TEMPLE SINAI MARCH 2018

# CHAILEGHTS



**Rabbi's Corner**By Rabbi Keren Gorban

I remember the first time I heard Debbie Friedman's "Vashti's Song." It was the summer of 2000 at Kutz Camp, the Reform Movement's high school leadership camp. Up to that point, I had

been taught that Vashti was the evil queen to King Ahasuerus in the Purim story. So I was surprised to hear a song about Vashti that didn't vilify her. Instead, Debbie Friedman portrayed her as a woman making a choice to avoid a situation that would have been uncomfortable and objectifying.

Since then I have been captivated by Vashti's treatment in the Book of Esther and in later texts. She gets a bad rap just for saying, "no" to her husband, who demanded her attendance at his men-only drinking party while she was busy hosting her own party. How dare she!

Poor Vashti gets no support from anybody. The men call for her to be banished or executed so that women across the vast Persian Empire will learn that they can't get away with objecting to their husbands' demands. Then hundreds of young women line up to take her place, effectively saying that they'll do what Vashti wouldn't and affirming the men's expectation of obedient and submissive wives. It's this sort of context—one in which men create a system to protect their status and women uphold that system to succeed in a man's world—that makes reaching a place of parity and egalitarianism so difficult.

Though a great deal has changed over the past 2,500 years or so, we nevertheless have inherited a social system that prioritizes male authority, power, and leadership (also wealth, able bodies, and light skin, among others). In too many ways to count, we all participate in upholding these priorities and this system, whether intentionally or subconsciously, explicitly or implicitly, actively or passively.

We uphold this system when dress standards disproportionately focus on women and girls. We uphold this system when we joke about "who wears the pants" in a relationship. We uphold this system when we respond to what a man says even though a woman said the same thing moments earlier. We uphold this system when we say things like "I had that experience, but it didn't bother me" or "I didn't have that experience with that person, therefore they couldn't have

done it." We uphold this system when we worry that men will have to be ultra-careful with what they say and do lest it be misconstrued. And, frankly, we uphold this system when we think women act too much like men and need to be "taken down a notch," or when we think men act too much like women and need to "man up," or when we think folks who identify as genderqueer or gender non-conforming or non-binary need to pick a side and stick with it.

Too often, we treat our social system like a zero-sum game: improvement on one side means loss on the other. If Vashti wins the right to choose, men lose the power to control women. If women's salaries increase, men's salaries decrease. If women stand up against inappropriate behavior, boys can't be boys. Smashing the patriarchy means that men will have to be subordinate to women in a new system of matriarchy, right? No!

Feminism, the #MeToo movement, and more are about trying to create a system that values the good that each person says and does rather than valuing the luck of birth. It's about wanting a social structure that treats every person as being created in the image of God. It's about wanting a social structure in which we share in each other's successes and benefit from them rather than succeeding because of another's failure. It's about wanting a social structure that upholds honesty and integrity, kindness and compassion, responsibility and respect.

In honor of Purim and National Women's History Month, is this really too much to ask?



#### SHABBAT DINNER WITH MAGEVET, FRIDAY, MAR. 16, 8 PM

Join us for a Shabbat dinner featuring the beautiful sounds of Magevet, a coed ensemble comprised of undergraduate students at Yale University. Magevet is known for its sweet blend of voices, unique arrangements, and lighthearted sense of humor. The group's diverse repertoire spans modern Israeli pop and Renaissance choral pieces to Yiddish folk tunes and Zionist classics.

Our meal will be catered by Girasole, an authentic Italian restaurant in Shadyside, which offers an innovative, modern-Italian menu based on the freshest and highest quality products available. The night's menu includes Bruschetta, Penne with Marinara Sauce, Greens and Beans, Girasole Salad, and Green Bean Almondine.



Cost: \$18 for members/\$36 suggested donation for non-members (Register online in your Temple Sinai account to pay by credit card, or contact Judy Lynn Aiello at judylynn@templesinaipgh.org or (412) 421-9715 ext. 124 to register and charge to your account. Non-members can register by contacting Judy Lynn Aiello.)

#### **ALTERNATIVE MARKETPLACE GIVING RESULTS**

### Thank YOU for YOUR generosity!

For more than eight years, the Women of Temple Sinai and the Tikkun Olam Center have joined efforts to offer a more meaningful "shopping" experience for your winter holiday gifts.

This past December, a total of \$4,362 was collected, including \$2,700 for the following Pittsburgh organizations:

- \$636 for the East End Cooperative Ministry (EECM) to support its anti-hunger or emergency shelter efforts
- \$734 to provide school supplies for homeless children
- \$200 to Bethlehem Haven to help provide bedding for women seeking shelter

In addition, international organizations received \$949, including \$624 for Save the Children to help the world's most vulnerable children. Donations for aid to help with the devastation caused by hurricanes this past year included \$975 to One America Appeal to help rebuild Puerto Rico, and \$450 to Best Friend's Animal Society to help rescue and shelter pets impacted by this country's hurricanes. Smaller amounts were collected for other charities.

Carol Woolford, one of the co-chairs, noted that 37 people contributed to the alternative marketplace this season and hopes more will join in next year to help make our world a better place. Louise Mayo, a co-chair, said that many people reported that their families, friends, and even business associates were thrilled to receive thoughtful gifts that made a difference in our world, rather than some more unnecessary "things." She added that these donations as gifts are a particularly wonderful message to our children and grandchildren.



# SINAI

SPONSORED BY THE SIMON HAFNER CHARITABLE FOUNDATION THROUGH THE PNC CHARITABLE TRUSTS GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE & THE FINE FOUNDATION IN HONOR OF RABBI JAMIE GIBSON'S 30 YEARS OF SERVICE AT TEMPLE SINAI

# REV. CORNELL WILLIAM RROCKS



THURSDAY 3/15, 7 PM

WELCOME RECEPTION 6:15 PM **INTERFAITH & INTERRACIAL DIALOGUE PROGRAM** 

# "NIGHTMARES, DREAMS & MORAL IMAGINATION"

Temple Sinai invites you to share an evening with Reverend Cornell William Brooks, former President and CEO of the NAACP, as he challenges people of faith to commit to creating a more tolerant and just society.

Cornell William Brooks is an ordained minister, civil rights attorney, and national activist committed to prophetic social justice. Brooks serves as Senior Fellow at the Brennan Center, addressing both criminal justice and voting rights. He was recently named Visiting Professor of Social Ethics, Law and Justice Movements at Boston University, hosted by both the School of Theology and the School of Law. He is a regular contributor for CNN, providing analysis of public affairs, as well as social justice and ethics.

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

#### CALL FOR NEW MEMBERS, THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 6:30 PM

Are you interested in Jewish spirituality? Do you enjoy prayers, songs, and stories? Are you seeking meaningful interactions with other Jews? If so, please join us for the next Neshama Center meeting on Thursday, March 8, 6:30 PM

# NESHAMA CENTER FOR JEWISH SPIRITUALITY

As one of Temple Sinai's centers of Jewish activity, the Neshama Center's intention is to transform our lives through kedusha (holiness), enabling all of us in our community to enrich and expand our individual spiritual journeys. In doing so, we seek:

- To inspire all who enter the doors of our temple with the divine spark through Jewish prayer, song, story, and experience;
- To engage each other at our spiritual core;
- To promote meaningful Shabbat encounters for congregants of all ages; and
- To educate, inspire, and nurture the Jewish journey of each member of our congregational family.

Whether you are a Jew by birth, by choice, or by journey, please bring your voice — young or old — to a creative, spirited discussion with our clergy! (After all, Neshama means "spirit.")

For more information, contact one of the Neshama Center's co-chairs, Susan Blackman (susan.blackman@verizon.net) or Ben Wecht (benwecht@aol.com).

#### SAVE THE DATE! SUNDAY, APRIL 8, NOON, AT RODEF SHALOM





# WRJ-Atlantic District Pittsburgh Area Day Panel discussion about Human Trafficking

**Speakers include:** Alison Hall (Executive Director, Pittsburgh Action Against Rape—PAAR), Liz Miller (Chief, Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, and Professor of Pediatrics, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine), Brad Orsini (Jewish Federation Security Director and retired FBI agent), and Lynn M. Lazar (WRJ Past President)

**Cost:** \$18 (half price for students). Checks made out to WRJ Atlantic District should be sent to Women of Rodef Shalom, 4905 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213. **RSVP to Shirley Tucker at (412) 420-3411 by April 1.** 

Please bring travel sizes of shampoo, conditioner, soaps, toothpaste, K-cups, instant creamers, paper coffee cups with lids, and non-perishable food snacks to be used at PAAR's drop-in center for victims of trafficking.

#### WOTS CELEBRATED TU BISH'VAT WITH WINE & CHOCOLATE

On Sunday, January 28, Cantor Laura Berman led nearly 40 women (and Joe Weinkle, representing Temple Sinai Brotherhood) in a special interactive seder to celebrate Tu BiSh'vat, Nature, and All Things Women!

To kick off the event, four lifelong members — Estelle Mann, Barbara Gibson, Esther Nathanson, and Shirley Goldstein — were recognized for their service to WoTS.

As Cantor Berman explained, since the Tu BiSh'vat seder is a festive meal featuring fruits in honor of this special celebration of trees, it's only right to include chocolate which comes from trees!

As with the Passover seder, the Tu BiSh'vat seder includes four cups of wine or grape juice, but in varying shades of red, which represent the seasons: white for the bleak time of winter, white with a bit of red to represent the earth's awakening in early spring, red with a bit of white representing the blossoming of late spring, and dark red to represent the fullness of all the growing plants and vegetation along with the heat of summer. Those were paired with three types of fruits with tough outer shells and edible interiors (kiwi and pineapple were dipped in white chocolate), fruits with edible exteriors and inedible pits (dates and mango dipped in milk chocolate), and fruits that are entirely edible (blueberries in dark chocolate).

A beautiful lunch, along with a selection of white and red wine was followed by a presentation by Erin Hart from Farm-to-Table who spoke about Pittsburgh's local food movement and healthy eating.

Everyone who attended — including several prospective members who recently moved to Pittsburgh — was impressed by the special touches, such as beautifully set tables, door prizes, and gifts for Cantor Berman and Erin Hart, which were planned by WoTS membership chair Evelyn Pierce.





Top (from left): Estelle Mann (seated), Jo Anne Schwendinger, Jan Shaw, President of Rodef Sisterhood, Susan Blackman, and Zelda Curtiss (seated); Bottom (from left): Anita Gordon, Adora Holstein, and Shirley Goldstein (standing). Photo credit: Evelyn Pierce

"From the moment we walked in to the very end, this program was engaging and flawlessly executed. As a member, I felt most appreciated and applaud the work and planning that went into this to make it a success," said Shirley Goldstein.

#### Guys' Night Out: MARCH MADNESS! THURS. MAR. 22, 7 PM

Join Brotherhood on Thursday, March 22 from 7–9 PM for a Guys' Night Out at Temple Sinai. Schmooze and watch some exciting NCAA Basketball action! We'll have pizza, soft drinks, and snacks. Bring your own beer and wine. Cost: \$5

Please RSVP to Josh Lederer at lederer25@gmail.com by March 19.







#### Annual Matzo Brittle Sale! Order Today! Don't Wait!

Yes, we are back this Passover season with our highly acclaimed Matzo Brittle.

#### New This Year - ½ lb boxes!

This delightful dessert makes an excellent gift to give your family and friends this Passover. All proceeds support our commitment to help in sending our Temple Sinai youth to summer camps and on trips to Israel.

#### **Order yours by March 18!**

Please return this form and a check payable to WoTS, to 5505 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh PA, 15217

Questions? Please contact Laura Arnold at 412-401-9016 or wotsbrittle@gmail.com or Susan Cohen at susan\_k\_cohen@yahoo.com YES! I want some Passover Goodies made by WoTS!

Name:		
Phone Number:	Cell Phone:	
Email:		

#### Order forms are available in the Krieger Lobby and online at www.templesinaipgh.org/matzobrittleform.

1/2 lb Boxes	Price per Box	No. of Boxes	Total Cost	1	lb Boxes	Price per Box	No. of Boxes	Total Cost
Plain Chocolate	\$10.00			l I	lain hocolate	\$16.00		
Chocolate with Walnuts	\$11.00			w	hocolate vith Valnuts	\$17.00		
Walnuts Only	\$11.00				Valnuts Only	\$17.00		

Total Number of	of Boxes:	
Amount Duo		

Thank you for your order!

PICKUP WILL BE SUNDAY MARCH 25, 2018, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

AT TEMPLE SINAl—Krieger Entrance 5505 Forbes Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15217





#### **JOIN US FOR WINE TASTINGS**

Friday, March 2
6–7 PM & at the oneg after
Shabbat Evening Service
Sunday, March 11
10 AM–Noon

#### TEMPLE SINAI BROTHERHOOD 2018 PASSOVER WINE ORDER FORM

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PHONE FMAIL	IE	EMAII	

#### Please – place you order by 6 PM on Sunday, MARCH 18TH. The earlier the better.

Winery	Туре	Price	Qty	Total
Barkan	Classic Cabernet Sauvignon	\$13.99		
Teal Lake	Shiraz	\$13.99		
Kedem	Traditional Red	\$5.99		
Rashi	Red Concord Light	\$5.99		
Bartenura	Malvassi Sweer Rose 5%	\$13.99		
Barkan	Classic Chardonnay	\$13.99		
Herzog- Chateneuf	Semi Dry White Bordeaux	\$13.99		
Teperberg	Impression Cabernet Sauvignon 2016	\$18.99		
Bartenura	Moscato	\$13.99		
Barkan	Classic Merlot Red, Full Bodied, No Oak	\$13.99		
Barkan	Pinot Noir	\$13.99		
Ramon Cardova	Rioja Red 100% Tempranillo, Old Vine	\$17.99		
Barkan	Classic Sauvignon Blanc	\$13.99		
Goose Bay	Sauvignon Blanc	\$22.99		
Baron Rothschild	Haut Medoc 2014	\$34.99		
	Delivery	\$10.00		
	TOTAL			

You can pick up your order (adults over 21 only) at Temple Sinai on Sunday, March 25, 9 AM-Noon.

Delivery is available to Squirrel Hill, Shadyside, Highland Park, Point Breeze and Oakland for an additional charge of \$10.00 per order. All deliveries will be made on Sunday April 1st in the afternoon.

Order forms are available in the Krieger Lobby and online at www.templesinaipgh.org/Passoverwineform.

# MARCH AT TEMPLE SINA

			SATURDAY	
	1 Purim	2	3	
an office downtown. Spend an hour mation at nancy@templesinaipgh.org.	Noon Jewish-Christian Dialogue (offsite) 6:30 PM Executive Committee Meeting with Minyan 7 PM Introduction to Judaism	6 PM Wine Tasting sponsored by Brotherhood 7 PM Mostly Musical Shabbat: A Sensory Friendly Experience, followed by an oneg (and wine tasting) sponsored by WoTS and Brotherhood	8:30 AM Torah Study 9:15 AM Informal Shabbat Morning Service	WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDUI FRIDAYS MARCH 2 7 PM MOSTLY MUSICAL
7	8	9	10	SHABBAT: A SENSORY FRIEND
Noon Parsha/Weekly Torah Portion Class  1:15 PM Book Club  4:15 PM Rummage Sale Drop Off  4:30 PM Hebrew School  6 PM Evening Meditation  6:15 PM Rabbi Gibson's Shiur (class)  7:30 PM Intergenerational Choir Rehearsal	6:15 PM Dinner at East End Cooperative Ministry (Volunteer Opportunity) 6:30 PM Neshama Center Meeting 7 PM Introduction to Judaism 7 PM Introduction to Judaism — Spring/Summer 2018 (offsite)	Noon Downtown Lunch with the Rabbi 7 PM Shabbat Evening Service, followed by an oneg sponsored by WoTS	8:30 AM Torah Study 9:15 AM Informal Shabbat Morning Service	MARCH 9 7 PM SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE MARCH 16 5:30 PM TOT SHABBAT
14	15	16	17	7 PM SHABBAT EVENING
Noon Parsha/Weekly Torah Portion Class 4:30 PM Hebrew School 6 PM Evening Meditation 6:15 PM Rabbi Gibson's Shiur (class) 7:30 PM Intergenerational Choir Rehearsal	6:15 PM Welcome Reception for Cornell William Brooks 7 PM "Nightmares, Dreams, & Moral Imagination" with Cornell William Brooks 7 PM Introduction to Judaism 7 PM Introduction to Judaism — Spring/Summer 2018 (offsite)	8:45 AM "Getting Woke" with Rev. Cornell W. Brooks — Workshop for Religious Leaders (offsite) 5 PM Tot Shabbat Snacks 5:30 PM Tot Shabbat Service 7 PM Shabbat Evening with Birthday Blessing, followed by an oneg sponsored by WoTS 8 PM Shabbat Dinner with Magevet 8:15 PM Shalom Pittsburgh Shabbat Dinner 8:30 PM Shabbat After Hours	8:30 AM Torah Study 9 AM Bar/Bat Mitzvah Family Shabbat Seminar 9:15 AM Informal Shabbat Morning Service 10:30 AM Bar Mitzvah of Harry Leibovich and Shabbat Morning Service 1:45 PM Charles Morris Sing-Along 4 PM Shabbat Meditation	SERVICE WITH BIRTHDAY BLESSING  MARCH 23 7 PM SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE WITH BIRTHDAY BLESSING FOR MIMI BOTKIN'S 70TH  SATURDAYS 8:30 AM TORAH STUDY
21	22	23	24	9:15 AM INFORMAL SHABBAT
Noon Parsha/Weekly Torah Portion Class 4:30 PM Hebrew School 6 PM Evening Meditation 6:15 PM Rabbi Gibson's Shiur (class) 7:30 PM Intergenerational Choir Rehearsal	7 PM Introduction to Judaism 7 PM Introduction to Judaism — Spring/Summer 2018 (offsite) 7 PM Guys' Night Out — MARCH MADNESS!	7 PM Shabbat Evening Service with Birthday Blessing for Mimi Botkin's 70th, followed by an oneg sponsored by WoTS	8:30 AM Torah Study 9:15 AM Informal Shabbat Morning Service 10:30 AM Bar Mitzvah of Eli Half and Shabbat Morning Service	MORNING SERVICE  MARCH 17  10:30 AM BAR MITZVAH  OF HARRY LEIBOVICH AND  SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE
28	29	30 Erev Passover	31 Passover I	4 PM SHABBAT MEDITATION
Noon Parsha/Weekly Torah Portion Class 6 PM Evening Meditation 6:15 PM Rabbi Gibson's Shiur (class) 7:30 PM Intergenerational Choir Rehearsal	7 PM Introduction to Judaism 7 PM Introduction to Judaism — Spring/Summer 2018 (offsite)	12 PM Offices close	10 AM Passover Service with Rodef Shalom	MARCH 24 10:30 AM BAR MITZVAH OF ELI HALF AND SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE MARCH 31
	6:15 PM Rabbi Gibson's Shiur (class) 7:30 PM Intergenerational Choir Rehearsal  y ChaiLights? We want to he	6:15 PM Rabbi Gibson's Shiur (class) 7:30 PM Intergenerational Choir Rehearsal  y ChaiLights? We want to hear from you! Contact Ta	6:15 PM Rabbi Gibson's Shiur (class) 7:30 PM Intergenerational Choir Rehearsal  Ly ChaiLights? We want to hear from you! Contact Tami Prine, Marketing an	6:15 PM Rabbi Gibson's Shiur (class)

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In Memory of Shirley Brody William & Arlene Brandeis

#### This is the Time Campaign

In Memory of Ruthie Davidson John & Denise Schiller

#### **Tikkun Olam Center Fund**

In Memory of Shirley Brody Myrna & Allan Zelenitz

#### **Voluntary Contribution**

In Memory of Sandi Michelle Kronzek

David & Brenda Kronzek Martin Trust & Maxine Solomon

#### Weinkle Fund for the Future

In Memory of Shirley Brody Joseph & Phyllis Weinkle

We apologize in advance for any omissions that may occur.

#### WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN OUR NEW TEMPLE SINAI LEGACY CIRCLE



# "As my ancestors planted for me, so I too plant for my children."

~ Babylonian Talmud (Taanit 23a)

#### IT WAS A TEMPLE SINAI DAY.

A chilly late Sunday morning during Hanukkah. In the Falk Auditorium, Temple Sinai's religious school, known as Next DOR, was finishing its second six-week project-based learning module, and 125 students (joined by their teachers) were proudly presenting project results to their parents and the Temple Sinai community. Projects titles included Tzedakah: Thinking Outside the Box, Word Art, Tradition, Tradition!, and more. Volunteers from Women of Temple Sinai (WoTS) were serving latkes and soup to everyone. Pride, learning, energy. And at the same time, on the other side of the wall separating the auditorium from the sanctuary, a casket arrived for the funeral of the daughter of a founding member. After the funeral the family would return to Temple Sinai for their meal of condolence. L'dor Vador, spirit and love.

We're "all in" at Temple Sinai, always working to be an open and purposeful community, providing inspiration, innovation, and inclusion as well as comfort and connection for all people. Additionally, but not secondarily, Temple Sinai works to model Judaism, not as a faith of survival, but as a faith of flourishing, whose practices enable us to transform ourselves, the community and the world from the way they are to the way they can yet be. And finally, Temple Sinai strives to empower each person as a stakeholder, educated in how to understand, interpret, and demonstrate the impact of Torah and Jewish tradition for themselves, others, and the world.

This moment in time calls upon us to preserve and strengthen what past generations have built here at Temple Sinai. Together we can ensure that our children and grandchildren will have the same firm commitment to Judaism and its ethical values as our ancestors did before us. Our obligation is to leave tomorrow's legacy just as, if not even stronger than, today's. For now and for the future, we invite you to be a part of assuring our vitality and vibrancy, our traditions and our innovations, our roots and our blossoms for future generations.

Our legacy donors are just like you, members of the Temple Sinai family dedicated to maintaining its core values for future generations. By leaving Temple Sinai a gift in your will, trust, retirement account, or life insurance policy, you will be doing your part to secure Temple Sinai's future.

# JOIN THE TEMPLE SINAI LEGACY CIRCLE

Please join our Temple Sinai Legacy Circle by signing a Declaration of Intent to leave a gift to Temple Sinai in your will or estate plan. Temple Sinai is one of 14 Pittsburgh Jewish organizations chosen to participate in the Life & Legacy program designed to increase endowments. The Life & Legacy program, which joins similar efforts in cities around the country, is a partnership of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Pittsburgh. Temple Sinai is the beneficiary of training and resource material to help secure endowment gifts to ensure our future. If we receive at least 18 legacy commitments in each of the next two years, we will receive a grant of as much as \$13,600 for our endowment.

Many of you have already made arrangements to leave a bequest to Temple Sinai but have not yet informed us. If this includes you, please contact Drew Barkley, drew@templesinaipgh.org, so that we can count you among the 18 we need to receive the \$13,600 grant.

#### **OUR SACRED COMMUNITY**

#### **OF BLESSED MEMORY (JANUARY)**

Dorothy Louise Small, mother of George (Linda Fried) Small Barbara Penner, wife of Roy Penner, mother of Jayme (Paul Dvorchak) and Matthew Penner

Tsuyako Takahashi Miller, mother of Liz (Joshua Breslau) Miller, grandmother of Hannah and Joey Breslau

Miriam Ostrow, grandmother of Mark (Alison) Yazer

Rose Horne Solnit, grandmother of Barbara (Etty Reut) Milch

Edith Vine, mother of Susan (Peter) Tanzer

Sandra Z. Rosenfeld, mother of Rachel (Benjamin Rosenthal) Rosenfeld, grandmother of Jack and Anna

Eleanor Roth, wife of Lawrence "Bud" Roth, sister of Alvin (Judy) Stein, aunt of Betty (Larry) Rich and Adele (Warren) Sufrin

Frances Wolfson, mother of Herbert J. (Sharyn) Wolfson

Shirley Brody, mother of Carolyn (Frank) Schwarz and Francie Brody, grandmother of Tim (Jennifer Knight) and Matt Schwarz, great-grandmother of Owen Schwarz

Edith "Edie" Ekstrand, mother of Paul (Leslie) and Rabbi Marc (Pauline Berg) Ekstrand

Gary Serbin, uncle of Darcy (Alan) Bernstein

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

Joel Kaufman Michael Thompson Rebecca Thompson Stephanie Wright

# WANTED: Your Good News!

Please send your good news (awards, graduations, engagements, marriages, births — anything you want to share with your Temple Sinai community) to Tami Prine, Marketing and Communications Coordinator, at tami@templesinaipgh.org, and we will include it in the weekly email and in our monthly ChaiLights. Thank you!

#### **SIMCHAHS**

**Mazal Tov** to Jan Barkley on the Jan. 24 birth of her granddaughter, Elliana (Ellie) Virginia Faurer. Parents are Justin (Jan's son) and Sarah Faurer.

**Mazal Tov** on the baby naming of Estelle and Steven Cherin's grandson, Chase Solomon (son of Steven and Keisha Solomon). Great-grandmother is Roz Escovitz.

**Mazal Tov** to Debra Rubinstein on the birth of her grandson, Arthur Maurice Glick, born on Dec. 29 to Carolyn Slayton and Seth Glick.

**Mazal Tov** to Aya Betensky and Robert Kraut on the engagement of their son, Joel Kraut, to Anna Shtengelova.

Temple Sinai has been chosen as a participating organization and Joshua Lederer as a Fellow of the Legacy Heritage OnBoard Program.

This 15-month lay leadership program is a cohort of promising board members of the Pittsburgh community's Jewish organizations. Components of OnBoard include:



seminars on topics such as finance and fundraising, Jewish learning, and work on a board project.

#### **B'NEI MITZVAH ~ MAZAL TOV!**

Saturday, March 17 Bar Mitzvah of Harry Leibovich Son of Adam Leibovich & Emily Jaffe



Saturday, March 24 Bar Mitzvah of Eli Half Son of Jonah & Emily Half



#### STAFF RETREAT & NEW MISSION STATEMENT

The Temple Sinai administrative staff attended an in-house professional development retreat on Tuesday, January 9. Executive Director Drew Barkley created the day-long agenda with the end goal of developing an administrative mission statement. The retreat opened with a discussion about the differences between service and hospitality. With the support of Ellie Monaco, Temple Sinai member and Director of Learning and Performance at Carnegie Mellon University, and Temple Sinai President Philip Lehman, the staff discussed service as delivering something of value and hospitality as creating a positive, uplifting human and relational experience.

Evelyn Pierce, Temple Sinai member and a Teaching Professor of Business Management Communication at the Tepper School of Business, then led a session on Interpersonal Communications at Work.

During a working lunch, the staff interacted with a panel of very experienced current and past synagogue senior staff and executive directors. The panel spoke about their respective staff structures, staff interaction, how decisions are made, type and frequency of interaction with clergy, and many more subjects. It was an opportunity for the Temple Sinai staff to gain perspective about how other synagogues operate.

In the afternoon Ellie Monaco led the mission statement workshop emphasizing the mantra "who we are, what we do, and who we serve." The admin staff worked hard to create their very powerful mission statement.

Temple Sinai members should be proud of their dedicated staff. The hard work and dedication displayed by all at the retreat speaks to just how special they are.

#### **STAFF MISSION STATEMENT**

Together — by providing an exceptional hospitality experience — we inspire each other to create, manage, and sustain an inclusive and collaborative community that takes great pride in serving as a Jewish spiritual home. We treasure our contribution to Temple Sinai as a model of innovative, heartfelt, and welcoming relationships.

Our thanks to Laura Fehl and Lynn Rubenson for monitoring the phones during the retreat so that the staff could attend without distraction.



Left to right: Barry Rudel (Development Director),
Judy Rulin Mahan (Membership & Engagement
Director), Tami Prine (Marketing & Communications
Coordinator), Drew Barkley (Executive Director),
Judy Aiello (Bookkeeper), Nancy Conaway
(Executive Assistant to Rabbi Gibson and Cantor
Berman), Lynn Corbett (Executive Assistant to the
Director/Receptionist), Alex Malanych (Youth
Advisor), Debbie Haber (Religious School
Administrator), Marilee Glick (Education Director),
and Ellie Monaco (Retreat Facilitator)
Photo credit: Lynn Rubenson

## WOMENOF TEMPLE SINAI

#### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

# Cooking Classes Through June

Temple Sinai congregants and friends who have participated in the monthly cooking classes sponsored by the Women of Temple Sinai (WoTS) not only learn a new dish or two, they enjoy sitting together and sharing the results of their lesson.

Classes are usually held the second Monday of each month from 6:30–8:30 PM. Each class costs \$10, and anyone age 16 and over is welcome to participate.

DATE	DESCRIPTION
March 5	Beyond Matzo: Leon Edelsack will lead us in learning new dishes for Passover.
April 9	Is There An App for That? Maybe not, but Barbara Gibson will "up" our entertaining menus with easy appetizers and tapas.
May 14	Missing Waldorf Bakery's Babkas? Randy Boswell will delight us by showing us how to bake chocolate babka.
June 11	Surprise, Surprise: Drew Barkley will surprise us with a menu that will please our palates.

Unless otherwise updated in our weekly emails, please RSVP to Carolyn Schwarz at 4CarolynSchwarz@gmail.com or at (412) 421-1268. Questions? Please contact either Carolyn or Laura Arnold at Isarnold1@gmail.com or (412) 401-9016.

#### **FALK LIBRARY NEWS**

The Library committee thanks the following for their generous donations of books to the Falk Library: Barbara Shuman, Ruth Reidbord, and Donna Berk Mullaugh. As the Library has no budget to purchase books, donations of books help us update our collection. Monetary donations are also gratefully accepted and are a lovely way to remember a loved one.

We now have the start of a cookbook collection, featuring such books as The International Kosher Cookbook by Batia Plotch and Sephardic Cooking: 600 Recipes Created in Exotic Sephardic Kitchens from Morocco to India by Copeland Marks.

**Wish List Books:** Eternal Life by Dara Horn, Frozen Mud and Red Ribbons by Avital Baruch, and The Rise of Adam and Eve by Stephen Greenblatt.

If you have any questions or would like to donate items, please email us at templesinailibrarypgh@gmail.com.

#### SO MANY YEARS. SO MANY GOOD MEMORIES.

Do you have a favorite memory of how Rabbi Jamie Gibson has made you laugh or smile or touched your heart through the years? Or, do you want to say a few words of thanks? We'd love to hear from you.

Email Tami Prine, Marketing and Communications Coordinator, tami@templesinaipgh.org.
We'll share your memories in social media, weekly emails, monthly ChaiLights, and slideshows.

# BE INSPIRED TO CONNECT

#### Mostly Musical Shabbat: A Sensory Friendly Experience, Friday, March 2, 7 PM

The music is informal and lively. Come prepared to sing along, and maybe even dance a bit. ALL ARE WELCOME! STAY AFTER THE SERVICE FOR A SWEET TREAT!

#### WoTS Cooking Class Monday, March 5, 6:30 PM

March's class features Passover Cooking with Leon Edelsack. Please RSVP to Carolyn Schwarz, (412) 421-1268 or 4carolynschwarz@gmail.com. Cost is \$10, and anyone age 16 and older is welcome!

#### "Nightmares, Dreams, & Moral Imagination" with Rev. Cornell William Brooks, Thursday, March 15, 7 PM

You are invited to share an evening with Reverend Cornell William Brooks, former President and CEO of the NAACP, as he challenges people of faith to commit to creating a more tolerant and just society. Free and open to the public. Welcome Reception at 6:15 PM.

#### Shabbat Dinner with Magevet, the Yale Jewish A Cappella Group, Friday, March 16, 8 PM

Join us for a vegetarian dinner catered by Girasole, and listen to the beautiful sounds of Magevet, a coed ensemble comprised of undergraduate students at Yale University. Cost: \$18 for members/\$36 suggested donation for non-members.

#### Guys' Night Out — MARCH MADNESS! Thursday, March 22, 7 PM

Schmooze and watch some exciting NCAA Basketball action! We'll have pizza, soft drinks, and snacks. Cost: \$5 (RSVP to Josh Lederer at lederer 25@gmail.com by March 19.

Next DOR Spring Break, March 25–April 2



#### **SAVE THE DATE!**

#### **RUMMAGE SALE, SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 10 AM-2 PM**

Come find a treasure or two (or three) at our 3rd Annual Rummage Sale. We'll have housewares, kids' items, sporting goods, crystal, jewelry, art, small furnishings, and more!! All proceeds benefit the Nathan & Hilda Katzen Center for Jewish Learning. (Donation drop-off dates are Wednesday, March 7, 4:15–5:30 PM; Sunday, March 18, 9:30–:30 AM; and Wednesday, April 4, 4:15–5:30 PM.)

Rabbi James A. Gibson, MAHL, DD Senior Rabbi

Rabbi Keren Gorban, MAHL

Associate Rabbi

Cantor Laura Berman, MBA, MSM, MJE, Diploma of Hazzan

Drew Barkley, FTA

**Executive Director** 

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Philip L. Lehman, Ph.D., President Saul Straussman, 1st Vice President Alison Yazer, 2nd Vice President Jerry Katz, 3rd Vice President Arthur Goldberg, Treasurer Katie Whitlatch, Secretary
Marc Darling, Assistant Treasurer
George Arnold, Financial Secretary
Nancy Gale, Past President
Rick Kalson, Past President

Temple Sinai is an inclusive community that embraces, supports, and values all people, regardless of ability or needs, to participate in every aspect of our Reform Jewish synagogue life. For more information or to request an accommodation, contact Judy Mahan at (412) 421-9715 ext. 110 or judy@templesinaipgh.org.