



## Rabbi's Message

### Supporting the World with Loving Kindness

In the past few months, we have been inundated with tragic events, both natural and man-made. There is great suffering in the Ukraine, Uvalde, Buffalo, wild fires and drought throughout the Southwest United States. With these tragic circumstances affecting so many lives, how can we respond to such terrible suffering?

Often when we take out the Torah, as part of marching with the Torah we sing a quote from Pirkei Avot, the Ethics of our Ancestors, “*Al shlosha devarim...The world stands on three things: on Torah, on service to God, and upon acts of loving kindness.*” This statement makes clear that acts of loving kindness, acts that help people who are suffering from the traumatic events of this spring, are as important as any other spiritual practice in Judaism. Acts of loving kindness are a pillar that holds up our world. The centrality of loving kindness is reflected in our understanding of God. In the Bible, God is repeatedly referred to as being kind. For example, in Exodus, we are told that being abundant in kindness is one of God’s 13 attributes that God brought forth into the world.

Acts of loving kindness must involve actions that sustain the other. We should offer real sustenance to each other and the ways we can do this are innumerable. We can offer our money, time, love, empathy, service, open ear, and more. There are many acts we do out of obligation, but for an action to qualify as an act of loving kindness these actions need to come out of a spirit of kindness and no other motive. Engaging in acts of loving kindness means being a giver. It means helping to feed the hungry, visiting the sick, comforting the bereaved, making certain that people have a home to live in, fresh water to drink and electricity to make their circumstances livable.

This past spring, in dealing with the challenging circumstances we are experiencing in our world, our congregation donated to help those who are suffering in Ukraine. We started a Sinai Temple garden to focus on educating about our connection to the earth. We participated in advocacy to end gun violence. We hosted a Mitzvah Day to support a variety of worthy causes. Above all we engaged in these acts with a spirit of compassion as we desired to heal the world by helping our fellow person. According to the words of Rabbi Chaim Zaitchik, “Above all, loving kindness meant that one should greet his fellow with a pleasant countenance, because it makes the other feel good and binds people together in friendship.” Loving kindness ultimately connects us to our fellow person and in doing so loving kindness sustains our world.

Rabbi Jeremy Master

## Friday Services

### July

1 - Service	7:00 p.m.
8 - Service	7:00 p.m.
15 - Shabbat BBQ Service	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
22 - Service	7:00 p.m.
29 - Service	7:00 p.m.

### August

5 - Tisha B'Av service	7:00 p.m.
12 - Service	7:00 p.m.
19 - Shabbat BBQ Shabbark Shalom Service (Dogs welcome)	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
26 - Service	7:00 p.m.

Look for information and RSVPs for dinners  
in the weekly E-events

## JUDAICA SHOP CORNER

Summer has come and we'll have weekly hours; Tuesdays from 12 noon to 3 p.m. and, of course, special appointments to meet your needs. We have gifts for all upcoming celebrations.

We are looking ahead to the High Holy days and have many beautiful, appropriate items.

**Thais Fischel**  
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## President's Message - Rich Alpert

Over-all, the Temple has emerged from the last year in a very strong position. Our membership has held steady at about 280 households as we have added 11 new families to off-set what we lost to natural attrition and other factors. Our financial situation is also stable thanks to the considerable generosity of congregants over the years. Depending on the vagaries of the stock market, we have around a 7 million dollar endowment with cash reserves sufficient to cover the Temple's annual operating deficit.

Nevertheless, our membership and financial strengths face considerable challenges as we look ahead. Over 60% of our congregation is over 65 years old. There is a shortage of Jewish families moving into the Lower Pioneer Valley. This combination, even as we add new members, will most likely mean that we will need to make a transition to a smaller, yet continuing dynamic and vital, Temple.

As we review last year, much has been accomplished. High Holiday services were a challenge, with two services on each of the holiday mornings and maintaining protections against COVID. Although fewer people than at a normal high holiday service attended, the combination of those coming in person and those participating on line was substantial. The Rabbi provided strong spiritual leadership for these services, as he does throughout the year, and we were fortunate again to have Cantor Ruben to lead us in ritual music. We hope that this coming High Holidays will bring more normalcy and that we can gather in one place as a whole congregation.

Our religious school grew both in numbers and in the quality of its programming this year. With that as a base we are in a strong position to take the next step in religious education in the Lower Pioneer Valley with the combining of our school with that of Beth El. The goal is to create a robust and rich Jewish education, to nurture a vibrant Jewish community, and to inspire students to love Judaism as a source of wisdom and a way of life.

The new religious school is called *B'Yachad*, meaning "being together", that will open in September. Molly Bajgot, will become the Director of the new school. B'Yachad has its own Board of Directors with co-chairs from each temple and its own budget. The school will cover pre-k through 12th

grade, hold religious school classes on Sunday and provide individualized Hebrew throughout the week. Historically, each temple has substantially subsidized its school and combining schools will enable the two temples to make savings in that subsidy.

The Temple has also welcomed an Afghan family, the Timoris, to Springfield. Congregants provided clothes, furniture, air conditioners, drivers to take the father to and from work at Red Rose Restaurant, and now a refurbished van so that he can transport himself as well as his eight-person family wherever they need to go. Working with the family and seeing them adjust well to being in the United States has been a very fulfilling and rewarding experience for everyone involved.

This is also garden time at Sinai, not just for having a place to grow plants, but as a way to provide educational experiences about ecology, Judaism's historical roots in farming, and an avenue for engaging students and their families around the food related to Judaism's various holidays.

Mitzvah day provided a great kick-off for the garden with the tilling of the soil, plantings, and engaging students in the gardening project.

This spring saw a substantial increase in the number of *B'nai Mitzvot* over recent years. Through the beginning of March, we will have had eight *B'nai Mitzvot* with 11 more in the next two years. Each *b'nai mitzvah* represents a passing of Jewish tradition to the next generation and carries the hope that that tradition will be supported and sustained by these new members of our Jewish community.

Obviously, these are very troubling times in relation to Temple security. In response to this changing environment, and thanks to a bequest from the Ziff family, we have had a police presence at every event, including Friday night services and *b'nai mitzvahs*, and have plans to further up-grade our security for the building through a grant from the Massachusetts Non-Profit Security Grant Program to add an electronic key system to control access to the building. We are also concerned about fire safety and are exploring ways to enhance that aspect of security.

*continued on page 4*

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The Sinai Temple Bulletin is published six times a year by Sinai Temple, Springfield, Massachusetts. This is Issue Number 7 for 2021-2022.

Jeremy Master ..... Rabbi  
Mark Dov Shapiro z"l ..... Rabbi Emeritus  
Molly Bajgot ..... Director of Religious School  
and Youth Programs  
Rich Alpert ..... President

Robin Fein-Krevolin ..... Vice President  
Sarah Shtrax ..... Vice President  
Robin Dunn-McDonagh ..... Treasurer  
Maggy Cohn ..... Recording Secretary  
Mandy Greene ..... Financial Secretary

## Religious School Update - Molly Bajgot, Religious School & Youth Programs Director



### Letter from Director of Religious School & Youth Programs:

Hello all, happy beginning of Summer!

We had a joyful end of the school year, closing out the last weekend with a Spring BBQ and Family Shabbat service where graduating 7th graders, teachers, *madrichim* (assistant teachers), and Religious School committee parents were appreciated for all their hard work throughout the year! On our final day of classes, students participated in Mitzvah Day, helping to plant our first seedlings in the ground at the Sinai Garden, learning about bike safety and transportation, and our young ones made cards and planted flowers for our congregants at JGS Lifecare around the corner.



As many of you may now know, starting this Fall our Jewish education program will become one with Temple Beth El's to become *B'Yachad*. *B'Yachad* means 'being together' in Hebrew and is fitting for where we are headed this Fall. As we become one program for two institutions, I have been working closely with the *B'Yachad* board as the Director of

Education for *B'Yachad*. The board is made up of lay leaders and Rabbis from both synagogues and co-chaired by Jen Greene (Temple Beth El) and Samantha Schrager (Sinai Temple), to develop the structure and refine the details of this creative new venture.



I'm excited to announce that in the coming month of July, *B'Yachad* will become a reality! The school's new website and registration for the 2022-23 school year will be going live at [www.byachadspringfield.org](http://www.byachadspringfield.org). Families currently enrolled in STARS should keep an eye on their inbox for the link to this, and it will also be linked on each synagogue's respective website. Registration for *B'Yachad* is open to all - member and non-member families - so we hope you will help us to spread the word about this community school to new-to-town families or others who may be interested!

#### Here's a snapshot of what to look forward to from *B'Yachad* next year:

- Classes for students Pre-K through 7th grade on Sundays 9:30-11:30 a.m., and 8th-12th grade on Sundays, timing to be determined
- Virtual, in-person and small group Hebrew learning options
- The piloting of a once-a-week Jewish Enrichment After School elective program
- Fall classes at Sinai Temple and spring classes at Temple Beth El
- New sliding scale tuition rates
- The teachers we know and love!

Our first day of school will be Sunday September 11th, with holiday programming taking place throughout the *chaggim* (holiday) season. Teen Life programs for grades 8th-12th will also be taking place monthly starting in September. More information about these programs will be able to be found on the *B'Yachad* website as well as respective synagogue websites.

If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to speak with me for any reason, please reach out. My email is [director@byachadspringfield.org](mailto:director@byachadspringfield.org) and my number is 978-460-1956. I look forward to continuing to be a part of the Sinai family!

Warmly,  
Molly Bajgot, Director of Education, *B'Yachad* Springfield

**We Welcome our New Members  
from April 6 – Present**

Mark and Jacqueline Bond  
Alexander and Orina Freeman and daughter Maya.

**Notes from the Garden Manager  
& Educator** *By Nina Levison*

nina@sinai-temple.org

The community is coming together to grow something wonderful!



**President's Message** *continued from page 2*

We need to set goals and objectives for the coming year, and I want to suggest a few for your consideration. The first goal is to continue to commit ourselves to engagement with current members and reaching out to prospective members. We are a membership based organization and strict attention to this aspect of our institutional life is necessary for a vital future.

The second goal is to examine the implications of becoming smaller? What is the most effective organizational structure for a smaller congregation? What services and programs do we want to maintain, enhance, or eliminate under changing circumstances?

The third is to support the implementation and growth of *B'Yachad*, the joint religious school. The first year of anything is challenging, and Sinai will do its part to make *B'Yachad* a success.

The fourth is to create a strong and willing pool of candidates to fill Board and officer positions. In FY 23, four Executive Committee positions and three Board positions will become vacant, and it will be a challenge to fill them. Thank you to those have served on the Board and are leaving this year: Special thanks to Beth Chafetz who is ending her term as Recording Secretary, and thanks to Robert Chasen, Ellie Covey, Elaine Geha and Lisa Goldman, who are leaving the Board.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to Sinai's success this past year. For the Temple to continue to thrive, we will need the support of every congregant. We have been fortunate to have that support in the past. It is needed even more as we transition to a smaller congregation with at least as many if not more challenges than we had when we were larger.

On the High Holidays, I discussed Sinai as your second Jewish home. For this home to be sustained and to flourish, we need everyone to participate. Just showing up is important. Becoming engaged, helping with our various programs, contributing ideas, taking on leadership positions are even more critical for a vital future.

We will face the challenges of the coming year with optimism and good humor and with your help, we will make Sinai a second Jewish home of which we all can be proud.

If you've been to the temple this past month, you may have seen the beginnings of the new Sinai Mitzvah Garden. In early May we broke ground and had a small ceremony to honor the land's history, present, and future. A week later on Mitzvah Day, students mulched aisles, planted flowers for Shabbat tables, and planted potatoes for future programming on latkes and soup making. We had our first Garden Drop-In day on Sunday, June 5 where we planted herbs for the soup making and for *havdalah besamim* bags.



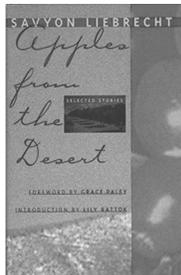
We are so excited for our Garden Drop-In series this summer and hope you and your family can come out to support us in co-creating this sacred and educational space for our community. Community members can come by between 10-noon on Sundays over the summer to lend a hand at the garden and harvest what's available for themselves and their families. You can find details on which Sundays we'll be here in the flyer below. Hope to see you out there!

# Adult Opportunities

## Book Club

**July 21** - *Apples in the Desert*, short stories by Israeli writer Savyon Liebrecht

Plumbing the many tense dichotomies of Israeli life: religious/secular, Jews/Arabs, Holocaust survivors and their Sabra grandchildren, Ashkenazi/Mizrachi

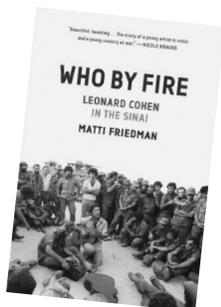


## Movie Chavurah for Wednesday, July 13

*Solomon and Gaenor*, a moving story of the love between a Welsh girl and a Jewish boy. Gaenor, born into a strict religious family falls for Solomon, a young for-to-door salesman, who conceals his Jewish identity from Gaenor and her family. The couple from similar but very distinctive worlds, fall in love even though the odds are against them.

**August 17** - *Who by Fire: Leonard Cohen in the Sinai*, by Matti Friedman

The little-known story of Leonard Cohen's concert tour to the front lines of the Yom Kippur War, including never-before-seen selections from an unfinished manuscript by Cohen and rare photographs



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## Ritual Committee by By Maggy Cohn, Chair magmag40@telecomguru.org

Reading and listening to the news these days is a daunting endeavor. Problems seem to be world-wide or at such a level of national interactions that our own efforts to live a meaningful life seem futile. Add to that the words of the *Yizkor* prayer which state we are but fleeting breaths in the vast universe. Makes my complaints about the price of gasoline seem like a pointless whisper in the whole scheme of things. But then I listened to a radio program that described what the radio news rooms in America were like on June 6, 1944. Everyone knew momentous news was coming from London, but no one knew exactly when and what would be announced. The local broadcasters could only fill up the time with chatter until "Official Communique Number One" came in over the Reuters teletype. The Allied invasion of Nazi Europe under the command of General Eisenhower had begun. I imagine that the tension in those newsrooms was palpable, yet laced with a deep excitement and hope. This was it! If the invasion failed... too hopeless a thought to even contemplate. I almost went off the road as I listened to this program. I had not expected it, and it took me by such surprise I could feel my heart start to beat faster in the excitement of the announcers' voices. Of course, I know how this all turned out. Yet, for a moment, I was caught up in the tension of the momentousness of the invasion, the risk of all-out assault,

and the distance between the action and the listeners at home who were getting the news one sentence at a time off a teletype machine.

So, perhaps our individual lives, hopes and dreams, when united in community do make a difference in the arc of the universe. I imagine that for a time after that Number One Communique, the hearts and minds of the people of the Allied nations were all focused on the same thought – the success of those fighting forces on the beaches of Normandy. Is it possible that all that energy did, in fact, make success possible even against terrific odds? What if we could do the same thing today? What if a drum beat of 'Peace, Peace, Peace' beat within the depths of all our psyches and radiated throughout our world? Not randomly here and there, now and then, but together, every Friday evening or Saturday morning. Tens, then hundreds, then thousands of voices asking for, demanding, peaceful interactions between individuals and among nations. It would be a slow-building of calming voices, rational voices, patient voices, and persistent voices. A rising chorus by our better angels encouraging us to become the better humans we are meant to be.

The community of Sinai Temple gathers every Friday evening. Join us and pray for peace.

# *Happy Birthday to our congregants including children born in July*

## **July Birthdays**

Daniel Aronson	Nicholas Gang	Ranen Mirot	Rachel Sherman
Andy Bauer	Phyllis Goldblatt	Christine Mirot	Joshua Silver
Abby Bernstein	LaurieGoldman	David Morton	Ansel Snow
Eleanore Bernstein	Susan Goldman	Ronnie Nadel	Joel Solomon
Sterling Blonder	Lisa Goldman	Michael Nadel	AlisonSpitzer
Cheryl Blonder	Harold Grinspoon	Jacqueline Neiman	Eric Stahl
Aimee Bouchard	Frances Grosnick	Michael Neiman	Benjamin Stahl
Nancy Braun	Ella Halpern	Lynn Perlmutter	Erica Stechenberg
Thomas Brunette	Theodore Katz	Dori Posner	Maeve Stern
Erica Brunette	Steven Katz	Richard Rediker	Miles Stern
Richard Chase	Steven Klein	Rachel Rediker	Judith Tapper
Michael Cohen	Stanley Komack	Lindsay Roberts	Judith Warshaw
Douglas Dickerman	Andrea Lavin	Rachel Rothschild	Stuart Warshaw
Janice Dickstein	Kenny Leavitt	Katy Rubenstein	Courtney Weinberg
Jordan Ditusa	Laurie Lewis	Jace Sadowsky	Nancy Weiner
Jodi Ditusa	Paul Locke	Alexander Samol	Lisa Weiner
Natalie Ericson	Michele Marantz	Robert Schapiro	Stuart Weisenberg
Phylis Fein	Kayla Mernoff	Alberta Schechtman	
	Nancy Mirkin	Samantha Schrager	



# *Happy Birthday to our congregants including children born in August*

## **August Birthdays**

James Aronson	Steven Cooper	Sam Katz	Beth Scheer
Henry Aronson	Daniel Covey	Cynthia Kittredge	Susan Shepherd
Mitchell August	Rebecca Cutler	Nathan Krevolin	Laraine Shore- Suslowitz
Karen Bader	Noa Ditusa	Jana Leaderman	David Shrair
Rachel Bernstein	Robin Dunn- McDonagh	David Margolis	Patti Silver
Matthew Bertuzzi	Daniel Ehrlich	Vivian Miller	Sandra Silverman
Linda Blake	David Finestone	Francis Mirkin	Stanley Silverton
Liam Raphael	Amy Finkel-Dembo	Ethan Monge	Jared Skolnick
Brackman	Maya Freeman	Lucas Moyal	Lillian Stern
Aiden Emanuel	Oliver Friedberg	Francine Ochs	Stephen Sussman
Brackman	Richard Friedman	Eric Pers	Bernard Sweeney
Lisa Bromberg	Elaine Ginsberg	Mike Przyborski	Joseph Thomas
Sara Brooks	Michael Gitlen	Jennifer Radding	Michael Weber
Maya Cartun	Marilyn Gitlen	Frank Roberts	Lindsey Weber
Lori Chasen	Elliott Gordon	Michael Roberts	Laurie Weinberg
Korben Cherkas- Clark	Jonathan Henrie	August Samuel Roberts	Helen Weiner
Daniel Cohen	Philip Hirshberg	David Rome	Annabella Whalen
Michael Cooper	Jessica Horowitz	Margo Sadowsky	Deborah Wineberg
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**\*Dates:**

June	5, 12, 26
July	17, 24, 31
Aug	7, 14, 21



 **sinai temple**