivia Night has been postponed until further notice.

November 14: the SMC sponsored their first Annual Blood Drive in support of Adam Swerdlow. We had 24 pints of blood donated. Besides the Donors, I would like to thank all the volunteers who came out

to support this very worthy cause. We will be holding this event annually. In



the meantime, we would appreciate that you continue to support Adam Swerdlow by donating blood as often as you can. By providing a participating blood center with "CODE 638": it will ensure that credit goes to Adam Swerdlow.

Sunday, November 21: The SMC participated in the Temple Sinai Mitzvah Day "Everything but the Turkey." The SMC prepared mashed potatoes for 100 servings to be donated to Second Chance Last Opportunity. Thanks to all the SMC volunteers who supported this event.

December 1-10: We are helping to support the Jewish Family and Children Services annual holiday collection for families and seniors. We are collecting toys, learning toys, board games, books and Target or Walmart gift cards. If you would like to donate, please bring your items to Temple Sinai any time during business hours or before Shabbat Services. If you have any questions, please contact Malcolm Roberts 941-893-5447 or migdalor2@gmail.com.

Sunday, December 12: Mike Pollack will be hosting the Zoom Film Forum. The title of the film is *Marshall*. Please RSVP to Mike Pollack at mpollack738@gmail.com, no later than Thursday, December 9, to join in the discussion.

Thursday, December 16: Allan Schreiber will be back hosting the Zoom Book Club. The title of the book is "The Tender Bar" by J.R. Moehringer. Please RSVP to Allan Schreiber at allanschreiber@comcast.net, no later than Monday, December 13, to join in the discussion.

Sunday, December 19: Come Join us for Breakfast. Our Guest Speaker will be Armando J. Ubeda, who is a Florida Sea Grant Extension Agent of UF/IFAS extension Sarasota County. The topic of his discussion will be Sarasota Bay- A Look at the Past, the Present and Future of our Estuary. The Cost will be \$12.00 per person. Please RSVP to Michael Gruenberg at michael.gruenberg@verizon.net, no later than December 13.

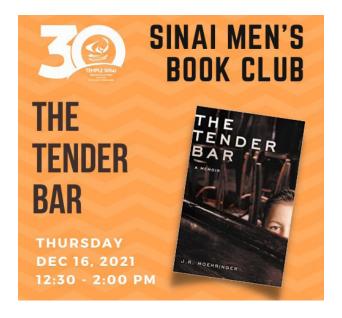
Tuesday, December 21: Mark your calendars for our next Schmooze Event at 11:30 AM. We will be having Lunch at the Parrott located at 7530 52nd Place E., Bradenton, Fl 34203. Please RSVP to Richard Brown at 67oldsmobile@gmail. com no later than December 16, if you wish to attend.

On March 1, 2022, the Temple Sinai Men's Club will be attending the Braves v. Astros Spring Training game at Cool Today Park in North Port. We have secured a special seating section with lunch for our group. There is room for 40 people so if you want be added to the list, please contact Mike Gruenberg at Gruenbergconsulting@gmail.com.

For information on joining the Men's Club, please contact David Stein, Membership Chair at 240-672-4771 or steintravel@verizon.net.

We wish you all a Happy Hanukkah and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Chester "Pearl" Perlinski – Co President Howard Polivy – Co President





SINAI MEN'S CLUB HAS HAD ITS FIRST LUNCH AND LEARN PROGRAM

The Sinai Men's Club has had its first Lunch and Learn program this • year. The event that was held on Zoom featured Carole Kleinberg, Artistic Director of the Sarasota Jewish Theater (SIT). Carole began by giving a brief introduction about how she developed a love of theatre growing up in Chicago. She then spoke of her extensive professional involvement with theatre leading up to the renewal of the Sarasota Jewish Theater, that had been dormant for about twenty years. The SJT will be presenting three plays this season centering on Jewish values and Jewish experiences. The SIT should appeal to a wide audience; noting that you do not have to be Jewish to appreciate the plays that they will be presenting this year.

The plays will be presented this season in the interim Players' Theatre performance space in the Crossings at Siesta Key Mall at Tamiami Trail and Siesta Drive. *Rose*, starring Carolyn Michel, begins February 2, *The Interview* starring Geraldine Librandi and Katherine Michelle Tanner, is a Florida west coast premier. It begins on March 2. *Tuesdays With Morrie* starring Don Walker and Derek Brookens, opens April 7. Each of the plays will be shown for 5 performances. CDC Covid-19 guidelines will be followed, and social distanced seating is possible, depending on availability.

Carole is excited by their selection of plays and the actors who will present them. The cast members are all theatre professionals, some of whom have been seen on Broadway, at the Asolo Rep, FST, and across the country. The SJT is now an official project of the Sarasota-Manatee Jewish Federation. Ticket prices range from \$18 to \$36 and will be available shortly on the Federation website at Jfedsrq.org/SJT. For detailed information contact Carole at info@sarasotajewishtheater.org.

The Lunch and Learn program has three more programs scheduled for the remainder of the year. We are hopeful that we will be able to move back into the temple for our scheduled January 13 program.



Carole Kleinberg

WOMEN OF SINAI

appy Hanukkah, Hannukah, Chanukah. Whatever way you spell it, I hope the Festival of Lights brings you joy. December brings cooler days and (with fingers crossed) the continued opening of Temple Sinai.

After some Smartboard training from Andrea, WOS had their first hybrid board meeting and presentation from Embrace Our Differences. On November 4th, we were thrilled to have Sarah Wertheimer, the executive director of Embracing Our Differences. We used the hybrid model. There were 22 people listening in the sanctuary and 13 people zooming in!

What's in store for WOS in the next month?

Will we return to luncheons and then a speaker? Stay tuned as we navigate the pandemic.

Kathryn Chelsey Presents Bertha Palmer

Kathryn Chesley will be the performer for the *Bertha Palmer* presentation on December 2nd. Bertha's life took her from the shores of Chicago to Washington, D.C., a castle in England and then to the state of Florida. She has a tale to tell about her exploits and her challenges as she becomes one of the more influential women of her life and times.

Our book club was zoom only in November. At this moment, we will follow the lead of the SMC. The December book is *Caste: The Origins of our Discontent*. Phyllis Lasky will facilitate the discussion on December 16.



Don't miss out on Dessert and a Movie on December 5. Go to the temple link to register. We will light candles for the last night of Hanukkah, nosh on some sweets, watch a wonderful movie *The Song of Names*. This is a sweeping historical drama about a man searching for his childhood best friend, a violin prodigy, orphaned in the Holocaust, who vanished decades before on the night of his first public performance (I've been warned: bring Kleenex!) and a discussion led by Carole Kleinberg. Doors open at 5:15. The movie begins at 6:00.

For our mitzvah collection in December, we are collecting gift cards for Hope Family Service. You can buy them yourselves or send a check to Judy Polivy and she will purchase them. In January we will be collecting diapers and wipes for Hope. Look for sales and stock up to help these needy families.

As we wind down 2021, let's continually look for new and creative ways to celebrate together.

Laurie Criden



WOMEN OF SINAI WELCOME SARAH WERTHEIMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF EMBRACING OUR DIFFERENCES

ith the aid of advanced technology and the technological skills of Laurie Criden, President, the Women of Sinai held its first hybrid meeting November 4 with a most informative presentation by Sarah Wertheimer, Executive Director of Embracing Our Differences. Women of Sinai members participated in person and on Zoom to hear about this most impressive local organization that provides year-round education to teachers, free field trips, workshops and lesson plans (using the guidelines of the Sarasota and Manatee County School Districts and the Florida State Standards.)

Suzanne Weinstein, VP Programming, introduced Sarah Wertheimer. Born and raised in Sarasota, Sarah is passionate about emphasizing concepts of diversity and inclusion in our community. She oversees the creation and implementation of all programming and fiscal planning as well as all aspects of Embracing Our Differences fundraising and community relations

campaigns. Sarah has served as Development Manager at the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee.

Embracing Our Differences uses visual arts and creative writing submissions that are selected to be presented in our community. Submissions are now online and have allowed access to many countries. Submissions have been received from 123 countries, 47 states and 423 schools. Virtual field trips kept the program active during the challenging times of Covid. The Women of Sinai viewed several outstanding pieces of art with creative writing associated with each one.

A lively discussion and question and answer period followed Sarah's talk. The Women of Sinai thanked Suzanne for coordinating the meeting and Sarah for speaking about Embracing Our Differences. Judy Intrator, VP Hospitality, distributed dessert treats after the meeting.

--By Gail Clickman



Sarah Wertheimer Speaks at WOS Meeting Sarah Wertheimer & Suzanne Weinstein





WOS Attend November 4 Meeting

WOMEN OF SINAI GIFT SHOP

Year, Temple Sinai! It's been a challenging year, but we are looking forward to a new year filled with great hope and optimism. We have been seeing more people come into the shop on Friday nights. We welcome you with open arms and love it when you come in, say hello and look around the store.

The Women of Sinai Gift Shop is the perfect place for all your Judaica needs. We carry menorahs for Chanukah, honey dishes for Rosh Hashanah, candlesticks and kiddush cups for Shabbat, tallit and kippahs for prayer, and mezuzahs and hamsas for the home. In addition, we carry beautiful works of art, jewelry and pottery by Temple members, Robyn Aronovitch, Myron Bernstein, Judy

Feldman, Susan Ritzer, and Karen Witte. We even carry customized Temple Sinai COVID masks. And when in doubt about what to give, we have gift certificates.

Whatever the occasion may be, the Women of Sinai Gift Shop is here to serve you. All proceeds benefit the Women of Sinai so that we can continue our outreach and tzedakah. Our shop is open every Friday before services or by appointment. Masks are required.

We thank you for your loyalty and support of the shop this past year. We wish you and your loved ones a Happy and Healthy New Year! We look forward to serving you in 2022.

Shanah Tovah!

On Sunday, November 14, the WOS Gift Shop was open to all religious school students to do their Chanukah shopping. With many generous donations from members of WOS of jewelry, scarves, tchotchkes, and trinkets, the shop took in \$700! The kids had a great time shopping and were able to find some great presents for their families. Barbara Bryden and Gillian Perlinski, Co-VP's of the Gift Shop, were ably assisted by volunteers Lois Levinsohn and Varsha Stein. It was a real team effort on everyone's part and a huge success. Thank you to all who were involved!









CHAVUROT

TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF CHAVUROT PROGRAM

ur tributes to celebrate the tenth anniversary of Temple Sinai's Chavurot Program continue. Todah rabah, again to Sara and Mike Benesch, who launched the idea. Beth Stone and I are co-chairs and are in the process of forming new Chavurah groups. Welcome "Chavuah J Crew" the most recent addition. Bethany Leinweber and Jamie Heisler are the coordinators.

Once a Chavurah is formed, the group will choose one or two coordinators who will be the contacts for the group. Decisions for the group are made by a majority vote. The group will choose a name. Three vital ingredients for the group to succeed: [1] Each member agrees to host or plan an event in rotation: [2] Each member attends events regularly: [3] Each member agrees to be flexible and have reasonable expectations.

Let's continue with our tributes.

Phyllis and Fred Lasky of Chavurah Du Soleil:

The Chavurah afforded an opportunity to meet people we might not have met, even though some were Red Sox fans. Had some fun outings before COVID including the Newtown Tour, miniature golf, and Solomon's Castle (the founder turned out to be a good friend's cousin). Also, had a wonderful seder together. During COVID, we shared interesting zoom meetings on a variety of topics that sparked conversation and brought us closer together.

Lauren and Jeff Pearl of Chavurah Du Soleil:

The idea of the Chavurot program was to bring a small sub-group of our temple family together to share communal, life cycle and learning events. Over the years that our group has been together, we have shared meals, holiday celebrations, film viewing, interesting discussion topics via Zoom, field trips and have gotten to know each other on more than a superficial level. Under the leadership of the Roberts' and Ellins', we have kept our group engaged. We are pleased to be members of this group.

Harriet and Edward Safran of Chavurah Du Soleil:

Our initial reason for joining a chavurah was to meet congregants who were eager to socialize and celebrate our Jewish identity. Now we have been meeting for seven years and have shared many stories and experiences, all of which have bonded us as a congregational subset of Temple Sinai. We are glad that we have come to know each family and feel blessed by our time together.

Clara and Larry Kahn of Chavurah Du Soleil:

We're relative newbies to our chavurah (2 or 3 years) and all of you have become our synagogue family. Sharing our individual stories via zoom and in person has been a very meaningful experience for us and we look forward to getting to know you all better and better.

Ruth and Howard Taylor of Chavurah Du Soleil:

Shortly after we arrived in Sarasota three years ago as brand new members of Temple Sinai, Elana placed us in this wonderful and amazing Chavurah. We bonded at first sight. We discussed our stories and our common experiences. The Chavurah continues to provide a connection to each other and to Judaism. Celebrating holidays together has brought a sense of family to our group and made our retirement here in Sarasota more meaningful.

Doris and Ron Benice of Chavurah Tovah:

Some of us were fortunate enough to have a consistent leader, Judy Feldman and are often able to join with our sister Chavarah Pardes, headed by Judy Rogovin and Joanne Trachtenberg to enjoy various events.

Ken Kaufman of Chavurah Tovah:

I have thoroughly enjoyed my participation in Chavurah Tovah. The members of the Chavurah have shown great consideration and have made sure to include this widower in all activities. They are my friends.

Janet A. Gross of Chavurah Tovah:

Our Chavurah has been successful because we have a congenial group of members. We have had some great times over the years. But a big THANK YOU goes to Judy Feldman!! She has been a wonderful leader and helped make our group work well together.

Elyse and Marvin Diamond of Chavurah Tovah:

Have enjoyed our Chavurah experience both in getting to know people in a more personal way and by doing interesting explorations together. Hopefully as the COVID climate improves we can get back to a more active interaction.

Wow, the tributes are overwhelming! Ready to join a Chavurah? Please complete a Chavurah Inquiry Form found on the Temple Sinai website under "Adult Communities". Beth Stone and I will work with you. We can be reached at templesinaihavurah@gmail.com.

HAPPY TENTH ANNIVERSARY to TEMPLE SINAI'S CHAVURAH PROGRAM

Submitted by Bonnie Sussman

- Chavurah Chair

Purpose of the Chavurot



The purpose of the Temple Sinai Chavurot program is to be a social group that celebrates a Jewish lifestyle in Sarasota and provides a warm and comfortable environment for Temple Sinai members to meet new friends. We are always in the process of forming and reorganizing our individual Chavurot to meet the needs of our members.

If you are interested in joining, or know of members interested in joining a Chavurah, please have them email us at

Templesinaichavurah@gmail.com.



LIFE AND LEGACYTM

he goal of the Life and Legacy
Endowment Team is to build an
endowment fund large enough
to make a meaningful contribution to
Temple Sinai's annual budget to ensure the
Temple's future financial well-being.

This season is a time of great miracles, celebrating the courage that forever shaped the Jewish future. The Maccabees, the heroes of the Hanukkah story, were Jews of faith. But they were impatient believers — trusting deeply in God, but refusing to wait for God to act. Because of their righteous impatience, the Maccabees became partners with God in transforming the world, and their courage and determination teach us that God does not act alone. As the great rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel once wrote, "Pray as if everything depends on God, but act as if everything depends on you." *

In this season of miracles, our Tablet article shares Fredda and Alan Chalfin's Legacy story. The Chalfins have been members of Temple Sinai since they moved to Lakewood Ranch in 2017. Alan and Fredda are Co-Chairs on this year's Annual Appeal Campaign. Alan is also President Elect and has been a member of the Temple Board since 2019. Fredda is Co-Chair of the Sinai Caring Committee. Alan is a member of the Sinai Men's Club, and Fredda is a member of Women of Sinai. The Chalfins regularly attend Shabbat Services, often volunteering

to be greeters and ushers, and volunteer at the Sinai Food Festival. The Chalfins are donors to the Life and Legacy Endowment because as Alan so beautifully said: "when Fredda and I first came

to Temple Sinai and started attending Shabbat services, we were taken aback by everyone's friendliness and the sense of inclusion. We knew that this is where we belonged and we want to ensure the next generation is able to find that same sense of belonging and inclusion".

Please join Fredda and Alan Chalfin and, know that you too can be remembered forever at Temple Sinai with a gift in your will, trust, retirement account, or your life insurance policy. The future is in our hands.

For the Life and Legacy Team

Janine Cohen (jlc@dmcohen.com) Chair



*From Washington Post article "Hanukkah Reminds us that Even Miracles Require Action" by Rabbi Aaron Miller December 20, 2011

BOARD BRIEFS

he Board received an update on the URJ Benchmark. At the time of the October Board Meeting, the response rate was above average, with the survey open for another week. The Board also heard an update on the Annual Appeal, which was on pace to meet its goals, thanks to generous contributions from our congregants.

The Board discussed the planning for Hands on Hanukkah, an exciting outreach event that will be held at UTC Mall each night of Hanukkah. Different volunteer needs were discussed, as well as the different performances, raffles, crafts and mitzah projects that will occur each night.

Marketing and Development staff were also discussed, both at the October Board meeting as well as a subsequent Board Session. The Board agreed to move forward with a new plan to staff both marketing and development that will allow us to approach those areas with more flexibility in the future. The potential need for a third custodian was also discussed.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Weiner, Board Secretary

Membership Matters

The work of Temple Sinai's Membership Committee is crucial to the creation of a meaningful temple community. While every member is, by nature, involved in membership, the committee is the primary group that focuses on attracting, recruiting, welcoming, integrating, engaging and retaining members to help them find a lifelong place for themselves within our temple family.

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

SINAI-VERSARY CELEBRATIONS

On December 3, we will celebrate those members who have been members from 21-30 years.

On December 31 we will end our year-long celebration with a special Sinai Swingin' Shabbat Service. Black tie optional with a special oneg after services.

Elana Margolis, VP Membership



PROGRAM

n Saturday, November 6, over 60 temple members of all ages gathered for a deeply meaningful, intergenerational Shabbat experience. Beginning with the Shabbat morning service, traditional and NFTY style variations on liturgy and melody were led by teens and adults, including the morning Torah service, d'var Torah and d'var havtorah. Following the service, Chavurah Netanya presented and served the kiddush luncheon which they generously sponsored in partnership with the SAFETY youth group. Finally, paired adult and teen table-captain duos guided discussions at their respective tables about the meaning of justice, both in the United States and in Judaism. Event committee chairs, Ted Gast, Lucy Thomas and Phoebe Winters perfectly executed their vision for a program bringing youth and adults together to spend Shabbat in discussion, sharing perspectives and ideas together, and the resulting afternoon left participants wanting more. Teen participant, Alix Leinweber said of the event: "this was one of the best times I have had at Temple Sinai," and from table captain Reb Ari Shapiro, "Today's service and discussion groups were a perfect example of how to celebrate Shabbat."

Up Next

On Friday, December 3, temple members are invited to gather to celebrate Chanukah

and our final Sinai-versary
Shabbat eve service. Following
the service there will be
a congregational dinner
in the atrium with all the
traditional favorites. Bring your
chanukkiah and we will all light
up the night together, indulge

in a friendly trivia competition and most of all, celebrate spending time together with our temple family.

Finally, looking ahead to January, don't pass up the opportunity to look back... at your family tree! Temple member and Jewish Genealogical Society of SW Florida board member, Doug Cohen, has put together a Jewish Genealogy series complete with professional speakers, websites and tools to help participants trace their family history. This 6-part series is just \$36/PP for temple members, but unlocking the secrets of your ancestry is priceless. Click here for more information and registration.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me any time with your questions, ideas and feedback.

Andrea Eiffert, Program Director









ANNUAL APPEAL 2021-2022

ore than charity, more than philanthropy, tzedakah defines how we as individuals and as a community respond to worthy efforts, provide for those in need, and support enduring institutions. For 30 years, Temple Sinai has depended on your tzedakah to maintain wonderful programs, to sustain our community and to promote acts of loving kindness.

You already support our synagogue, and on behalf of our Board and Clergy, we thank you for all you've given. But this season, with its nightly kindling of the menorah, is an opportunity to light a brighter candle for Temple Sinai. How can you help? Make a new – or additional – gift to our Annual Appeal. Our annual fundraising campaign is in its final stages, and depends on the support of all members to achieve our goal of ensuring that the best is yet to come.

Please, as you light your Chanukah candles during our holiday of gift-giving, add an additional light in the form of a year-end gift, that will allow our congregational flame to grow ever brighter.

Temple Sinai is the center of our Jewish life, the core repository of our values. It is here we teach our young, recite the Shema, and house our sacred Torahs. It is here we pursue that most Jewish of missions, Tikkun Olam ~ healing and repairing the world. It is here we must remain strong.

Thank you for your consideration, confidence, and continued support.

Alan & Fredda Chalfin Mark & Laurie Criden







The Best is Yet to Come!

RITUAL

or modern Jews, contemporary analogies can often deepen our appreciation of traditional rituals. On the miracle of lights, one quote I found said:



Imagine if your cell phone battery was on 10 percent and it lasted for eight days. Now you understand Hanukkah."

It may not be too profound, but it gets us thinking in the right direction.

Hanukkah speaks to Jews about miracles, and for me its candles are especially symbolic of hope. As the final days of Hanukkah extend into the month of Tevet, we can contemplate the miracle of our very existence. On the 10th day of the 10th month (Tevet), many traditional Jews fast. It is a way of remembering the siege of Jerusalem by the Babylonians as the beginning of events that led to the destruction of the first Temple. What positive element lies within this negative experience? Jews are empowered with the realization that even while under siege, we are one and can prevail.

We have all struggled recently through a very contemporary siege, the siege of Covid. This has brought us together virtually through such technological miracles as Zoom and Livestream. And now many in-person events have started to take place in our beautiful Temple, including the Bat Mitzvah of Liza Collier and our Swingin' Shabbat New Year's Eve celebration.

As I say goodbye to 2021, I look forward to embracing 2022 with an abundance of hope and an appreciation for the miracle of seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

Barbara Pollack, VP of Ritual	
	T

OUR TABS FOR SOULS CAMPAIGN: THE BACKSTORY

s with all great ideas, it started with a moment of inspiration. Ten years ago, Reb Ari Shapiro's 7th grade Holocaust class watched the documentary "Paperclips" which tells the story of a social studies class in rural Tennessee that decided to collect 6 million paperclips as part of their eye-opening unit on the Holocaust. Discussing the film afterwards, our Temple Sinai students reached a compelling realization: If students in Whitwell, Tennessee could do this, why couldn't we?

Thus began Temple Sinai's Tabs for Souls campaign. Substituting aluminum can tabs for paperclips, the 7th graders decided to collect 6,000,000 aluminum can tabs, each representing a Jewish life lost during the Holocaust. Reb Ari's own family's tragic experiences helped make this personal. Beyond the classroom, the project grew to reach the entire Religious School, then the temple community and now so many others.

Counting the tabs (all sizes and colors, from drink, soup, pineapple, and pet food cans) has involved both students and adults over the years and it has become a pet project for many. During one counting session, we stopped for a poem and moment of silence when we reached 1.5 million tabs, corresponding to the estimated number of children killed by the Nazis. Conversations between students reveal their understanding of what they're doing. One asked another if two tabs linked together should be counted as one. They decided that two people might have been embracing when they were killed. Another time, a student wondered if a broken tab

should be counted. The consensus was yes, since surely some who died had physical disabilities.

Tabs have been donated from around the community - from restaurants, stores, organizations, schools, congregants and many friends of congregants. Recently we received one million tabs purchased from eBay thanks to the generosity of several donors. All the tabs are stored in Room 10, if you'd like to visit. Currently, discussions are underway regarding an outdoor Holocaust memorial that would feature all six million tabs.

Please join the cause. As of this writing we have 3, 187,772 tabs...and counting.

Questions? Contact Sue Huntting, shuntting@aol.com.

3,187,772
Tabs for Souls
and counting...



WE'RE OVER HALF WAY THERE!
Thanks to the generosity of several supporters,
we recently received 1 million tabs
that were purchased for us.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR DONATIONS COMING!

BLOOD DONOR HONOR ROLL

Blood Drive Date: Sunday, November 14, 2021

Organization: Temple Sinai



n behalf of the many patients who will benefit from the blood donations made by members of this organization; the Blood Bank would like to thank Temple Sinai for giving the gift of life:

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JUDITH GOLDBLATT PAUL BLANKMAN

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MARK CRIDEN ROBERT HODES

VERNON CARRE GRYFFIN WILKENS-PLUMLEY

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HARVEY SUSSMAN

In all we registered 25 donors to give, and we collected 23 units of blood products. Every single donation can help to save up to 3 lives. That means that your blood drive saved up to 69 lives!

We appreciate all you do and in helping to save lives in our community!



TEMPLE SINAI MITZVAH DAY HELPS FAMILIES CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING

This year Temple Sinai's Mitzvah Day November 21 was a special Thanksgiving program called Everything But The Turkey, an opportunity for temple members of all ages to come together in service of others. Teams of volunteers prepared all the sides, mashed potatoes, yellow rice, stuffing, roasted carrots, green beans, cranberry relish, corn bread and two kinds of desserts, literally everything but the turkey, for a Thanksgiving feast enough to feed one hundred. Temple Sinai members contributed the funds to purchase all the ingredients for the food and necessary supplies, as well as diapers, canned meat and juice to be donated to Second Chance-Last Opportunity.

Second Chance-Last Opportunity is an organization that strives to empower individuals in crisis by providing them with essential skills and tools so they can manage their lives more productively. Second Chance-Last Opportunity believes that holidays are sometimes the hardest time of year for families in need. They help make sure the holidays are a time of celebration not pain. Everything But The Turkey was designed to meet the goals of

providing help to families for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Andrea Eiffert, Temple Sinai Program Director, presented the prepared food to April Glasco, Founder and CEO of Second Chance Last Opportunity, and helped dish out over 100 meals which were very much appreciated by all the recipients! She declared that spending the two hours distributing the food was for her "the most meaningful part of the day." Participants in the food preparation, Temple Sinai Congregants Varsha and David Stein, stated, "The Mitzvah Day this year was the best we've been a part of in years! It was very well organized, a great cause, well done and completed in a very timely fashion."

At a time when so many have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and find themselves food insecure, Temple Sinai has kept with the tenets of Judaism (called Tikkun Olam – to repair the world — in Hebrew) to make this year's Thanksgiving special for over 100 families. This is the true meaning of Temple Sinai's Mitzvah Day.

--By Gail Glickman







THE GAN

Calendar of Events

December 1

Gulf Gate Library Hanukkah Celebration at 5:30pm

December 11

Shabbat BaChootz (Outside) at 10am on The Gan Playground



Laura Freedman, Director of Early Childhood Education

December 22

NO SCHOOL - Parent/Teacher Conferences

December 23 - January 7 Winter Break

Ongoing Event: Temple Tots Mondays at 9:30am with Geveret Laura For 8-18 month olds and their caregivers



Art Project



Inbal and Yanai August

Shabbat BaChootz



June Weiner



Laila Golen, Shayla Fischer, Kate and Andi Brown

Trike-a-thon



Ben Silverstein, Oscar Swerdlow, and Geveret Giselle



Parparim Class and the total raised for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital



Devorim Class



Charlie Greber



Mitzvah Notes from home!

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Temple Sinai Youth Education Programming



Bethany Leinweber, Director of Youth Education, Outreach and Engagement

Calendar of Important dates for December:

December 1-5	Hands on Hanukkah at UTC Mall 4pm - 7pm - Come join the fun!
December 8-9	Midweek Hebrew
December 10	Shabbat Nachas - Grade 4 & 5 participate in the service - Pizza Party following for those families
December 12	Sunday School 10am-12:30pm Moving Traditions Rosh Hodesh/Shevet 12:30-2:30, lunch included
December 19	Sunday School 10am - 12:30pm Confirmation for Grade 10 10:30am - 12:30pm, breakfast included
December 31	Sinai's Rockin Shabbat Eve - 6pm - Bring in the New Year with your Sinai family - go out after!



Liza Collier (and Mazel Tov on becoming a Bat Mitzvah)

Athalia Graber Micah Lifrak Eva Portnow- Rivas

Mila Weinberg Jon Willner Sam Wilner

Geveret Randi's Class doing Alef Bet Yoga









YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

IMPRESSION OF INTERGENERATIONAL SHABBAT

t is not often enough that young people and experienced people are able or encouraged to interact in open dialogue. In the modern day, it is too often the case that generational divides can cause an inherent distrust between the groups before a conversation can even begin. This is a shame; there is so



Joshua Leinweber, Youth Group Advisor

much for each group to gain from conversing with the other in an honest, sincere forum. That is what I learned from the Intergenerational Shabbat program, and I am so grateful to have been there as a table co-leader to facilitate a discussion with so many beautiful minds.

The main takeaway of the discussion that we had was this: the problems of today, especially of justice, are not so different from the problems of 50 years ago or even 3,000 years ago. We were able to find parallels in hardship in our Tradition's ancient texts, in the early lives of my companions, and in my own still-early life. As a young person who is very uncertain about the future, this realization and conversation with people who had struggled for justice for so long gave me a sense of stability and optimism in purpose.

I am beyond elated by rumours of a second Intergenerational Shabbat program. Rest assured that I will be signing up immediately, and I encourage anyone reading this to consider attending when the time comes as well.

> --By Griffin Wilkens-Plumley, SAFETY Historian









HANDS ON HANUKKAH CONTINUES

ands on Hanukkah got off to a great start Sunday, November 28. So many people stopped by the Hands on Hanukkah village and enjoyed the festivities. It was a beautiful beginning to this intergenerational community celebration. It all began with tons of dreidel games going on - led by our Madrichim and teachers. Face and hand painting going on all day! Photos with Hannah Hanukkiah, Judah Maccabee, and Daveed Dreidel was a hot spot! Temple volunteers handed out edible dreidels. The kids enjoyed a special storytime as Laura Freedman read *Sadie's Almost Marvelous Menorah*. Temple Sinai's band Sinai Rocks played for the crowd. And the first night's candle was lit by Rabbi Kahn together with Chazzan Abramson. The event continues through Sunday, December 5.



Our Hanukkiah in front of Saks Fifth Avenue



Bethany Leinweber with Hanukkah characters



Joshua Mellits mans the JNF booth



Sinai Rocks brings the groove

SARASOTA FOOD FESTIVAL SUNDAY, JANUARY 30 10-3

ur planning is in full swing and we are preparing for another great day of fun and good food. We are hoping more parents bring their children to play in the bouncy house, have their face painted and listen to our religious school singing for us in the sanctuary.

We need lots of donations to our Art, Treasures and Books. I know we all were reading a lot during the last two years. Look in your drawers, cupboards, and storage boxes to help these rooms fill up. You will de-clutter your homes and make money for the temple.

Our bakers can start to plan on their favorite goodies to make this year. Florey Miller can tell you the top sellers from the past years. If you all would consider making one or two additions to your regular contribution, we can double our profits. The bakery

is our biggest moneymaker. The freezer in the kitchen is empty so, lots of room if you want to add to your Hanukkah baking and bring it in to store.

We will have three shifts this year so please volunteer when Patty Schreiber contacts you. Sign up with friends and add to your fun helping at one of the tables. We need your help on

Friday and Saturday setting up the Social Hall and Sunday for the big event.

Please contact me if you would like to join our committee.

Patty Glah CFFO pmglah@gmail.com



MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to our Temple Sinai Family:

Laurie Ginsburg Natalie Young

1615 S. Lake Shore Drive Sarasota, FL 34231

Laurie: lsfg3@aol.com

941-320-4543

Natalie: look4natz@aol.com

941-2340-6788

Sharon and Joel Wittenberg

332 Cocoanut Ave #401 Sarasota, FL 34236

Sharon: sgwittenberg@gmail.com

248-568-5145

Joel: jwittenberg1983@gmail.com

269-986-5510

Mazel Tov

Jan and Tony Joseph who spent Sukkot in Israel where they celebrated the birth and bris of their third great-grandchild.

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

Say hello to the Silversheins!



Lisa and Jeff Silvershein spent the last two years in Orlando, but Sarasota called their name. In Orlando, they belonged to a wonderful congregation called CRJ – Congregation of Reformed

Judaism. Clearly they had an amazing Rabbi there, because when asked where to join in Sarasota, he recommended Temple Sinai! We need such ambassadors all over the country!

Lisa and Jeff have twins, Emma and Sam. Both children are engaged to be married in 2022, within six months of each other! Both children and their fiancées live in New York City.

Both Lisa and Jeff have a strong interest in food and wine. They are connected to that world through a variety of organizations they belong to. They are also active in philanthropies and non-profits. Now that Covid is slowing, they hope to get back to travel as well.

Having joined Temple Sinai in September, they are already getting their feet wet. Jeff participates in the Men's Club schmoozes and Lisa has joined Women of Sinai. We are thrilled to have Lisa and Jeff as new members. Make sure to welcome them when you see them around the temple.

CELEBRATE

Please join us in wishing our fellow congregants a Happy Anniversary this month of December!

December 5

Janet and Anthony Joseph

December 9

Marty and Jonathan Katz

December 10

Lisa Naiburg and Daniel Kisch

December 11

Myrna and Herbert Lauber

December 14

Lori and Glenn Greenbaum Marlene and Calvin Miller

December 16 Iudy and Eric Fox

Mikki and Joel Pertofsky

December 18

Michala and Nicholas Chipurnoi

December 20

Laura and David Einstein

December 24

Harriet and Marc Rosen

December 29

Sylvia and Richard Bloom Antonia and James Wolfson

December 31

Barbara and Joseph Sander

Milestone Anniversaries DECEMBER!

December 1

Diane and Victor Block 30 years

December 2

Kate and Thomas Mitchell 15 years

December 17

Jamie and Mark Heisler 5 years

December 23

Mickie and Jerry Kaye 65 years

December 26

Judith and Leonard Swerdlow 45 years

December 30

Janet and Melville Moses 60 years

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

December 1 Isabella Lehrer Sharon Wittenberg

December 17 Kate Dumbaugh rg Joseph Ray

December 2 Russel Herz Billie Medoff December 19 Melaine Epstein

December 3 Myron Mendelson December 20 Kari Ellingstad Adam Swerdlow

December 5 Martha Magenheim December 21 Jason Collier Shelley Markus

December 7 S. F. Hyde Sandy Kravitz

December 22 Jamie Heisler Joel Pertofsky

December 8 Mary Jo Lichterman

December 23 Philip Chaikin Benjamin Handelman

December 9 Arie Bortinger Joel Wittenberg

December 24 Jonathan Ryder

December 10 Roberta Bachenheimer

enheimer Decemb

December 11 Bradley Weitzner December 26 Sara Benesch Bob Miller

December 12 Judith Kenley Racelle Weiman December 27 Geri Jo Manson Geraldine Drexler

December 13 Dawn Epstein Gary Kravitz Dena Wirt December 29 Amy Cassell Pierre Menard Richard Scissors

December 14 Howard Herman Harold Kornman Dori Spector December 30 Lorraine Asarch Louis B. Gross Greta Roberts

December 15 Barbara Mandel December 31 Randi Sofman

December 16 Richard Brown Nance Liebgott Jeffrey Pearl

BECAUSE WE CARE

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Bernice and Philip Gaines

Carla Guhin

Melissa Servetz

Roz Rosenthal

In Honor of:

The wedding of Monica and Mark, may their lives be filled with blessings: Bonnie and Harvey Sussman

Doris and Ron Benice's new home: Judith and Zvi Rogovin

In Appreciation of:

Laurie Lachowitzer, Happy New Year and thank you: Sue and Alan Loring

Mickie Kaye, for all you have done to keep our temple informed: Carole and Fred Gorin

In Memory of:

Jeanette Rothbarth, aunt of Gary Kravitz: Sandy and Gary Kravitz

Allan Klein, brother of Marty Gersman: Harriet and Don Gersman

Ella Wollheim, grandmother of Warren Wollheim: Sheila and Warren Wollheim

Ron Rosenthal: Sinai Men's Club

Leah Simon: Sheila and Warren Wollheim

Irving M. Herter MD: Sheila and Warren Wollheim

Ceaser J.Wollheim Sr.: Sheila and Warren Wollheim

Harold Gross: Carole and Fred Gorin

Ron Rosenthal: Michele Glazer and Norman Powers

Edward Glickman, father-in-law: Gail Glickman

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Appreciation of:

Rabbi Kahn's zoom Celebration of Life for Ron: Roz Rosenthal

Betty and Don Cahall for their awesome hospitality: Elana and Mark Margolis

Rabbi Kahn for the special healing prayer for Judy: Judy and Robert Handleman

In Memory of:

Arnold Perlmutter: Betty Perlmutter

Jeanette Panaia: Betty Perlmutter

Anna Neuslein: Karen Witte

CHAZZAN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Appreciation of:

Chazzan Abramson's zoom Celebration of

Life for Ron: Roz Rosenthal

RABBI GEOFF HUNTTING/LIFE AND LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND

Joan Gastman and Art Sugerman

In Memory of:

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Silverstein

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Kathryn and Richard Stern

GAN FUND

In Memory of:

Raymond Portundo: Joyce and Roger Fine

DIRECTOR OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DISCRETIONARY FUND

Kardon/Kittner/Huntting Foundation

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In Memory of:

Phil Handleman: Judy and Robert Handleman

URJ SUMMER PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In Memory of:

Daniel Schild: Heidi and Harris Schild

Marvin Scheer: Heidi and Harris Schild

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

In Appreciation of:

The excellent portrayal by Rabbi Kahn, Laura Freedman, and the two Gan moms, of the impact of the vandalism on the PBS anti-semitism program: Ellyn Bender and Pamela Paschall

Speedy Recovery of:

Eleanor Feldman: Elana and Mark Margolis

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Speedy Recovery of:

Jane Glusman: Ellyn Bender and Pamela

Paschall

SINAI MEN'S CLUB LANDSCAPING AND BEAUTIFICATION FUND

In Memory of:

Ron Rosenthal: Roz Rosenthal

Thank you to Mike and Cindy Nash, who have made a generous gift to enable us to continue streaming worship services through June, 2022. Mike and Cindy's gift has enabled us to further our mission and strengthen our community in a way that's unique to our time.

WE REMEMBER THEM

Cookie Bloom for Ron Rosenthal

Betty and Don Cahall for wonderful friend, Penny Buss

Emilie Coopersmith for husband, Jerry Coopersmith

Geradine and Leonard Drexler for Ann Okonowsky Brooks

Kelly and Scott Engel for Sharon Engel

Eleanor and Bruce Feldman for Morton Baker

Coleen and Marc Friedman for L. Anne Erdman

Maxine Goodheim for Rebecca Goodheim

Maxine Goodheim for Willard Goodheim

Barbara Bryden Gruenberg and Michael Gruenberg for Maria Norina Gorelick

Harriet Kaufman for Abraham Kaufman

Harriet Kaufman for Dr. Sumner Kaufman

Myrna and Herbert Lauber for Harry Mayersohn

Barbara Mandel for mother of Barbara Mandel, grandmother of Alyssa Mandel, Muriel Sachs Shelley and Gregory Markus, Michael Chucker for beloved mother and grandmother, Dori Davis

Claire McCarthy for Jack Borkowsky

Claire McCarthy for Ruth Borkowsky

Gillian and Chester Perlinski for brother of Gillian Perlinski, Jonathan D. Lash

Gillian and Chester Perlinski for beloved mother, Ruth Perlinski

Eve Pokorniky for aunt, Lilian Neviaser

Barbara and Jonathan Ryder for father of Barbara Ryder, Simon Gershon

Francine and Paul Schatz for beloved father and father-in-law, Robert Miller

Gail and Ronald Schimel for Ruth Springer

Mimi Seitman for hudband, Murray Seitman

Mimi Seitman for mother, Daisy Glauberman

Cynthia and Arthur Solomon for Hy Solomon

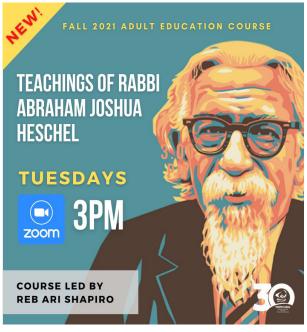


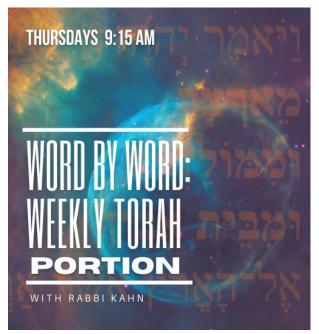


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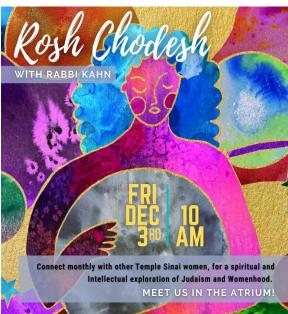
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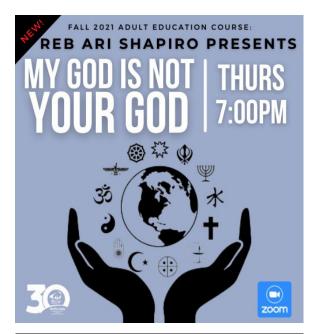
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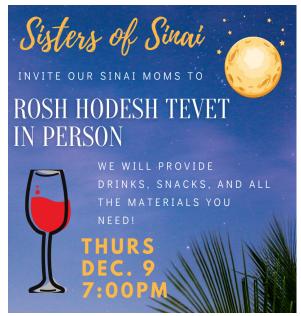














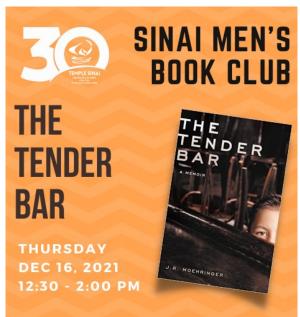


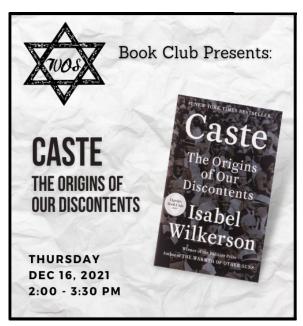


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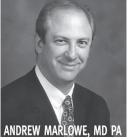
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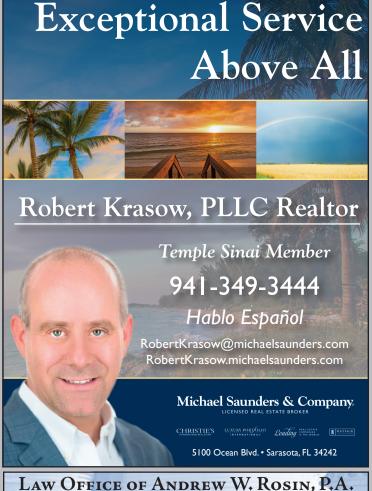
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In honor of the Toales and in recognition of their longstanding dedication to the Sarasota and Bradenton area communities, three local funeral homes will be renamed to reflect this change in leadership, and two of the funeral homes will undergo renovations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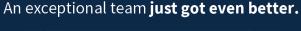


For three generations, families of all faiths have turned to Toale Brothers for support and guidance at the most difficult of times. As our liaison to the Jewish community, Rabbi Howard A. Simon provides guidance and outreach with a focus on keeping with the traditions and customs of Judaism.



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