



VOICE OF SINAI

For Members and Friends of Congregation Sinai
1532 Willowbrae Ave. San Jose, CA 95125 www.sinai-sj.org

KABBALAT SHABBAT AND SHABBAT DINNER FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4



After a brief hiatus, Sinai's monthly Kabbalat Shabbat service and Shabbat Dinner is back. Join families and friends at this ever-popular event!

Services begin at 6 pm, followed by a gourmet Shabbat dinner at 7 pm.

All are welcome, regardless of background or synagogue affiliation.

For more details, please see page 9.

Inside This Month's Voice

RABBI'S MESSAGE
PAGE 2
Kippot

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
PAGE 3
Jewish Summer Camp

FROM SJCUSY
PAGE 4
International Convention 2010

NURSERY SCHOOL
PAGE 5
Wecoming 2011, Open House, Tu B'Shvat

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, YOUTH EDUCATION
PAGES 5-6
Religious School Events, Tu B'Shvat

YOUTH ACTIVITIES
PAGE 7
For all ages

ADULT ACTIVITIES
PAGE 8
Men's Club, Sisterhood

UPCOMING EVENTS
PAGES 9-10
Kabbalat Shabbat, Superbowl Party,
Memorial Board Dedication, Purim

MAHZOR LEV SHALEM
PAGES 11-12
New for Next Year's High Holidays

PLUS:
TODAH RABAH PAGE 13
TRIBUTE FUNDS PAGES 14-16
YAHREZITS PAGE 17
CALENDAR PAGE 18
ADS PAGE 19

**Congregation Sinai
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**Rabbi's
Message**
Rabbi Josh
Berkenwald

There are few symbols in Judaism which are more instantly recognizable than the *kippah*. It might surprise you to discover, therefore, that Jews have not always worn head coverings, even during worship. Technically speaking, it is not even considered mandatory by *halakhah* (Jewish law) to cover one's head. Nevertheless, over the centuries, this custom has acquired the status of law. While originally a practice only of men, women are increasingly putting on *kippot* during religious activities. How did this practice develop, and what is its significance?

To begin with, let's explore the meaning of the word itself. While the term *kippah* evokes an image of a particular circular disc made out of some sort of cloth-like material, the word is, in fact, rather generic. It comes from a Hebrew root that means a "rounded cover." Anything we use to cover our round heads, therefore, qualifies as a *kippah*. Jewish head coverings have always reflected the styles and fashion of the day. Today, the material, size, and even part of the head on which a *kippah* is worn can sometimes identify the particular religious community of which one is a part. This is especially true in Israel.

Kippot can be knit, suede, satin, or plastic. They come in any color

or design. You can even find *kippot* with cartoon characters or sports team logos. The ability to express oneself through a *kippah* is nearly unlimited.

There is another word, of course, that is even more well-known in America: *yarmulka*. The origin of this word is not certain, although there are theories. Possibly, it comes from a Tartar word meaning "skullcap." Another explanation suggests that it comes from the Aramaic words *yera'i malka*, meaning "fear of the king."

It is difficult to ascertain for certain what our biblical forebears did. We do know that priests and some dignitaries wore special head coverings. By the time of the Rabbis, just under two thousand years ago, it seems that most Jewish men walked about in public bare-headed. Perhaps that explains several rabbinic statements that extol the covering of one's noggin as an especially pious thing to do as an expression of *yir'at shamayim*, fear of heaven. Rav Huna, the son of Rabbi Joshua, declared in the Talmud (BT Shabbat 118b): "May I be rewarded for never walking four cubits bareheaded." The story is told of the mother of Rav Nachman bar Yitzchak who declared that her son would have become a thief if she had not insisted that he wear a covering on his head as a young child. This, she claimed, instilled the fear of God in him that kept him on the straight and narrow path and led to his becoming a great scholar.

**Rabbi's Message
Continues Next Page**

Synagogue Staff

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|
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Josh Berkenwald | Education Director
Katherine Mueller | Synagogue
Administrator
Joelle Pluemer |
| | Nursery School
Director
Miriam Gurantz | Administrative
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Rabbi's Message (continued)

While originally a custom embraced only by the pious, it became more and more common for Jewish men to cover their heads in public, both as a symbol of their fear of God as well as a marker of Jewish identity. In medieval Europe, it was common practice to remove one's hat upon entering a church. To distinguish themselves, Jews did just the opposite and kept theirs in place. In some areas, what began as a voluntary act, however, turned into a symbol of discrimination, as Jews were forced to wear a wide-brimmed, cone shaped hat called the *Judenhut*, or "Jewish hat."

By the sixteenth century, it had become "strongly recommended" in both the Ashkenazi and Sephardi world for men to wear a head covering. In subsequent centuries, the significance of the *kippah* grew even more, as it achieved the status of law. This unraveled in modern times, when societies became democratic and Jews were able to participate in public life in ways that had never before been possible. Many Jews did not want to stick out so much, and so they stopped wearing *kippot*, sometimes even in synagogues.

Conservative practice tends to be in line with what Rabbi Isaac Klein writes in *A Guide to Jewish Religious Practice*, in which he identifies several occasions on which one should wear a *kippah*: "when in the sanctuary of the synagogue," "when praying and when studying or when reading from our sacred literature," "when performing a ritual," and "when eating." At Congregation Sinai, it is our custom for men to wear *kippot* at all religious services. Women are strongly encouraged to take on this practice as well, as the symbolic meaning of covering one's head is equally applicable to

all. When coming up to the *bimah* or leading a prayer, everyone is asked to cover their heads.

For me, wearing a *kippah* is an important religious act for two reasons. By placing something above my head, I am reminded that there is an end to my own being. The *kippah* marks where my identity ceases, and where the rest of existence begins. This is comparable to the Rabbis' depiction of the practice as an expression of fear of heaven. Wearing a *kippah* is an act of humility.

Donning a *kippah* also has an effect on others. A person who wears a *kippah* clearly identifies as a Jew, with one's actions reflecting on the rest of the Jewish people, for better or worse. This creates the opportunity for a tremendous *kiddush hashem* (sanctification of God's name) or *chilul hashem* (desecration of God's name). Put simply, wearing a *kippah* raises the stakes of everything we do, hopefully motivating us to be better people and make better decisions.

A *kippah* is part of our religious uniform. It has the potential to enhance our spiritual consciousness by elevating our acts of prayer, eating, or studying into something even more special. The next time you cover your head upon entering a synagogue, try to be aware of how embracing this ancient custom affects your religious experience. You may even want to consider covering your head at your next meal. Remember: any hat will do.



President's Message

David
Fernandez

As the calendar moves from fall to winter, I begin to think of summer and how our family's summer will be shaped. My children and I have each had the opportunity to attend Jewish summer camp: in my kids' case, Camp Ramah. Our oldest son, Daniel, began his summer camp experience going to a one-week session at a different camp in the summer before fourth grade. He had a great time, but he switched to Camp Ramah a year later so he could go to camp with some of his good friends.

Daniel's first week away attending a Jewish sleepover camp has morphed over the years to where we are now. This coming summer, Lori and I will spend four weeks without our children while they attend Camp Ramah in Ojai. While the quiet in the house can be deafening, the experience that they have is well worth both the expense and the family separation. It is impossible to predict what the future will bring for my children, but I do know that I am a proud, committed Jew because of three sets of Jewish experiences in my childhood: participation in Kadima and USY; attendance at Camp Arazim, a Conservative summer camp that used to exist in Northern California, where I met other kids who are still among my closest friends; and visiting Israel during the summer between my junior and senior years of high school. I am trying to provide those same opportunities for my children, and I hope that you will too.

**President's Message
continues on the next page**

President's Message (continued)

I want to share with you the results of recent research that was conducted by the Foundation for Jewish Camp ("The Long-term Impact of Jewish Camp upon Adult Jewish Engagement" by Steven M. Cohen, Ron Miller, Ira M. Sheskin and Berna Torr). These results offer a clear indication of the enormous impact that a Jewish summer camp experience has on future Jewish identity.

"Research indicates that Jewish camp does indeed work. By examining and cross-tabulating the results of 26 existing Jewish community population surveys, we compared the attitudes and behaviors of adults who had attended Jewish camp as children with those who did not. Survey responses covered 13 different areas of adult behavior or attitude, including synagogue membership, observance of holidays, donating to Jewish charities, and connection to Israel.

Camp attendance increases the likelihood of adult

participation and identification in every one of these areas. Initial findings show that as adults, campers are:

30% more likely to donate to a Jewish charity;

37% more likely to light Shabbat candles;

45% more likely to attend synagogue monthly or more; and

55% more likely to be very emotionally attached to Israel."

I know that the cost of summer camping can be daunting for many families. The good news is that there are scholarships and grants for new campers to attend a number of different Jewish summer camps. The bad news is that they need to be applied for now. If you or your family have questions about summer camp scholarships from Camp Ramah, please feel free to contact myself or Rabbi Berkenwald, who will be happy to point you in the right direction. Additional information on grants for new campers is also available at www.ramah.org and www.onehappycamper.org.

President's Office Hours

David will be holding open office hours at the synagogue from 10-11 am, one Sunday a month. Stop by to ask questions, share your ideas, or say hello.

This month's office hour will be on Sunday, February 13, 2010.



From SJCUSY

Everyone has those moments in life that they wish they could go back and relive everyday. Those moments that will be planted deep within the mind, never to be forgotten. For me, USY International Convention 2010 in Orlando was one of those moments. Filled with such passion, emotion, friendship and love, it is an experience I will never forget.

International Convention takes USY'ers from every region and every chapter and brings them together in one place at one time. A massive amount of teen Jews, celebrating the fact that they are Jewish, and learning about their very own culture, morals, and world. For I.C. 2010, the environment was the main point of discussion. Through various small study groups (called Limuds) we learned ways to help keep our planet healthy and clean, and also what Jewish ethics say about our environment. Not

only did I get to voice my opinion among my peers, I also got to hear the ideas and thoughts of others, and by doing so, made some new life-long friends.

Some may think that I.C. is just a place to learn about Judaism or a place to reunite with friends from around the country, but it is so much more than that. I.C. is a place to bond with people you've never met before and a place to learn priceless information from those around you. Words truly cannot embody the atmosphere, love, and of course *ruach* (spirit) that all of the USY'ers bring to I.C. If I could, I would go back every single day, to be there with my best friends, my new friends, and my new best friends. I.C. was a life changing experience, and one I hope to never forget.

Josh Steinberg
SJCUSY Communications VP

Shalom,

In January, we welcomed the New Year by making a 2011 sign hanging in the hallway and “toasted” each other with French toast made by the Challah Club (our afternoon program).

In the first Nursery School Committee meeting of this year, we discussed how to advertise our school so families would come to our Open House on Sunday, January 30th and sign up for the fall. Yael Rosenthal (Noam's mom) designed a new flyer that was distributed in stores that have Kosher merchandise, so they are frequented by Israeli and other Jewish families. We also targeted apartment and condo complexes that have families that might be interested in joining our wonderful school.

Nursery School



Another source we used was ISO (Israeli Student Organization), a resource that many Israelis use to find schools for their young children.

Tu B'shvat was celebrated at school by making fruit salad, planting, creating a variety of art projects and singing songs and reading books about trees. Our Hamaniyah and Narkis classes walked to Rabbi Berkenwald's house to visit the *Shkediya* (almond tree) that started blossoming and symbolizes the beginning of spring.

We are looking forward to our conference day on Monday, February 7th. It is always nice to meet one on one with our families and talk about the children.

The Nursery School wishes you all the best in 2011!

L'hitra'ot,

Miki Gurantz
Nursery School Director

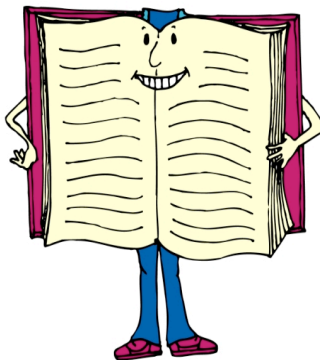
Hebrew High

Tuesday, February 1
Tuesday, February 8
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!

No Religious School on Presidents Day Holiday
Sunday, February 20

Religious School



Religious School Grades 3-5 Family Education Day
Sunday, February 27
9 am -12 noon

Family Education Day for grades 3 - 5 led by Susan Ellenberg. Yavneh and Religious School families will come together at Sinai to learn about “Sibling Rivalry in the Bible,” and get to know each other.

Youth Education

Sinai Religious School students have been busy learning about and celebrating Tu B'shvat. Each grade has focused on a different aspect of the holiday, with the goal of adding layers to what they have already learned in previous years. This is what our children have been learning:

Kitah Gan:

Our Kitah Gan students discussed how Tu B'shvat represents the renewal of life. Around Tu B'shvat time, we see the first sign of spring in Israel as the almond tree blossoms. Our students learned a song about the almond tree. They also explored ways to participate in the renewal of life at home by planting and recycling, and they made bird feeders to hang up in their trees at home.

Kitah Alef & Bet:

Our Kitah Alef and Bet students learned about the four new years in Judaism, one of which is the new year of the trees. Since the Bible describes how we can only eat from the fruit of a tree in the fourth year, it was important to know the age of a tree and when its fruit was available to eat. They learned the song *Etz Chayim Hee*, "It's a Tree of Life" and made trees out of tissue paper.

Kitah Gimel & Dalet:

Our Kitah Gimel and Dalet students learned about how the idea of the Tu B'shvat Seder started with the Sephardim in Tzfat, Israel. The Kabbalists believe that the flow of life is restored to the universe on Tu B'shvat. The students learned about how different Jewish communities focused on eating



different fruits on Tu B'shvat. Should it be 15 fruits symbolizing the 15th day of the month of Shvat, or should it be 7, symbolizing the Seven Species found in the land of Israel as described by the Bible? Our Kitah Gimel and Dalet students made their own Tu B'shvat Seder plates.

Kitah Hey:

Our students in Kitah Hey focused on environmental issues in Israel today, including development in the Negev, air pollution and water issues. They learned about the Jewish National Fund and what it does to help protect Israel's environment. They also discussed our Jewish responsibility to Israel's environment, making posters to advertise how we can help Israel.

Kitah Vav:

Our Kitah Vav students focused on how Tu B'shvat developed as a holiday. They

learned about it starting from when we had the Temple in Jerusalem and there was a tithe, a tax on all fruit. The tax year would end every Tu B'shvat.

They explored how it became important again with the modern state of Israel and wanting to protect its environment. Kitah Vav also learned Hebrew words for trees and flowers. They created pictures of trees found in Israel with the words they learned forming the trees.

Kitah Zayin:

Our students in Kitah Zayin explored the Jewish response to climate change, studying Biblical and Rabbinic sources to debate what our responsibility is to the environment. They wrote their own responses to the question of what we should do as Jews to help the environment. They also developed a plan for how we can make our shul more green.

We culminated our Tu B'shvat learning by inviting all of the Religious School families to a school-wide Seder. Instead of a traditional sit-down Seder, students and their parents celebrated different aspects of Tu B'shvat at four stations. There were stations for Israeli dancing, Tu B'shvat songs, planting seeds, and learning about the mitzvah of *Tikkun Olam*. At the end of each station, the group drank one of four cups of grape juice and ate one of the different types of fruit and nuts.

Katherine Mueller
Education Director

**Ima and Me Playgroup
("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. This month, Ima and Me will meet on February 2, 9, 16, and 23.

Torah For Tots

**Saturdays, January 5, 19
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. For more information, email Aaron Jarson at torahfortots@sinai-sj.org.

"Torah N Tefillah"

**Service for Grades 3 - 7
Saturday, February 12
10:30 am - 12 Noon**

Students from both Religious School and Yavneh Day School have the opportunity to put their learning into practice by leading

**Youth
Activities**



parts of the Shabbat morning service. Join us in the Mirkin Chapel to learn new melodies, explore Shabbat teachings, and hear engaging stories with Director of Education, Kate Mueller and Sinai teen leaders.



**Jr. Kadima Jump Sky High
Sunday, February 20, 2 pm**

Calling all 5th and 6th graders! Please join us for a fun-filled time at Sky High Sports in Santa Clara. Come bounce off the walls! RSVP to Rozita Tabibian at jrkadima@sinai-sj.org.

**Jewish Girl Scouts Troop
Sunday, February 13
Sunday, February 27
1 - 2:30 pm**

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

**USY ISS Convention
February 18-21**

Attention all high-schoolers! The ISS Convention will take place on Presidents Day Weekend, February 18-21 at Mosaic Law Congregation in Sacramento. It is a unique opportunity for Jewish teens to combine education, social action, and the opportunity to meet each other and have fun together. The education theme at this convention is a sweeping and in-depth look at our people's history during the last 3000 years – our struggles in the face of assimilation and persecution and the burning desire to overcome in every generation, including our own. Plus some amazing late night activities and surprises you won't want to miss. For more information, contact Debbie Lewis at usy@sinai-sj.org.



Troop Leaders Dana Berkenwald and Kelly Braun, and all their scouts had a great time at the Girl Scouts Sleepover at Sinai on January 8, 2011.

February Shabbat Kiddush Luncheons

- **February 5:** Deli Kiddush Luncheon sponsored by an anonymous donor.
- **February 12:** Kiddush Luncheon sponsored by Wayne & Julie Firsty in honor of their children, Shayna and Alana.
- **February 19:** Kiddush Luncheon sponsored by Maureen Ellenberg in honor of the dedication of the new Yahrzeit Memorial Board.
- **February 26:** Kiddush Luncheon sponsored by the Landsman and Sager families.

Todah rabah to our generous sponsors!



Sisterhood Meeting Sunday, February 6, 10:30 am

Join us in the Mirkin Chapel. Come and meet other members, learn about upcoming events, or about how you can get involved. For more information, email sisterhood@sj-sinai.org.

Sisterhood Girls' Dinner Out

Wednesday, February 9, 6 pm

Enjoy a relaxing and fun "Girls' Dinner Out" at the Vegetarian House, 520 E. Santa Clara Street in San Jose. Dinner includes appetizer, soups, salad, rice, entrées, and dessert. Special guest speaker Karen Piemme talks about being a vegan. Cost: \$25.00 per person. Parking is available in the restaurant's adjacent lot and on the street. You can meet at us at the restaurant at 6 pm, or carpooling is available. Please let us know when you RSVP if you want a ride. RSVP to sisterhood@sinai-sj.org or 408-264-8542.

Adult Activities

Silicon Valley Beit Midrash

**Weekly on Thursdays
9:30 to 11:15 am**

This month, SVBM meets on February 3, 17 and 24. *Please note that there will be no class on Thursday, February 10.*

Intro To Judaism Class

**Tuesdays, January 1, 8, 15, 22
7:30 – 9:30 pm**

The Mitzvah Initiative

**Thursdays, February 3, 17
7:30 – 9:00 pm**

Nechamah (Comfort) Committee Training Thursday, February 10 7:30 pm

Please consider joining Sinai's newly formed *Nechamah* (comfort) Committee, led by congregants 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*. At this training session, participants will learn about Jewish practices of *nichum aveilim* (comforting mourners) and find out how our tradition supports those who experience loss.

Girls' Dinner Out



Wednesday, February 9, 2011, 6:00 pm

Vegetarian House

Organic Vegan Restaurant

Pre-selected Menu Includes:

Appetizer, Soup, Salad, Entree, Side Dish, Rice, Dessert and Beverages, served family-style. Cost: \$25.

Special Guest Speaker:

Karen Piemme, Director of Outreach and Education at the San Jose Repertory Theater, will share her experiences of vegan living.

Please RSVP by Monday, February 7

to sisterhood@sinai-sj.org, or 408-264-8542

Carpooling available. Please let us know if you need a ride.

Restaurant Address: 520 E. Santa Clara St., San Jose, CA
Phone: 408-292-3798. Adjacent Lot and Street Parking Available.

Kabbalat Shabbat and Shabbat Dinner

Friday, February 4, 6 pm

The term Kabbalat Shabbat means “welcoming the Shabbat.” This informal early evening service is open to all. A delicious and festive Shabbat dinner will follow at 7 pm.

The B'teavon Committee will serve a delicious meal for your dining enjoyment featuring Cindy's famous paprika spice-rubbed salmon, scalloped potatoes, seasonal green vegetables, salad, fruit and dessert.

Early bird special for dinner: RSVP by February 1: \$20 per adult (age 13 and up) and \$5 per child age 5-12 (free for children under age 5). \$54 maximum per family.

Regular price for dinner: RSVP after February 1: \$24 per adult (age 13 and up) and \$10 per child age 5-12 (free for children under age 5). \$65 maximum per family.

For reservations, contact the Sinai office at 408-264-8542 or office@sinai-sj.org.

Superbowl Party

Sunday, February 6, 2 - 7 pm

It's not just for men anymore! This year, Sinai's Superbowl Party moves from the Richmans' home to the Sinai Social Hall. Join us for hot dogs, kids' activities, Superbowl ads and, of course, some serious football. Cost: \$10 per person, \$25 max per family. RSVP to the office, 408-264-8542 or office@sinai-sj.org.

Upcoming Events



Dedication of the Ellenberg Memorial Board

Saturday, February 19

Please join us at Shabbat services as we dedicate our new Yahrzeit memorial board, made possible through the generosity of congregant Maureen Ellenberg. The board will be dedicated in memory of Maureen's beloved late husband, Dr. Alexander "Sandy" Ellenberg, z"l, who was so special to his family and to the entire Sinai community. Following services, please join us for Kiddush luncheon sponsored by Maureen Ellenberg in honor of the occasion. All are welcome.



Purim's Coming! Save The Dates! Annual Purim Megillah Readings! Carnival! Persian Feast!

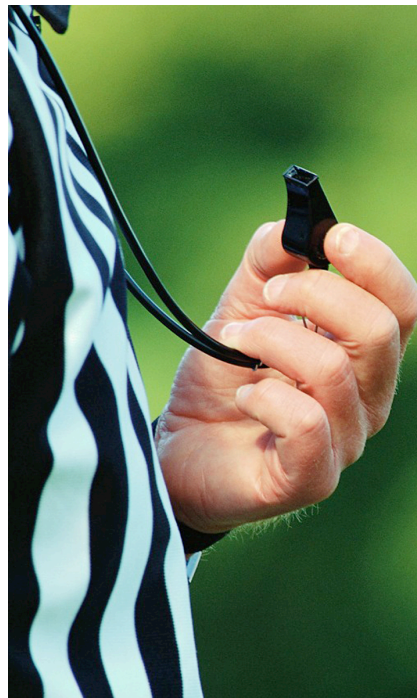
Saturday, March 19 7:30 pm

Come in costume, listen to the Megillah Reading, and enjoy this year's Purim Musical, "The Battle of the Bands!"

Sunday, March 20

Fun and games for all ages!

- Megillah Reading
- Puppet Show
- Costume Parade
- Purim Carnival with Games and Prizes
- Outdoor Activities
- Persian Barbecue Lunch



MAKE THE RIGHT CALL...

COME TO THE SINAI

SUPER BOWL PARTY!

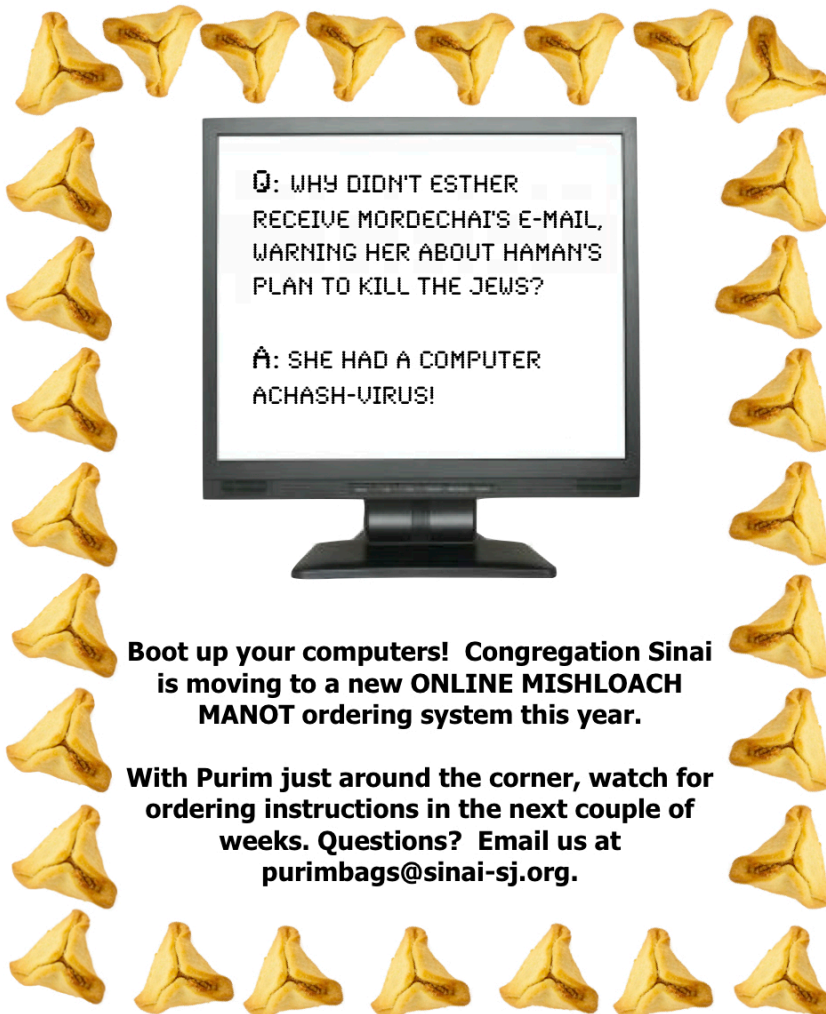
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6 FROM 2 - 7 PM

CONGREGATION SINAI SOCIAL HALL
1532 WILLOWBRAE AVENUE
SAN JOSE, CA 95125

HOT DOGS, CHIPS, SALAD AND DESSERT
COST: \$10 PER PERSON; \$25 MAX PER FAMILY

FUN FOR EVERYONE! GAMES AND ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN!

RSVP TO SINAI AT 408-264-8542
OR OFFICE@SINAI-SJ.ORG



Q: WHY DIDN'T ESTHER
RECEIVE MORDECHAI'S E-MAIL,
WARNING HER ABOUT HAMAN'S
PLAN TO KILL THE JEWS?

A: SHE HAD A COMPUTER
ACHASH-VIRUS!

Boot up your computers! Congregation Sinai is moving to a new ONLINE MISHLOACH MANOT ordering system this year.

With Purim just around the corner, watch for ordering instructions in the next couple of weeks. Questions? Email us at purimbags@sinai-sj.org.

Wanted: Participants for Sinai's Purim 2011

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

This year's Purim Megillah Reading will take place on Saturday night, March 19, beginning at 7:30 pm. It will feature a "Battle of the Bands" competition that will take place between chapters of the Megillah reading.

If you are interested in participating as a performer, judge, costume/set designer, etc., please contact the office by February 16.

May the best band win!



Purim Carnival Fundraiser:

Be a part of our best carnival ever!

Volunteers are needed to sponsor, organize, and operate the 2011 Sinai Purim Carnival

YOU Can:

SPONSOR A GAME BOOTH
Design, build or buy a game.

Potential games include:
face painting, Purim character photo booth, mini-golf, cotton candy machine, ring toss, bowling, etc.

UNDERWRITE A JUMPER BOOTH

Exciting attraction possibilities include: Jump House, Bungee Run, Adrenaline Rush Obstacle Course.

VOLUNTEER

...at the ticket counter, prize station or the Persian Barbecue Lunch.

For more information, or to volunteer, please contact Kate Mueller at 408-264-1229 or educator@sinai-sj.org

Dear Fellow Congregants,

For the High Holidays this coming year, Congregation Sinai will have the pleasure of worshipping from a new prayerbook: the recently published *Mahzor Lev Shalem*. This updated Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur prayerbook has been designed to provide a traditional High Holiday service more oriented towards modern worshippers. Among the features of the *Mahzor Lev Shalem* are:

- A new updated translation that is faithful to the Hebrew, yet reflecting contemporary use of language,
- More transliterations,
- Commentaries, on the same page as the text, from both ancient and modern scholars to explain the historical, liturgical, and spiritual context of the prayers, and
- A book that is lightweight, but durable.

The decision to adopt the *Mahzor Lev Shalem* has been reviewed and endorsed by Rabbi Berkenwald and the Ritual Committee and has been approved by the Board of Directors. The decision to adopt this new *mahzor* has quickly generated excitement.

We are delighted to announce that Sandy Reischer Greenfield and René Reischer Cudahy will be funding the purchase of an entire set of High Holiday prayerbooks for Congregation Sinai, which they will be dedicating to the memory of their beloved parents, Michael and Ruth Reischer. We are deeply appreciative of their generosity, which will provide a new *mahzor* for every seat in our Sanctuary.

We are also pleased to be able to share with you the opportunity to purchase your own personal copy of *Mahzor Lev Shalem* at a reduced price of \$36 per book, including shipping (retail price: \$44, plus shipping). This will give you an opportunity to study and be inspired by this incredible publication throughout the year. Please use the form on the next page to place your order, and please note that orders are due in the Sinai office no later than March 21, 2011. If you have any questions, please contact the office for further information.

Sincerely,

David Fernandez
President

MJ Lopatin
Ritual Committee Chair

מחזור לב שלם
לימים הנוראים
MAHZOR LEV SHALEM
FOR ROSH HASHANAH
AND YOM KIPPUR



THE RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY
5771 · 2010

Congregation Sinai Mahzor Lev Shalem Order Form

Last name(s): _____ First name (s): _____

Daytime phone: _____

Email: _____

I/We would like to order _____ book(s), at a cost of \$36 each, for a total of \$ _____.

Payment Method:

Check enclosed, payable to: *Congregation Sinai*

Please charge my: Visa MasterCard Discover

Credit card no. _____ Exp. _____ Verification no. _____

Signature _____

Print name (as on card) _____

I have paid online through the Sinai website

**Remember: orders are due in the Sinai office no later than
March 21, 2011.**

MEN'S CLUB POKER NIGHT JANUARY 9, 2011



(L TO R) JOSH SMITH, MEN'S CLUB PRESIDENT GARY RICHMAN, SCOTT BUDMAN



RABBI JOSH, STEVE DICK



ART COHEN, JON SILVER



THIS YEAR'S CHAMPION, SY HOFF, WITH CHAMPION OF THE PAST FIVE YEARS, STAN GOLDSTEIN

Todah Rabah, Thank You

תודה רבה

Todah rabah to...

- Lorraine Hoff for preparing Chesed meals for families in need
- Laurence Samuelson and Merle Kahn for their donation of Judaica toys to the Children's playroom.
- Renée Fields for helping prepare Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon
- James and Teri Baron for sponsoring Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon in honor of their conversion and joining the Sinai community
- Malka Doron for organizing the Religious School art room
- Rita Jacobson for her help with office mailings
- Danielle Robinson for taking beautiful photographs of students and their families for the Religious School fundraiser
- Wayne and Julie Firsty for editing and developing pictures and assisting with the Religious School fundraiser
- Malka Doron for her help in making Shakshukah during the 5th grade Israel Program
- Renée Jacowitz for her help creating bulletin boards for the Religious School hallway
- Renée Jacowitz for grocery shopping for the Kadima "choose your own adventure" youth event
- Laurence Samuelson and Merle Kahn for sponsoring Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Shira
- Miriam Leiseroff for organizing the Sinai annual Tu B'shvat Seder
- Harvey Slater for sponsoring Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon in honor of the yahrzeit of his wife Beverly Slater
- Gary Richman for coordinating Men's Club Poker Night and to all the poker players for donating half of the proceeds raised to Sinai and the other half to a charity of Rabbi Berkenwald's choice
- Julie O'Neill for volunteering her time to help in the Sinai office during her winter vacation
- Miriam Leiseroff for her help with a special aliyot card indexing system
- Rabbi Yoshi Fenton and the APJCC for sponsoring and organizing the well-attended lecture at Sinai by reknowned Bible scholar Professor Robert Alter
- Eve-Lyn Redhill for the beautiful calligraphy on the B'nei Mitzvah certificates
- An anonymous donor for the Kiddush wine
- Aaron and Maria Elena Jarson, and Maureen and Derek Krantz for leading Torah for Tots

Thank you for all that you do!

AN EXTRA-SPECIAL TODAH RABAH

This month, congregant Alisa Israel Goldberg retired after five years of compiling, editing and producing our weekly Shabbat flyer. Alisa brought her energy, organizational skills, and passion for effective communication to this project from day one. She put the flyer together for Shabbat, holidays and B'nei Mitzvah so reliably, and was always looking for ways to improve it. We truly appreciate her dedication to this project. Alisa is also stepping down after one year of producing the Voice of Sinai in its new, updated format. Todah rabah, Alisa, for helping to keep us so well informed!

Tribute Funds

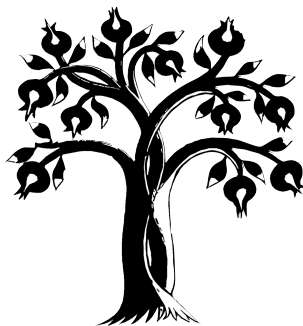
We gratefully acknowledge donations to the following funds:

General Fund

- Charles & Davida Adelberg contributing to the Sinai 2011 Directory
- Cole & Rita Buxbaum memory of David Halabe
- Michael and Debbie Cogan in memory of Irving Feig
- Maureen Ellenberg in memory of David Halabe
- Maureen Ellenberg in memory of William Goldstein
- Steve & Susan Ellenberg in memory of Robert S. Gottesman
- Bruce & Pesia Entin in memory of Jeanette Tobin
- Harold Goldberg & Alisa Israel Goldberg in memory of William Goldstein
- Harold Goldberg & Alisa Israel Goldberg in memory of Jeanette Tobin
- Harold Goldberg & Alisa Israel Goldberg in memory of David Halabe
- Harold Goldberg and Alisa Israel Goldberg in memory of Khalil Tabibian
- Harold Goldberg & Alisa Israel Goldberg in memory of Robert S. Gottesman
- Howard & Andrea Greyber in memory of Beatrice Goldgraber
- Jerry & Rita Jacobson welcoming James and Teri Baron to the Sinai community family
- Jerry & Rita Jacobson in memory of Khalil Tabibian
- Jerry & Rita Jacobson in honor of Shira Kahn-Samuelsan's Bat Mitzvah
- Allen & Deborah Leibovitch in memory of Robert S. Gottesman
- Jerry & MJ Lopatin in memory of Jeanette Tobin
- Jerry & MJ Lopatin in memory of David Halabe
- Jerry & MJ Lopatin in memory of Khalil Tabibian
- Harry & Jari Meier in memory of Jeanette Tobin
- Joann Moeslein in memory of Jeanette Tobin
- Eytan & Rosemary Pick in memory of William Goldstein
- Yaghoob & Beverly Pousty in honor of Fay Citron-Pousty's Bat Mitzvah
- Ethel Ress in honor of Hebe Aver
- Jay & Rachel Seliber in memory of Donald Seliber
- Jon & Susan Silver in memory of Khalil Tabibian
- Jon & Susan Silver in honor of Eytan Hendel's Bar Mitzvah
- Jon & Susan Silver in honor of Fay Citron-Pousty's Bat Mitzvah
- Chuck & Barbara Taubman in memory of Jeanette Tobin
- Dennis Wacknov in memory of Jeanette Tobin
- Bob & Sandy Woycke in memory of Jeanette Tobin

New Annual Campaign Pledges

- Barbara Frank
- Michael & Sheri Frumkin
- David & Beverly Hirsch
- Hedy Kaplan
- Benjamin & Julia Karni
- Olivier & Julia Minkowski
- Nirit Peer
- Eli Reinhart
- Harvey Slater
- Moris & Chana Taradalsky
- Todd & Jennifer Yellin



Today rabah

*to everyone who has contributed
to Congregation Sinai's 5771
Annual Campaign.*

*Your Generosity Helps Our
Community Flourish.*

Tribute Funds (continued)

We gratefully acknowledge donations to the following funds:

Kiddush Fund

- Cole & Rita Buxbaum in honor of Fay Citron-Pousty's Bat Mitzvah
- Cole & Rita Buxbaum in honor of Eytan Hendel's Bar Mitzvah
- Doron & Arielle Hendel in memory of David Halabe
- Doron & Arielle Hendel in memory of Khalil Tabibian
- Jerry & Rita Jacobson sending get well wishes to Lisa Moskowicz
- Jerry & Rita Jacobson in honor of the engagement of Eric and Lisa Rosenblum's daughter Anna to Michael Cohen
- Jerry & Rita Jacobson sending get well wishes to Lucy Fried

Prayerbook Fund

- Harold Goldberg & Alisa Israel Goldberg dedicating a Siddur in honor of Fay Citron-Pousty's Bat Mitzvah
- Harold Goldberg & Alisa Israel Goldberg dedicating a Siddur in honor of Eytan Hendel's Bar Mitzvah

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- Paula Adams in memory of Jeanette Tobin
- Irving & Leona Black in memory of David Halabe
- Mark & Marleen Brodsky in memory of William Goldstein
- Mark & Marleen Brodsky in memory of Jeanette Tobin
- Jerry & Rita Jacobson in memory of Charlotte Berger
- Jerry & Rita Jacobson in memory of Molly Jacobson
- Jerry & Rita Jacobson in honor of the engagement of Elie and Lottie Monarch's son Aviv, and in honor of the birth of their new grandson
- Rina Katzen in honor of the engagement of Eric and Lisa Rosenblum's daughter Anna to Michael Cohen
- Rina Katzen in honor of Eytan Hendel's Bar Mitzvah
- Rina Katzen in memory of William Goldstein
- Rina Katzen in memory of Khalil Tabibian
- Allen & Deborah, Natan and Shayna Leibovitch in honor of Rabbi Berkenwald's birthday
- Allen & Deborah Leibovitch in memory of Debby Friedman
- Miriam Leiseroff in memory of David Halabe
- Jerry & Marlene Markus in memory of David Halabe
- Ilya & Edith Matov in memory of Tevye and Sterna Matov
- Ilya & Edith Matov in memory of David and Sara Pevzner
- Sam & Soraya Shamouilian in appreciation of Rabbi Berkenwald
- Judith Skopicki in memory of Paul Skopicki
- Judith Skopicki in memory of Szmul Majer Zelten
- Al & Ruth Sporer in honor of Fay Citron-Pousty's Bat Mitzvah
- Al & Ruth Sporer in memory of David Halabe
- Al & Ruth Sporer in memory of Robert S. Gottesman
- Bob & Ellen Tobin in memory of Jeanette Tobin
- Bob & Ellen Tobin in memory of Mitchel Tobin
- Bob & Ellen Tobin in memory of David Halabe
- Bob & Ellen Tobin sending get well wishes to Lucy Fried
- Phil & Roseann Tobin in memory of Jeanette Tobin
- Don Zeman & Beverly Tobin-Zeman in memory of Jeanette Tobin

Kiddush Sponsorship

Congregation Sinai invites you to sponsor a Shabbat Kiddush to mark a simcha, celebrate a birthday, commemorate the yahrtzeit of a loved one, honor an individual's accomplishment, or just make our Shabbat experience more enjoyable. To book an upcoming date, please contact our Synagogue Administrator, Joelle Pluemer at 408-264-8542.

"Tribute Funds" continues on the next page

Tribute Funds (continued)

We gratefully acknowledge donations to the following funds:

Chesed Fund

- Barbara Frank in memory of Bernice Teman
- Jerry & Rita Jacobson in memory of David Halabe
- Jerry & Rita Jacobson in honor of Fay Citron-Posty's Bat Mitzvah
- Jerry & Rita Jacobson in honor of Eytan Hendel's Bar Mitzvah
- Jerry & Rita Jacobson sending get well wishes to Victoria Simon
- Jerry & Rita Jacobson sending get well wishes to Mr. Michael Hanik
- Dan & Hana Lang in honor of Fay Citron-Posty's Bat Mitzvah
- Rita Pearl in memory of Rose Kalichstein
- Josh Roza & Melissa Marfia-Roza in memory of Jeanette Tobin
- Josh Roza & Melissa Marfia-Roza in memory of Khalil Tabibian
- Josh Roza & Melissa Marfia-Roza in memory of Margene Bloom-Roza
- Al & Ruth Sporer in honor of Eytan Hendel's Bar Mitzvah
- Al & Ruth Sporer in memory of Khalil Tabibian
- Bob & Ellen Tobin in memory of Carole Hoffman
- Bob & Ellen Tobin in memory of William Goldstein

Ellner Religious School Fund

- Jerry & Rita Jacobson memory of Robert S. Gottesman
- Iris Miller in honor of Sky Diamond's first chanukah and sending Happy Chanukah wishes
- Iris Miller in memory of Anna Figman
- Iris Miller in memory of Charlotte Ellner, Sadie Ellner, and Gary Ellner

Nursery School Fund

- Mike & Evelyn Berliner in memory of Barbara Berliner Goldbetter

Roy Uffer Synagogue Beautification Fund

- Glenda Uffer in memory of Jeanette Tobin

Special Animal Celebration Donations

- Eve-Lyn and Camille Redhill, Bayleigh, Sascha and Chauncey in appreciation of Bert and Suzanne Peters sponsoring the Animal Celebration Weekend
- Eve-Lyn and Camille Redhill in appreciation of the delicious vegetarian food for the Animal Celebration Weekend

Todah Rabah to Sinai Memorial Chapel

Congregation Sinai would like to express our gratitude to Sinai Memorial Chapel for their recent subvention (donation) of \$500.00 to the Religious School. *Todah Rabah* for their continued support of Jewish education!

February Yahrzeits

Shvat

Beverly Slater	28
Gerald Jaffe	29
Harry Katzen	29
Werner Thonicke	29
Maria Tseytlin-Kroshner	29
Louis Mencher	30
Joseph Polissar	30

Adar I

Abraham Dushets-Kogan	1
Neal Robinson	1
Martin Frederic Stein	2
Sholom Verkhovsky	2
Yisrael Klapper	3
Larisa Latkina	3
Boris Drabkin	4
Mordko Tenenboym	7
Earle E. Rosenblum	8
Peter Langer	10
Meyer Levine	10
Emanuel Kretz	12

Mordechai Makler	12
Lydia Dombro	13
Louis Landsman	14
Bonnie Judkowitz	15
Myron Solin	15
Rachel Voscoboinik	15
Alexander 'Sandy' Ellenberg	18
Margaret Kasser Abrams	20
Berta Leiserowitsch	23
Sterna Matov	23
Sonya Rahmil	23
Rose Meyberg	24

In Memoriam

May their memories be a blessing

Khalil Tabibian

Father of David (Rozita) Tabibian
Grandfather of Daniel and Dalia

Robert S. Gottesman

Father of Leslie (Alan) Steinberg
Grandfather of Josh, Danielle and Rachel

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
- Building Endowment Fund
- Kiddush Fund
- Prayer Book Fund
- Chesed Fund

- Nursery School Fund
- Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
- Roy Uffer Synagogue Beautification Fund
- Ellner Religious School Fund
- Lillian & J. Lester Cowans Endowment Fund

February 2011 27 Shevat 5771 - 24 Adar I 5771

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 27 SHEVAT 4:15 pm Religious School 7 pm Hebrew High 7:30 pm Intro to Judaism Class	2 28 SHEVAT 9 am Ina and Me	3 29 SHEVAT 9:30 am Silicon Valley Beit Midrash 7:30 pm The Mitzvah Initiative Class	4 30 SHEVAT <i>Rosh Chodesh Adar I - Day 1</i> 6 pm Kabballat Shabbat Services 7 pm Shabbat Dinner Candle Lighting 5:17 pm	5 1 ADAR I <i>Rosh Chodesh Adar I - Day 2</i> Terumah 9 am Shabbat Services 11 am Torah for Tot's Shabbat Ends: 6:18 pm
6 2 ADAR I 9 am Religious School 9 am Religious School Bnei Mitzvah Program 9 am Sunday Minyan 10:30 am Sisterhood Meeting 2 pm Superbowl Party	7 3 ADAR I Nursery School Closed - Conference Day	8 4 ADAR I 4:15 pm Religious School 7 pm Hebrew High 7:30 pm Intro to Judaism Class	9 5 ADAR I 9 am Ina and Me 6 pm Sisterhood Dinner	10 6 ADAR I 7:30 pm Nechamah Comfort Committee	11 7 ADAR I Candle Lighting 5:24 pm	12 8 ADAR I Lincoln's Birthday Tezaveh 9 am Shabbat Services 10:30 am Torah N' Tefillah 12 pm Kiddush Luncheon sponsored by Wayne and Julie Firsty Shabbat Ends: 6:26 pm
13 9 ADAR I 9 am Religious School 9 am Sunday Minyan 10 am President's Office Hours 1 pm Girl Scouts Meeting	14 10 ADAR I	15 11 ADAR I 4:15 pm Religious School 7:30 pm Intro to Judaism Class	16 12 ADAR I 9 am Ina and Me	17 13 ADAR I 9:30 am Silicon Valley Beit Midrash 7:30 pm The Mitzvah Initiative Class	18 14 ADAR I <i>Purim Katan</i> Candle Lighting 5:32 pm	19 15 ADAR I Ki Tisa Memorial Board Dedication 9 am Shabbat Services 11 am Torah for Tot's 12 pm Kiddush Luncheon sponsored by Maureen Ellenberg Shabbat Ends: 6:33 pm
20 16 ADAR I No Religious School 9 am Sunday Minyan 2 pm Jr. Kadima Event - Sky High	21 17 ADAR I President's Day (observed) Office and Nursery School Closed in observance of holiday	22 18 ADAR I 4:15 pm Religious School 7:30 pm Intro to Judaism Class	23 19 ADAR I 9 am Ina and Me	24 20 ADAR I 9:30 am Silicon Valley Beit Midrash	25 21 ADAR I Candle Lighting 5:39 pm	26 22 ADAR I Vayakhel 9 am Shabbat Services Shabbat Ends: 6:40 pm
27 23 ADAR I 9 am Religious School 9 am Religious School Bnei Mitzvah Program 9 am Religious School Grades 3-5 Family Education 9 am Sunday Minyan 1 pm Girl Scouts Meeting	28 24 ADAR I					

Upcoming events at the JCC

Mon., Feb 7th, 3:00-5:00pm – “Mesibah”: A party to celebrate the start of the month of Adar I. Children ages 2-10 with parent/ caregiver. Free!

Sun., Feb 13th, 7:30pm –Speaker Series: Dr. Rebecca Newberger Goldstein, author of *Finding Spinoza* and other books. \$5 JCC members, \$7 non-members.

Sun., Feb 27th, 4:00-7:00pm – Summer Camp Sign-up Night. Free! Sign up for summer camp, do fun activities with our summer counselors, and enjoy a free pasta dinner and a movie! **Plus your child gets free Extended Care or a \$100 discount for every session you sign up for tonight!**



14855 Oka Road, Los Gatos, CA 95032
408.358.3636 | info@svjcc.org

Your Ad Here!

- Do you own a business or know of one whose products or services would interest Sinai members and friends?
- Do you wish you could send a personal message to the Sinai community?
- Contact the office today at 408-264-8542 or office@sinai-sj.org to get ad rates and terms for the Voice of Sinai. It's a great way to reach the entire congregation!

See Your Sinai Friends on Facebook

Congregation Sinai has a Facebook group. If you are a Facebook user, you can join us.



Just search for “Congregation Sinai of San Jose,” and select “Join this group.”



Save The Dates:

March 5

Bar Mitzvah of Lavi Paoletti

March 6

Men's Club Movie Night

March 13

"Chavurah Madness"

March 19

Purim Megillah Reading and "Battle of the Bands"

March 20

Purim Megillah Reading, Carnival & Persian Barbecue Lunch



CONGREGATION SINAI

1532 Willowbrae Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125

408-264-8542 www.sinai-sj.org

Rabbi Joshua Berkenwald

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