



# VOICE OF SINAI

For Members and Friends of Congregation Sinai  
1532 Willowbrae Ave. San Jose, CA 95125 [www.sinai-sj.org](http://www.sinai-sj.org)

## Wishing You All the Very Best in 2011

## Nourish Your Mind, Heart and Spirit

Experience the Warmth of Our Sinai Community



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**Congregation Sinai  
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- First Vice President  
Jerry Lopatin
- Second Vice President  
Michele Myron
- Treasurer  
Jay Seliber
- Financial Secretary  
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- Directors  
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Rita Jacobson  
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Cynthia Levinson  
MJ Lopatin  
Shoshanah Miller  
Julia Minkowski  
Gary Richman  
Joshua Roza  
Charles Statman  
Alan Steinberg



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**Rabbi's  
Message**  
Rabbi Josh  
Berkenwald

One of the most honored roles a man or woman can play in Jewish communal life is to belong to a *Chevra Kadisha*. Literally a "Holy Society," the *Chevra Kadisha* is responsible for preparing a body for a Jewish funeral. This involves special rituals of *tahara* (purification), cleansing, and dressing the body in *tachrichim* (white burial shrouds). For reasons of modesty, men and women prepare bodies of the same gender. Care for a body is performed with the utmost respect, including asking for forgiveness from the deceased in case anything was neglected. These beautiful and loving rituals are intended to give honor to the soul of the deceased, which is believed to still be present, as well as to convey reverence to God, the ultimate Master of life and death.

After burial, the relatives of the deceased enter into the weeklong period of mourning called *shiv'ah*. Traditionally, the *Chevra Kadisha* would support the family by arranging meals and organizing *minyanim* (religious services) in the home.

Although it is not generally known, most Jewish communities, including the South Bay, have at least one *Chevra Kadisha*. A Jewish burial society was historically often the first organization that would be formed in a Jewish community - preceding

a synagogue, a mikvah, and other institutions.

One of the reasons that belonging to a *Chevra Kadisha* is so highly esteemed is that the act of preparing a body for burial is considered to be a *chesed shel emet* ("loving act of truth"), a deed that can never be repaid by the one on whose behalf it is performed. The expression is based on Genesis 47:29, when Jacob asks Joseph to perform an act of "*chesed v'emet*" ("love and truth") by taking his body out of Egypt for burial in the land of Israel.

Jewish tradition considers this act to be an emulation of God. In the Talmud, Rabbi Simlai teaches that the "Torah begins and ends with acts of kindness... It concludes with an act of kindness, as is written (Deut. 34:6); 'And He (God) buried him (Moses) in the valley.'" (Sotah 14A) Based upon this teaching, the date of Moses' death, the seventh of Adar, is especially important to *Chevra Kadisha* members. That day is observed as a fast to atone for any disrespect that may have been shown towards the dead in the previous year. Afterwards, members gather for a celebratory feast, often inviting honored guests.

In recent years, the responsibility for supporting families during the week of *shiv'ah* has shifted to synagogues. One of my greatest privileges as a Rabbi is being able to help mourners prepare for a funeral and observe *shiv'ah*.

**Rabbi's Message  
Continues Next Page**

Rabbi  
Josh Berkenwald

Education Director  
Katherine Mueller

Synagogue  
Administrator  
Joelle Pluemer

Nursery School  
Director  
Miriam Gurantz

Administrative  
Assistant  
Rebecca Gray

## Rabbi's Message

(Continued)

At a time of intense loss and unsettled emotions, the importance of our ancient Jewish rituals becomes most clear. Mourners are profoundly comforted by having prescribed, richly symbolic actions that express and evoke the complex emotions of grief.

While Congregation Sinai does not have its own *Chevra Kadisha*, we do have members who consider it to be a special responsibility and privilege to support those who experience loss. As our synagogue has grown, the need to involve more members of our community in the *mitzvah* of *chesed shel emet* has increased. I want to invite you to join Sinai's newly formed *Nechamah* (comfort) Committee, led by members Rita Jacobson and Bob Tobin. Members of the *Nechamah* Committee will be the first ones called upon to help mourners prepare for a funeral and go through the week of *shiv'ah*. There will be a training session on Thursday, February 10 at 7:30 pm, at which participants will learn about Jewish practices of *nichum aveilim* (comforting mourners) and find out how our tradition supports those who experience loss.

This is an opportunity for you to be involved in one of the greatest of *mitzvot*, and a chance to participate in something truly meaningful. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rita, Bob, or myself. Being on the *Nechamah* Committee does not require any prior knowledge or experience. All that is needed is a caring heart. I hope you will be able to join us.

B'Shalom,  
Rabbi Josh Berkenwald



## President's Message

David  
Fernandez

I am six months into my term as President, and I believe that things are moving in the right direction at Congregation Sinai. Programs have been successful and well attended, as evidenced by the most recent Chanukah celebration and our successful Music Magic & Mirth events. Our religious school is growing along with a cadre of new teachers and new ideas. Fundraising, while a challenge in this economy, is coming along and our finances at the half way mark are in order. Our membership continues to grow. I believe we are providing a great environment for our children to grow, our congregants to learn and develop, and our community to flourish.

So why am I writing this article? As you all know, with growth comes additional responsibilities and the need for additional commitments from our community. Now that the first six months of our term year is over, we as a community need to consider who our leaders will be next year and how to utilize the members of our community to their fullest potential. Yes readers, we are looking for volunteers. The Board is focused on particular areas of growth, and is looking for enthusiastic congregants to help us achieve our goals. We hope that one of these volunteer opportunities will be the perfect fit for you.

**1. New Members Committee.** Our wonderful membership chair, Shoshanah Miller, could use some assistance to recruit new members, involve those new members in our programs, and help them successfully join and become

integrated in Chavurot. If you are interested in helping with the membership committee, please contact the office to be put into communication with Shoshanah. *By the way, stay tuned for a Chavurah development event in the February/March time frame. Details coming soon.*

**2. Social Action Committee.** Tremendous needs exist in the wider community. There are many opportunities to help the less fortunate. We are exploring ways to expand Sinai's social action involvement. If you are interested in becoming more involved with the Social Action Committee, please send an email to chairperson Bob Jacobvitz at [socialaction@sinai-sj.org](mailto:socialaction@sinai-sj.org).

**3. Fundraising.** Fundraising is an ongoing process each year. We can always use new ideas and new energy. If you are interested in helping to ensure the financial stability of Sinai, please contact the office to be placed in touch with our Ways and Means Chair, Edward Fields.

**4. Board Vacancies.** We will begin the process of selecting candidates for the 2011-2012 Board of Directors in the next couple of months. Please let me know if you are interested in joining the leadership of our growing community.

This list represents four of our most pressing needs. There are lots of other ways to volunteer at Sinai. Get in touch with me at [president@sinai.org](mailto:president@sinai.org) or the synagogue office for other ways to get involved.

I look forward with great anticipation to the remainder of the first year of my term. I believe that by working together we can create a community that will continue to flourish and that we will be proud of for many years to come.

David Fernandez  
President

Shalom,

Our annual Chanukah party was a big success. Thanks to our parents who volunteered to plan, shop, cook, set-up and clean up after the party, we all had a wonderful time! Karen Enfield, our music specialist, and the teachers prepared the children to go on stage and present their class's contributions to the program. The families joined in singing and dancing and the musical instruments added to the festive atmosphere. The Challah Club (afternoon program) had a lot of fun making centerpieces and decorations for the party. Rabbi Berkenwald led us with the blessings, and we ate a delicious dinner while the candles in the *chanukiot* (menorahs) at the center of each table were burning low. What a wonderful way to spend the holidays with our family and friends.

It's hard to believe that 2011 is just around the corner. When

## Sinai Nursery School



w e  
come back from our winter break, we will be getting ready to celebrate Tu B'shvat, the holiday of the trees, especially the *shkediya* (almond tree) that blossoms around that time.

Every Wednesday between 9 and 10 am, we have an ongoing "Ima and Me" program in one of the Sinai Nursery School's classrooms. If your child is 3 or

younger, you are welcome to join the fun. Debbie Lewis is in charge and there is no fee to attend. You can call my office at 408-264-8486 for more information.

**Our school's open house is scheduled for Sunday, January 30th from 10 am -12 noon.** If you know of any families with young children, please invite them to visit our school and attend our open house. We accept children who are 2 – 5 years old. We have a wonderful warm and loving staff, a developmental curriculum that integrates Jewish values and Jewish holidays celebrations and, above all, we have lots of fun.

Wishing all of us a Happy New Year!

Miki Gurantz,  
Nursery School Director

### Meet Our B'nei Mitzvah

**When our young people become B'nei Mitzvah, it is an opportunity for the entire Sinai community to take pride in their accomplishments. This month at Sinai, we will be celebrating as Shira Kahn-Samuelsan becomes our newest adult member.**



#### Shira Kahn-Samuelsan – January 15

When I was little, synagogue was a place to go to be with my friends so we could play red light green light. As I got older and stayed in services for longer periods of time, I wondered how the big people could read Torah. I also wondered what they were saying. Even last year, a Bat-Mitzvah seemed like a mystical thing that was never going to happen to me. I would watch my friends get Bar or Bat Mitzvah'ed, and I could not believe that I would be Bat-Mitzvah'ed in a matter of months. Now it is my turn to have the honor of chanting Torah and the Haftarah, and I could not be more excited. I finally understand the mystery of chanting Torah and I am proud to take my place as an adult in the Jewish community.

**The family of our January Bat Mitzvah warmly invites the entire congregation to join them for Shabbat services and to celebrate afterwards with a Kiddush luncheon.**

## Youth Education

Attending Shabbat services is a tremendously important part of every Jewish child's education. One of the most important reasons to attend Shabbat services, and the reason that Congregation Sinai has established expectations for all Religious School and day school students in grades K-7, is to build community. I always make sure that every Sunday and Tuesday during religious school, and of course on Shabbat, I spend time talking to every student, even if it is just for one minute. I want every child at Sinai to feel that this synagogue is a place in which he or she matters and is special. If we are successful at cultivating a community amongst all our Sinai families, that sense of community will remain with our students later in life, including when they are making their own decisions as adults about being involved in the Jewish community. The moments that we see each other in shul are at least as important as when we come together for formal Jewish learning. I love having so many opportunities to interact Jewishly with the youth of our community,

whether it is at services, playing in the courtyard, or hanging out in my office. One of my best experiences in the short time I have been here occurred one Shabbat. I had so much fun laughing and running around as I played football in the Sinai courtyard with several of our students.

Another important reason to attend Shabbat services regularly is to help students learn how to pray and become familiar with the Sinai service. We always encourage children to participate in and help lead parts of the service. Attending synagogue on Shabbat also puts into practice what students have been learning at Sinai Religious School and Yavneh Day School.

One way students can fulfill their Shabbat attendance requirement is by participating in our monthly Torah N' Tefillah (TNT) program. TNT, Sinai's junior congregation, is designed for children in grades three

through seven. We experiment with new melodies, and learn about what the prayers mean and where they come from. All prayers are led by students. The Torah reading and teachings are led by teen volunteers

If you have a teen in grades 9-12 who is interested in helping lead skits, tell stories based on the Torah portion, lead or teach prayers, or chant Torah, please let me know. One of my goals for TNT is keep our teens involved in the synagogue after their B'nei Mitzvah. Helping to lead TNT is also a great way to collect hours for high school volunteer requirements.

Shabbat service attendance expectations for students in each grade are as follows:

- K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade - 7 services
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - 8 services
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade - 10 services
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade - 12 services
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade - 16 services
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade - attend all TNT programs

I keep track of who comes to services each week by having a personalized index card for every Sinai Child. When I see a child in services, I put a sticker on his or her card. Parents, please encourage your child to come say "Shabbat Shalom" to me so that I know to put a sticker on his/her card.

We will honor all of the students who have fulfilled their expectations at an end of year ceremony.

I look forward to seeing all of you in services!

Katherine Mueller  
Education Director

<p><b><u>Kol Ha-kavod</u></b>                  ("way to go")! to the following students who are halfway to fulfilling their Shabbat attendance requirements:</p>	Rachelle Lang	<b><u>Kitah Vay</u></b>
	Ronel Minkowski	Eliana Marks
	Allyson Moskowitz	Jonah Kulakofsky
	Jonathan Osband	Rachel Kulakofsky
<p><b><u>Kitah Gan</u></b>                  Tom Bar Lev                  Alana Firsty                  Shayna Leibovitch                  Sonja Lippmann                  Ben Rogoff</p>	<b><u>Kitah Gimmel/ Dalet</u></b>	<b><u>Kitah Zayin</u></b>
	Tess Citron-Pousty	Naama Ben David
	Shayna Firsty	Fay Citron-Pousty
	Rachel Osband	Eytan Hendel
	Ari Rogoff	Shira Kahn-Samuelson
	Dylan Sager	Samuelson
	<b><u>Kitah Hay</u></b>	Samuel Rogoff
	Elysa Dombro	Eli Rogoff
	Jonathan Dombro	Sarah Sager
	Jacob Fernandez	Leila Ullmann
	Nathan Fernandez	
	Nathan Levinson	
<p><b><u>Kitah Aleph/Bet</u></b>                  Noa Berkenwald                  Felix Citron-Pousty                  Tamar Doron</p>		

### Hebrew High

- Tuesday, January 4
  - Tuesday, January 11
  - Tuesday, January 25
- 7-9 pm

Hebrew High is a joint Sinai-Beth David program that meets at Congregation Beth David, and serves more than 80 Jewish teens from all over Silicon Valley. Join us!

### 5th Grade Israel program

Sunday, January 9, 10:30 am

5th grade Religious School parents and students will join us in the Social Hall to explore Israel through Art, Cooking and debate.

## Youth Education

### No Religious School on Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

Sunday, January 16

### Religious School Family Tu B'shvat Seder

Sunday, January 23

11 - 12 pm

Parents join us for a Tu B' shvat Seder and family programming

### Class of 5772 B'nei Mitzvah Family Education

Sunday, January 30

10 am – 12 noon

All 6th grade students, including day school and Sinai Religious School students, and their parents will meet with Rabbi Berkenwald for family learning.



### Ima and Me ("Mommy and Me")

Wednesday mornings 9 - 10 am

Meet us in in the Nursery School Red Room for a fun weekly playdate. Abba, Savta, Saba, (Daddy and grandparents) and Nanny are all welcome, too. Children three and under are invited to come and play. Open to the entire Jewish community. Bring friends. FREE. For more information, email Debbie Lewis at [imaandme@sinai-sj.org](mailto:imaandme@sinai-sj.org). *This month, Ima and Me will meet on January 5, 12, 19 and 26.*

### Torah for Tots

- Saturday, January 1
  - Saturday, January 15
- 11 am – 12 Noon

Torah for Tots is fun, interactive, educational and inspirational. This delightful children's service is parent-led and designed specifically for young children ages 0-5. Plenty of singing, movement, and stories, and your entire family can play a part. We meet on Shabbat morning twice a month from 11 am to 12 Noon. For more information, email Aaron

## Youth Activities



Jarson at [torahfortots@sinai-sj.org](mailto:torahfortots@sinai-sj.org).

### "Torah N Tefillah" Shabbat Service for Students in Grades 3-7

Saturday, January 29

10:30 am-12 Noon

Mirkin Chapel

Students from both Religious School and Yavneh Day School have the opportunity to put their learning into practice by leading parts of the Shabbat morning service. Learn new melodies,

explore Shabbat teachings, and hear engaging stories. TNT is led by our Director of Education, Kate Mueller, along with Sinai teens.

### Jr. Kadima Talent Show and Sleepover

Saturday, January 15, 6:30 pm

All 5th and 6th graders are invited to bring their talent and their sleeping bags and join Sinai Jr. Kadima for the Talent Show and Sleepover. Cost is \$5 for Jr. Kadima members and \$10 for Jr. Kadima non-members. RSVP by Monday January 10 to Rozita Tabibian at [jrkadima@sinai-sj.org](mailto:jrkadima@sinai-sj.org).

### Jewish Girl Scouts

- Sunday, January 16
  - Sunday, January 30
- 1- 2:30 pm.

Brownies (grades 1-2) and Junior Girl Scouts (grades 3-5) troops meet at Sinai simultaneously. Questions? Need more info? Please email us at [girlscouts@sinai-sj.org](mailto:girlscouts@sinai-sj.org).

## Adult Activities

### Sisterhood Monthly Meeting

Sunday, January 9

Join us at 10:30 am in the Social Hall. Come and meet other members, learn about upcoming events, or about how you can get involved. For more information, email [sisterhood@sj-sinai.org](mailto:sisterhood@sj-sinai.org).

### Men's Club Fourth Annual Poker Night

Sunday, January 9, 7 pm

Its back! By popular demand! The Fourth Annual Men's Club Poker Fundraiser will take place in the Social Hall. Can you bluff the Rabbi or defeat last year's champion Stan Goldstein? Sign up at \$50 per person and join the

fun. Limited to the first 21 participants. For more information, please contact Gary at [mensclub@sinai-sj.org](mailto:mensclub@sinai-sj.org).

### Sisterhood Book Club

Sunday, January 23, 7:30 pm

We will be discussing the book 'Black Dahlia' by James Ellroy - a novel of notorious unsolved murder. For information on the location of the book club meeting, contact [sisterhood@sj-sinai.org](mailto:sisterhood@sj-sinai.org)

### Silicon Valley Beit Midrash Weekly on Thursdays

9:30 to 11:15 am

Join Rabbi Josh Berkenwald every Thursday for in-depth study of Jewish thoughts, beliefs and practices. Free. Drop-ins are welcome. No experience necessary. For more information, contact the Sinai office.

### Introduction to Judaism Tuesdays January 4, 11 and 25 7:30 - 9:30 pm

*Please note: Intro to Judaism Class will not meet on January 18 due to the Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday.*

### The Mitzvah Initiative Thursdays, January 6, 20 7:30 - 9:00 pm

Mitzvah Initiative sessions are a blend of personal reflection, group discussion, presentations by community members, actual mitzvah experiences, and text study facilitated by Rabbi Josh Berkenwald

Meets every first and third Thursday of the month from at Congregation Sinai. Free. Find your Signature Mitzvah – Sign up today by contacting the office to register or to receive more information.



**Men's Club  
Fourth Annual  
Poker Night**

**Sunday, January 9 at 7 pm**

**Its back! By popular demand!  
Can you bluff the Rabbi or defeat  
champion Stan Goldstein?**

**Sign up at \$50 per person and  
join the fun. Limited to the first  
21 participants.**

**For more information, please contact  
Gary at [mensclub@sinai-sj.org](mailto:mensclub@sinai-sj.org).**

### Calling all Congregation Sinai Cooks!



Sisterhood is preparing a taste-tempting cookbook featuring favorite recipes from members of our community. Our cookbook will be beautifully illustrated and bound and is sure to be treasured for years. Please submit 5 or 6 of your favorite recipes so you can be represented in our memorable collection.

Email Suze Peters at [cookbook@sinai-sj.org](mailto:cookbook@sinai-sj.org) before February 1st, 2011. For more information on how to submit your recipes, go to the Sinai website (start at the homepage on the "Activities at Sinai" tab, then click on "Cookbook Project").

**Reading Qohelet's Poetic Prose**  
 Professor Robert Alter  
 APJCC Center for Jewish Life and Learning  
 Scholar In Residence at Congregation Sinai  
 Monday, January 10, 7:30 pm



Join us as we learn from one of the great Bible scholars of our generation.

Professor Alter earned his bachelor's degree in English from Columbia University, and his master's and doctorate degrees from Harvard University in comparative literature. He is a professor of Hebrew language and comparative literature at the University of California, Berkeley, where he has taught since 1967. He has written over 23 books on the modern European and American novel, on modern Hebrew Literature, and on literary aspects of the Bible. Admission for JCC and Sinai members is \$10; space is limited. For more information and to RSVP, contact the Sinai office or register at [www.siliconvalleyjcc.org](http://www.siliconvalleyjcc.org).

**Please Note**  
 The office will be closed on Monday, January 17 in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. federal

## Upcoming Events

**Jewbilee**  
 Sunday, January 23  
 1- 8 pm

Come to the 2nd annual Silicon Valley "Jewbilee." Through classes, workshops, panel discussions and performances, we will take the day to celebrate the diversity that makes up Bay Area Jewry. There's something for all ages, plus a catered buffet of delicious kosher food, and you don't have to be a JCC member to attend. For more info, see the Jewbilee web page at [www.SiliconValleyJCC.org/jewbilee](http://www.SiliconValleyJCC.org/jewbilee) or contact the JCC's Center for Jewish Life & Learning at 408-357-7492. or [cjll@svjcc.org](mailto:cjll@svjcc.org). *Congregation Sinai is a co-sponsor and partial underwriter of this event. Rabbi Josh Berkenwald will be teaching a class at Jewbilee.*



**Tu B'shvat Seder**  
**Saturday, January 22**  
**6:30 to 8:30 pm**  
**Congregation Sinai Social Hall**

Join us for our annual Tu B'shvat Seder. We will be commemorating the New Year of the Trees by reading from our own Tu B'shvat Hagaddah. Fruits and nuts, wine, and other goodies will be provided.

This program is a participatory service oriented towards adults. Please arrive on time as the seder will start promptly at 6:30 pm.

**\*\*\*Early Bird Special\*\*\***  
 RSVP by January 18, 2011:  
 \$5.00 per adult

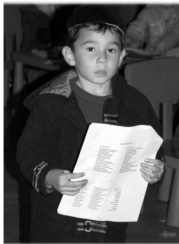
**\*\*\*Regular price for Dinner\*\*\***  
 RSVP after January 18, 2011:  
 \$8.00 per adult

For reservations, contact the Sinai office at 408-264-8542 or email [office@sinai-sj.org](mailto:office@sinai-sj.org).



# What a Great Sinai Chanukah!

"Chanukah Lights and Laughter" with Joel Ben Izzy and Candle-lighting at Santana Row on the 8th night were just a few of the highlights of our synagogue's warm and bright holiday celebrations.



# January Yahrzeits

**Tevet**

David Pevzner	25
Tillie H. Kahn	26
Michael Levine	26
Samuel M.M. Greitzer	27
Sidney Tieger	27
Ernest Nasch	28
Hyman Fritz	29

**Shevat**

Irving Feig	1
Tanya Glushkina	1
Freda Goldstein	1
Arnold Otto Kamenz	1
Karl Meyberg	1
William Pressman	1
Pearl Moser	2
Isidor Reinhard	2
Dr. Samuel Reinhard	2
Elaine Sager	2
Gussie Wittman	2
Margene Bloom-Roza	3
Jacob Engelman	3
Barbara Revesz Murphy	3
David Wittman	3
Arthur Askanas	4
Albert Bensusen	4
Mitchel Tobin	4
Chaim Halabe	5

Masha S. Smirina	5
Dorothy Soroka	5
Israel Srul Seiden	5
Basil Stevens	5
Arthur Goldgraber	6
Selma Gottschalk	6
Rose Kalichstein	6
Hanny Koneyn	6
Herman Lion	6
Irene Lion	6
Minna Lion	6
Emma Meyberg	6
Joseph Meyberg	6
Rose Meyberg	6
Belle Dean	7
Irwin Lawton	7
Harry Musin	7
Catherine Nash	7
Sylvia Mednick	8
Frieda Meyberg	8
Paul Skopicki	9
Samuel Hellman	10
Morris Hirsh	10
Helen Frances Katzman	10
Alexander Kostyanovsky	10
Charles Pressman	10
Bernard Solomon	10
Arthur Bernstein	11
Irwin Lippmann	11

Margot Rodman	11
Olga Belkina	12
Labe Kazarnovsky	12
Sarah Smith	12
Herman Stumwasser	12
Barbara Goldbetter	13
Bernice Teman	13
Szmul Majer Zelten	13
Manijeh Moshfegh-Eshaghoff	14
Ida Ress	14
Liza Radol	15
Margarete Doempke	16
Mira Weinstock	16
David Hellman	17
Abraham Oshry	17
Volco Vaisleib	18
Ethel Bloom	19
Albert Cohen	19
Marie Lauterbach-Kamenz	19
Aharon Pozin	19
Bernard Nathan Fields	20
Victoria Halabe	20
Egmont Frankel	21
Adrian Artur Kowalski	22
Iris Nelson-Golinkin	22
Lillian Marchick	23
Solomon A. Ellner	24
Sofia Serebrysky	24
Shoshana Elter	26

## In Memorium

**William Goldstein**

Father of Stan (Evelyn) Goldstein  
Grandfather of Aron and Lauren

**Yehouda Balakhane**

Father of Hilda Balakhane (Albert Sedighpour)  
Grandfather of Ariana and Kiana

**Jeanette Tobin**

Mother of Bob (Ellen) Tobin  
Grandmother of Daniel (Stacy) Tobin  
Great Grandmother of Mia and Mitchell

**David Halabe**

Brother of Elena (David) Weinberg



## Todah Rabah Thank You תודה רבה

- Dana Berkenwald and Maureen Krantz for leading Torah for Tots services
- Miriam Leiseroff for laundering tablecloths
- All the Nursery School parents who organized, shopped, cooked, set up and cleaned up to make the Nursery School Chanukah party such a wonderful event
- Dana Berkenwald for leading the Havdalah ceremony at the Chanukah Lights and Laughter party
- Storyteller Joel Ben Izzy for the delightful storytelling program at the Chanukah Lights and Laughter party
- Rita Jacobson and Julia Minkowski for staffing the Sinai booth at the JCC Chanukah Palooza
- Julie O'Neill for volunteering her time to work on a special project in the office
- Miriam Leiseroff for her help with office correspondence
- Stacey Hendler Ross, Family Shelter Board of Directors member, for leading Sinai members on a tour of the San Jose Family Shelter
- Lorraine Hoff for donating the proceeds from the sale of all her lovely handmade greeting cards to Sinai
- Steven Erickson for his donation of a computer to the Nursery School
- Alisa Israel Goldberg for her donation of Jewish cookbooks for the library
- Shirley Landsman for sponsoring Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon
- David and Elena Weinberg for sponsoring Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon in memory of their grandnephew Gabriel Halabe
- Gary Richman for organizing the Men's Club Basketball event
- Deborah Leibovitch and Susan Silver for organizing the Sisterhood dinner at the Kitchen Table
- Rita Jacobson for organizing the Sinai tables at the AIPAC South Bay Annual Dinner
- Rozita Tabibian for organizing the Jr. Kadima Dance party for 5th and 6th graders
- Jill and Steve Citron-Pousty for sponsoring Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Fay
- Doron and Arielle Hendel for sponsoring Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son Eytan

## Brukhim Ha-ba'im, Welcome ברוכים הבאים

To new members:

- Asaf & Malka Doron, Tamar, Nurit
- James & Teri Baron

## Mazal Tov! מזל טוב!

- To Eric and Lisa Rosenblum on the engagement of their daughter Anna to Michael Cohen
- To Elie and Lottie Monarch on the engagement of their son Aviv to Rabbi Laurie Matzkin

## Tribute Funds

We gratefully acknowledge donations to the following funds:

### General Fund

- Daniel & Esti Ben-David in memory of Rachel Levin
- Mark & Larry Benezra in memory of Jeanette Tobin, mother of Bob and Phil Tobin
- Zina Brisker in memory of David Smirin
- Barbara Frank in memory of Annie Berman
- Barbara Frank in memory of Herman Berman
- Larry & Lucy Fried in honor of the birth of Eli and Yael Alcheck's daughter, Ivy
- Larry & Lucy Fried in memory of Jeanette Tobin, mother of Bob and Phil Tobin
- Larry & Lucy Fried in memory of William Goldstein, father of Stan Goldstein
- Harold Goldberg & Alisa Israel Goldberg in memory of Yehouda Balakhane, father of Hilda Balakhane
- Seymour & Lorraine Hoff in memory of William Goldstein, father of Stan Goldstein
- Seymour & Lorraine Hoff in honor of the engagement of Aviv Monarch, son of Elie and Lottie Monarch, to Rabbi Laurie Matzkin
- Jerry & Rita Jacobson in memory of William Goldstein, father of Stan Goldstein
- Jerry & Rita Jacobson in memory of Yehouda Balakhane, father of Hilda Balakhane
- Jerry & MJ Lopatin in memory of William Goldstein, father of Stan Goldstein
- Jerry & MJ Lopatin in memory of Yehouda Balakhane, father of Hilda Balakhane
- Jon & Susan Silver in honor of the birth of Arie and Hadassah Levinkron's grandson, Benjamin Krantz
- Jon & Susan Silver in memory of William Goldstein, father of Stan Goldstein
- Jon & Susan Silver in memory of Yehouda Balakhane, father of Hilda Balakhane
- Jon & Susan Silver in honor of the engagement of Anna Rosenblum, daughter of Eric and Lisa Rosenblum, to Michael Cohen
- Jon & Susan Silver in memory of Jeanette Tobin, mother of Bob and Phil Tobin
- Al and Ruth Sporer in memory of Jeanette Tobin, mother of Bob and Phil Tobin

Congregation Sinai welcomes you to sponsor a Shabbat Kiddush.

For details about sponsorship or to book an upcoming date, please contact our Synagogue Administrator Joelle Pluemer at 408-264-8543.

**Opportunities for sponsorship Kiddush are available on January 29, February 5 and February 26.**

### Building Endowment Fund

- Harold Goldberg & Alisa Israel Goldberg in memory of William Goldstein, father of Stan Goldstein
- Paul & Marcia Kerns in memory of William Goldstein, father of Stan Goldstein

### Kiddush Fund

- Anonymous in memory of Jeanette Tobin
- Hilda Balakhane in heartfelt appreciation for all the warm support received from the Sinai community after the recent loss of her beloved father Yehouda Balakhane
- Sylvia Berman-Davilla in memory of Anna and Jacob Berman
- Rina Katzen in memory of Dr. Larry Gossack
- Rina Katzen in honor of the birth of Barry and Rosemarie Mirkin's grandsons Adam and Benjamin
- Jack Sloan in celebration of his 91st birthday
- Jack Sloan in memory of Rachel Sloan
- David & Elena Weinberg in honor of the birth of Ben and Victoria Simon's grandson
- David & Elena Weinberg in memory of Dr. Larry Gossack

## Tribute Funds (continued)

**We gratefully acknowledge donations to the following funds:**

### Chesed Fund

- Steve & Susan Ellenberg in memory of Yehouda Balakhane, father of Hilda Balakhane
- Jerry & Rita Jacobson in memory of Herman Berman
- Jerry & Rita Jacobson wishing Elliot Hoff a speedy and complete recovery
- Jerry & Rita Jacobson in memory of Jeanette Tobin, mother of Bob and Phil Tobin
- Al & Ruth Sporer in memory of William Goldstein, father of Stan Goldstein
- Al and Ruth Sporer in appreciation of Jerry and Rita Jacobson's support and love

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- Stella Dushats in memory of Felix Dushats
- Jerry & Marlene Markus in memory of William Goldstein, father of Stan Goldstein
- Al & Ruth Sporer in honor of the engagement of Anna Rosenblum, daughter of Eric and Lisa Rosenblum, to Michael Cohen

### Ellner Religious School Fund

- Stan & Evelyn Goldstein in memory of Freda Goldstein

### Special Animal Celebration Donations

- Barbara Frank in appreciation of Animal Celebration Weekend
- Rina Katzen in appreciation of Animal Celebration Weekend
- Jon & Susan Silver in appreciation of Animal Celebration Weekend

## Congregation Sinai Fund Contribution Form

A contribution is made in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of  In Appreciation of  in Memory of  for the Speedy Recovery of

Name of individual: \_\_\_\_\_

Contributor: \_\_\_\_\_

Acknowledge to:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

General Fund

Nursery School Fund

Building Endowment Fund

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Kiddush Fund

Roy Uffer Synagogue Beautification Fund

Prayer Book Fund

Ellner Religious School Fund

Chesed Fund

Lillian & J. Lester Cowans Endowment Fund

# January 2011 25 Tevet 5771 - 26 Shevat 5771

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>2</b> No Religious School 9 am Sunday Minyan	<b>3</b> Nursery School Resumes	<b>4</b> 4:15 pm Religious School 7 pm Hebrew High 7:30 pm Intro to Judaism Class	<b>5</b> 9 am Ima and Me Playgroup	<b>6</b> <i>Rosh Chodesh Shevat</i> 9:30 am Silicon Valley Beit Midrash 7:30 pm The Mitzvah Initiative Class	<b>7</b> Candlelighting 4:48 pm	<b>1</b> New Year's Day Va'era 9 am Shabbat Services 11 am Torah for Tots Shabbat Ends: 5:43 pm
<b>9</b> 9 am Religious School 9 am RS School B'nei Mitzvah 9 am Sunday Minyan 10:30 am 5th Grade Israel Prgm 10:30 am Sisterhood Mtg. 7 pm Men's Club Poker Night	<b>10</b> 5 SHEVAT 7:30 pm <b>Professor Robert Alter Master Class at Sinai - Reading Qohelet's Poetic Prose</b>	<b>11</b> 6 SHEVAT 4:15 pm Religious School 7 pm Hebrew High 7:30 pm Intro to Judaism Class	<b>12</b> 7 SHEVAT 9 am Ima and Me Playgroup	<b>13</b> 8 SHEVAT 9:30 am Silicon Valley Beit Midrash	<b>14</b> 9 SHEVAT Candlelighting 4:54 pm	<b>15</b> 10 SHEVAT Beshallah 9 am Shabbat Services 9 am Shira Kahn-Samuelsen Bat Mitzvah 11 am Torah for Tots 6:30 pm Jr. Kadima Sleepover
<b>16</b> No Religious School 9 am Sunday Minyan 1 pm Girl Scouts Meeting	<b>17</b> 12 SHEVAT Martin Luther King Day Office and Nursery School Closed in observance of holiday	<b>18</b> 13 SHEVAT 4:15 pm Religious School 7 pm Hebrew High No Intro to Judaism Class	<b>19</b> 14 SHEVAT 9 am Ima and Me Playgroup	<b>20</b> <i>Tu B'Shvat</i> 9 am <b>Nursery School Tu B'Shvat</b> 9:30 am Silicon Valley Beit Midrash 7:30 pm The Mitzvah Initiative Class	<b>21</b> 16 SHEVAT Candlelighting 5:02 pm	<b>22</b> 17 SHEVAT Yitro 9 am Shabbat Services 6 pm JFS Annual Dinner <b>6:30 pm Tu B'Shvat Seder</b> Shabbat Ends: 6:03 pm
<b>23</b> 9 am RS and B'nei Mitzvah 9 am Sunday Minyan <b>11 am RS Tu B'Shvat Seder</b> 1 pm Jewbilee at APJCC 7:30 pm Sisterhood Book Club	<b>24</b> 19 SHEVAT	<b>25</b> 20 SHEVAT 4:15 pm Religious School 7 pm Hebrew High 7:30 pm Intro to Judaism Class	<b>26</b> 21 SHEVAT 9 am Ima and Me Playgroup	<b>27</b> 22 SHEVAT Nursery School Picture Day 9:30 am Silicon Valley Beit Midrash	<b>28</b> 23 SHEVAT Candlelighting 5:09 pm	<b>29</b> 24 SHEVAT Mishpatim 9 am Shabbat Services 10:30 am Torah N' Tefillah Shabbat Ends: 6:10 pm
<b>30</b> 9 am Religious School 9 am Sunday Minyan 10 am 6th Grade B'nei Mitzvah <b>10 am Nursery School Open House</b> 1 pm Girl Scouts Meeting	<b>31</b> 26 SHEVAT					

# JEWBILEE

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 23  
1:00PM-8:00PM**

**CELEBRATE JEWISH LIFE AND LEARNING  
AND BE PART OF THE  
SECOND ANNUAL "JEWBILEE."**

Join Bay Area Rabbis, Scholars, Artists, and Educators for a full afternoon of classes, programs and performances. There will also be an Open Kosher Buffet, Jewish Film Festival Screenings, programming for families, complimentary daycare, an afternoon of Judaic Studies courses and much more!!!

**ADDISON-PENZAK JCC, 14855 OKA RD, LOS GATOS**  
\$8 adults • \$5 seniors/students • Under 4 Free

# Celebrating JEWISH LIFE



[www.SiliconValleyJCC.org/jewbilee](http://www.SiliconValleyJCC.org/jewbilee)

## Mah Koreh?

### Weekly e-News From Sinai

Our weekly email is sent out on Tuesdays, and includes information about Sinai activities for that week and the following week. It also includes community listings, yahrzeits for the week, Shabbat candle-lighting times, special announcements and more.

If you are not yet receiving Mah Koreh?, and would like to be added to our distribution list, please contact Rebecca Gray at the Sinai office, 408-264-8542 or at [office@sinai-sj.org](mailto:office@sinai-sj.org).

By the following Tuesday, you will start receiving our weekly e-news.

## Bikkur Cholim

### Visiting the Sick

Due to changes in privacy laws, rabbis are no longer notified by a hospital or nursing home when a synagogue member has been admitted. Therefore, we rely upon our members to notify the Sinai office when there is an illness in your family or when someone is in need of a visit. When we are notified, we will respond. Please call or e-mail us so we can fulfill the mitzvah of bikur cholim by providing support and comfort to you and your loved ones.

## Did you know?

Assisted listening devices for the hearing-impaired are available in the Sanctuary during Shabbat and Holiday services. If you need help using them, just ask one of our Sadranim (ushers) to give you a hand.





# Save The Dates:

**February 6**

**Men's Club Superbowl Party**

**February 10**

**Nechamah (Comfort) Committee Training**

**February 20**

**Jr. Kadima to Sky High**

**February 27**

**Sisterhood Vashti's Banquet**



## CONGREGATION SINAI

San Jose's Conservative Synagogue  
1532 Willowbrae Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125  
408-264-8542 [www.sinai-sj.org](http://www.sinai-sj.org)  
Rabbi Joshua Berkenwald

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