



VOICE OF SINAI

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

CONGREGATION SINAI PRESENTS **PURIM 2011**

SATURDAY MARCH 19 @7:30pm

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

LIVE MUSIC
FULL MEGILLAH READING
NO COVER CHARGE
ADULTS/KIDS OF ALL AGES

PLUS THE SANTZE MEGILLAH

SUNDAY MARCH 20 @11:30am

PURIM CARNIVAL

FOOD/GAMES/PRIZES
COSTUME PARADE
PERSIAN BBQ

COME EARLY FOR THE PUPPET SHOW @11:00

MEGILLAH READINGS!

PUPPET SHOW!

BARBECUE LUNCH!

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Chag Purim Sameach!

**Congregation Sinai
Officers and Directors**

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First Vice President

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Second Vice President

Michele Myron

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Deborah Leibovitch

Cynthia Levinson

MJ Lopatin

Shoshanah Miller

Julia Minkowski

Gary Richman

Joshua Roza

Charles Statman

Alan Steinberg



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1532 Willowbrae Avenue

San Jose, CA 95125

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**Rabbi's
Message**

Rabbi Josh

Berkenwald

The Shabbat before Purim is given a special name: *Shabbat Zakhor* - the Shabbat of Remembrance. A second Torah is removed from the ark, with the final musaf reading taken from Deuteronomy. The reading opens with the words *zakhor et asher asah-lecha amalek* - “remember that which Amalek did to you” and ends with the words *lo tishkach* - “do not forget.” These expressions, “remember” and “do not forget,” are the bookends around the maftir reading. They mean essentially the same thing. Shabbat Zakhor, with its special maftir, serves as an annual reminder of what Amalek did to our ancestors in the wilderness. The Torah teaches that the Amalekites attacked the weak and defenseless because they did not fear God, and they did not respect human life and human dignity.

But not for the rabbis. In the Talmud (Megillah 18a), *zakhor*, remember, is understood as the internal process of memory. *Lo tishkach*, “do not forget,” on the other hand, means that we have to do something active to make sure that we remember. What is that something? For starters, we read this passage every year on the Shabbat before Purim.

Why this Shabbat? Because Haman is a descendent of the Amalekites. Like his ancestors, Haman took

advantage of his powerful position to try to destroy the Jewish people, who were a weak, exiled nation within the Persian empire.

We derive another lesson from this special Torah reading as well. In it, we read *timcheh et zecher-amalek mitachat hashamayim* - “blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under the heavens.” This presents us with something of a conundrum. We are instructed, in no uncertain terms, that we are to “remember” and “not forget” what Amalek did to us. How can we blot out the remembrance of Amalek if we are commanded to never forget what Amalek did?

The way in which we fulfill this instruction is one of the most beloved aspects of Purim. During the reading of the megillah, we listen closely for the reader to recite the name of the villain Haman so that we can use our groggers to drown out his name. According to some traditions, two stones with the carved words Haman and Amalek are mashed together to literally grind out the names.

That we continue to blot out the name of Amalek two thousand years later suggests we have done a pretty good job of remembering. Mere remembering for its own sake, however, is pointless. There is a deeper message that we are meant to internalize. The Torah’s instruction is not to remember Amalek, but to remember what Amalek did. The command to wipe out *zekher amalek*, the remembrance of Amalek, is a command to wipe out the evil that was characterized by Amalek’s actions. Both in

Synagogue Staff

Rabbi

Josh Berkenwald

Education Director

Katherine Mueller

Synagogue

Administrator

Joelle Pluemer

Nursery School Director

Miriam Gurantz

Administrative

Assistant

Rebecca Gray

the wilderness as well as in Persia, Amalek exploited the weakness of stragglers and strangers, the poor and defenseless.

How do we blot out the remembrance of Amalek? By not allowing the stragglers in our communities to lag behind. Two of the central mitzvot of this time of year focus our attention on others. The mitzvah of *Matanot La'evyonim*, gifts of meals to the poor in our community, involves giving a meal to someone who is hungry on the day of Purim. Once again, we will be collecting money at the synagogue throughout Purim in order to purchase meal cards that will be delivered to homeless individuals in our community. The other mitzvah is *Maot Chittim*, money to help the poor in our community celebrate Passover. This is also a mitzvah that our community has embraced for many years.

As we gather together this month to celebrate Purim, let us remember that it is not just about hearing the megillah, dancing to great music, laughing at the puppet show and the merry-making, and spinning our groggers when we hear You-Know-Who's name.

We will also remember the lesson of *zekhira*, of memory.



President's Message

David Fernandez

It's March and Purim is on the horizon. Falling this year on Saturday night and Sunday, March 19-20, Purim provides a great opportunity to invite potential new members to one of our funnest and most exciting events. There is something for everyone, from the Megilla reading on Saturday evening, to the second reading, kids' Puppet Show, and Purim Carnival on Sunday. The synagogue should be full of the sounds of the Battle of the Bands, the smells of delicious food wafting from the Sinai kitchen, and the squeals of children young and old enjoying Purim.

I am also thinking about the upcoming Annual Meeting. This year, we at Sinai again have many things for which to be thankful. Unlike many synagogues over the past few years, we have experienced membership growth. Our fundraising efforts, spearheaded by Ed Fields, have exceeded our objectives. The Sinai community continues to grow and flourish.

With all this good news, what could the president possibly be looking for? My pitch is a simple one: get involved. Although a synagogue of slightly over 200 members, we run successful programming comparable to many larger synagogues in the area. This is wonderful for our members, but a challenge for our limited pool of volunteers and staff. Most of our members have enjoyed a Kabbalat Shabbat service and delicious Friday night dinner. Did you know that these meals are prepared by volunteers? As you might imagine, preparing a meal for over 100 people is

not a simple undertaking. I know that Cindy Levinson and the dedicated members of the B'tevon Committee could use some additional assistance. Over the past year, we have had many wonderful programs spearheaded by our office staff. However, their workload continues to increase and volunteer burnout is always a concern. It's amazing how helpful even one additional person can be. Our board of directors has been successful this year, but, we are looking for a few dedicated people to join our synagogue's leadership to continue moving Sinai in the right direction.

In addition, we are looking for a few outgoing members to join the membership committee. This will give you an opportunity to spread the word about our community, share with others why you belong and what you and your loved ones gain by being part of the Sinai family.

Should you be interested in being on the membership committee or any other board position, come and visit me during my office hours or feel free to contact me at President@sinai-sj.org.

I look forward to seeing you all at Purim. Chag Sameach.



Nursery School

Shalom,

We had a great turnout at our Open House on Sunday, January 30th, and some families registered their children for the next school year! Of course, we welcome back with open arms our current pre-school age children. If you know of any families who are looking for a wonderful school experience with a very warm and loving staff, please refer them to me. I will be delighted to show them our school and answer their questions and concerns.

We are offering a Drama Enrichment class to our children, led by Sharon Nitzan. The classes will run on Thursdays 1:30-2:15 for children

aged 2-5 years old. You can contact me for more information.

The kids have enjoyed creative projects at the Challah Club, our afternoon program; it's so named by one of the kids because all pre-schoolers are "braided" together. We learned about Chinese New Year, and since it is the Year of the Rabbit, we had many bunny-oriented artworks: decorating a giant rabbit, making rabbit ears, and painting pictures of fireworks in red and gold. Now the kids have three New Year's they can celebrate! Gung Hay Fat Choy, everyone!

Our staff will be attending the 4th annual staff development day on Monday, March 7th. I helped plan

this program with the directors of the Jewish pre-schools in our area. It will take place at the JCC in Los Gatos. We are flying in a veteran director and founder of Evergreen Community School in Santa Monica. She will be giving a workshop about listening to children from a Jewish perspective: engaging with Head, Heart and Soul. It promises to be an inspirational and informative day that will enhance and enrich our program.

Miki Gurantz, Director
Sinai Nursery School

Youth Education

Hebrew High

**Tuesday, March 8, 15, 22, 28
7-9 pm**

High school teens, take a look at what Hebrew High has to offer. No matter if you are attending to re-connect with friends you don't normally see, expand your Jewish knowledge, please your grandparents, meet new Jewish teens, get a good laugh or enjoy licorice, Oreos and other treats at break, you won't regret your decision to join in this incredible Jewish educational experience.

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.

Religious School Parent-Teacher Conference for Grade 3-6

**Sunday, March 6
11:30am-1:00pm**

Parents of our students in 3rd-6th grade will meet with teachers in their classrooms, receive their report cards and discuss their children's progress.

Family Education Day: Grades K-2

**Sunday, March 13
9am-12:00 Noon**

All religious school and day school families with students in grades K-2 will join Susan Ellenberg in the Si-

nai Social Hall to explore Psukei D'zimra and the morning preliminary blessings and psalms.

Religious School Grades 3-4: Jewish Culture From Around the World

**Sunday, March 27
10:30am-12:00 Noon**

3rd and 4th grade religious school parents and students will join us in the social hall to explore Jewish cultures from around the world through cooking, art and music.



Youth Education

Here in the religious school we have been busy learning and celebrating Purim. Each grade has a different focus for every holiday so that we are adding layers to their learning and their Jewish education is not repetitive. I would like to share with you each grade's curriculum:

Kitah Gan:

Our Kitah Gan students will focus on the concept of "hiding" within the Purim story. Queen Esther, in order to save the Jewish people in the Purim story, hid her Jewish identity - her name actually means "hidden." God also seems to be hidden in the story. Our students will discuss how we can see God's miracles in everyday events even when God seems to be absent. They will make masks to wear at the Megillah reading.

Kitah Alef & Bet:

Our Kitah Alef and Bet students will read the story of Purim together and focus on how the story teaches us to have courage to stand up to intolerance. In the Purim story, Esther has to be very courageous to go to the King and tell him to save her people.

Our students will discuss how we can make sure that we show compassion for different religions. They will make their own Scrolls of Esther, emphasizing the values they pull out of the story.

Kitah Gimel & Dalet:

Our Kitah Gimel and Dalet students will learn about different ways that Purim is celebrated around the world. They will look at the tradition of erasing Haman's name. Today we observe this by shaking a grogger, but throughout Jewish history and around the world there were different traditions. For example, in North African Jewish communities they would make sculptures of Haman and destroy them in different ways. Our Kitah Gimel and Dalet will make their own groggers.

Kitah Hey:

Our students in Kitah Hey will focus on learning the four mitzvot of Purim: Kri'at Megilah, reading the scroll of Esther; Mishloach Manot, giving gift baskets to friends and family; Matanot La'Evyonim, giving tzedakah; and the Seudah, or festive

meal. They will learn the origin of each mitzvah and discuss how we observe them today.

Kitah Vav:

Our Kitah Vav students will study the historical background of the story of Purim. They will learn about the connection between Haman and Amalek. Haman is believed to be a descendant of Amalek. They will also look at Persian Jewish history leading up to the story of Purim. Kitah Vav will also discuss how the story of Purim has special significance to Persian Jews today.

Kitah Zayin:

Our students in Kitah Zayin explore the hot topics associated with each holiday. For Purim they focus on the tradition of "Ad de-lo yada", drinking during the megillah reading until one doesn't know the difference between Haman and Mordechai. They will discuss the origin of this tradition and how we can make sure it is not taken advantage of.

Katherine Mueller
Education Director

We Need Your Help!

We culminate our Purim Learning with the Synagogue Megillah reading and Purim Carnival. This year, we are hoping to grow the carnival by having more rides and games for the children to enjoy. We need your help to grow the carnival by inviting friends outside of the shul to come to our event, volunteering at the carnival, and underwriting attractions. For more information about how you can help support the Purim Carnival, contact me at the synagogue. Hope to see you all at shul during Purim!

Youth Activities

Ima and Me Playgroup ("Mommy and Me")

Wednesdays 9 - 10 am

Meet us in the Nursery School Red Room for a fun weekly play-date. 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 March 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30.

Torah For Tots

Saturdays, March 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, March 19

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 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.

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Jewish Girl Scouts Troop

Sundays, March 13 and 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.

Adult Activities

Sisterhood Meeting

Sunday, March 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.

Silicon Valley Beit Midrash

Weekly on Thursdays

9:30 to 11:15 am

Join Rabbi Josh Berkenwald in an ongoing class for in-depth study of Jewish thought, belief, and practice. Free; drop-ins are welcome; no experience necessary. We are currently studying the book of Kohelet (Ecclesiastes).

This month, SVBM meets on March 3, 17, 24, and 31. Please note that there will be no class on Thursday, March 10.

Intro To Judaism Class

Tuesdays, March 1 and 8

7:30 - 9:30 pm

Please note that March 8th marks the final session of this class.

The Mitzvah Initiative

Thursdays, March 3 and 17

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.

Men's Club Movie Night

Sunday, March 6

7:30 pm - 10:30 pm

Join the Men's Club on Sunday night March 6 at 7 pm for the classic Woody Allen comedy "Sleeper" at Bluelight Cinemas in Cupertino. There is no entrance fee and all members of Sinai are invited. In addition, 20% of your concessions will come back to Congregation Sinai. The movie is rated PG. If you are interested, please contact Gary of the Men's Club at menclub@sinai-sj.org. Bluelight Cinemas 5 is located at Cupertino Oaks, 21275 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino, CA 95014.

Sisterhood Book Club

Sunday, March 6, 2011, 7:30 pm

We will be discussing the book 'Nine Tailors' by D Sayers - a spectacular Lord Peter Wimsey mystery. For information on the location of the book club meeting, contact sisterhood@sj-sinai.org.

Arts & Crafts

Thursday, March 10

10:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Calling everyone with "UFO's" (unfinished objects) in their homes!!! Bring your projects (knitting, sewing, needlework, quilting, stamping, scrapbooking, greeting cards, jewelry & beading...) along with your craft supplies and we will provide workspace and refreshments.

Mishloach Manot - Sinai's 15th Annual Mishloach Manot Fundraiser: Have You Done Your Double Mitzvah yet?

Order Mishloach Manot (Purim Gift Baskets) through Sinai and fulfill the mitzvot of Purim by giving gifts of food to your friends at Sinai, and supporting the synagogue, all at the same time! Sinai is now accepting orders for the Shalachmones (Mishloach Manot) Purim fundraiser through our new online Mishloach Manot ordering system. Your name and personal greeting will be included on a card that accompanies the gift box. All packages will be scrumptious, filled with hamentashen and other kosher goodies. Now you can share the joy of Purim with all your Sinai friends!

Order your packages online through our Sinai website at <http://sinai-sj.org/events/purim2011.html>. If you did not receive or have misplaced your personal username and password, please call or email the Sinai office and request yours. Forms are also available in the office.

Upcoming Events

Kabbalat Shabbat and Shabbat Dinner

Friday, March 11, 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.

Early bird special for dinner: RSVP by March 8: \$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 March 8: \$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.

Chavurah Madness

Sunday, March 13, 12 pm.

Interested in joining a Chavurah ("group of friends") at Sinai? Plan on attending "Chavurah Madness" where you will learn about joining a Chavurah, meet the members of your Chavurah and plan your next activity. Lunch will be provided. Free childcare.

Purim Megillah Reading: Battle of the Bands plus the Gantze Megillah

Saturday, March 19, 2010

7:30 pm

Sinai's 5771/2011 Purim Extravaganza features live music and a complete Megillah reading on Saturday March 19 at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary. Free. All are welcome. Come in costume.

Daytime Megillah Reading

Sunday, March 20, 9 am

Morning service with a complete Megillah reading. Groggers and schnapps will be provided. Free. All are welcome.

Purim Puppet Show and Costume Parade

Sunday, March 20, 11 am

Kids of all ages will enjoy this silly Purim tale. A grand costume parade for kids and adults will follow. The Puppet Show will be followed by Sinai's Purim Carnival and Persian Barbecue from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. Free. All are welcome. Come in costume.

...continued next page.

Purim Carnival and Persian Barbecue Lunch
Sunday, March 20, 11:30 am to 2 pm

Fun for all! Carnival games, jumpy house, prizes, and more. A delicious Kosher Persian Barbecue will be available for purchase: \$12. Kids' hot dog meal: \$5. No RSVP required. All are welcome. Come in costume.

Passover Wine Tasting Kiddush
Saturday, April 2 after Shabbat Services

If you're planning for Passover - or even for next Friday night's dinner - you won't want to miss this special Kiddush. Come nosh on cheese and crackers, fruit and other wine compatible fare as you learn about and taste a variety of fine Kosher. Learn about what makes wine Kosher. Get expert advice about pairing wines with your seder menu. Share your opinions and consider your options in a relaxed and convivial setting. Wine tasting and Kiddush Luncheon will be hosted by David & Rozita Tabibian of Royal Liquors.

Kabbalat Shabbat, Shabbat Dinner and Lecture
Friday, April 8

Bring in Shabbat with a lively Kabbalat Shabbat service at 5:30 p.m., followed by a delectable dinner at 6:30 p.m. The evening will continue with a lecture by Stuart Schoffman about "Security, Democracy, and Social Justice: A View from Jerusalem". Dessert will be provided along with the lecture; both the lecture and the dessert are free of charge.

Early Bird Special: RSVP by April 5; \$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 April 5: \$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 Shabbat dinner reservations, contact the Sinai office at 408-264-8542 or office@sinai-sj.org.

Second Night Community Passover Seder

Tuesday, April 19 at 7:30pm

Congregation Sinai of San Jose is proud to present its annual second night Seder, led by Rabbi Josh Berkenwald. Join us to re-experience the exodus from Egypt with a participa-

tory and interactive program and a delicious catered, kosher-for-Passover meal.

It's a great way to have a delightful Passover celebration without a lot of fuss. Bring your out-of-town family! Help us welcome community members who may be far from home for the holiday! Subsidized Cost: \$38 for adults, \$20 for children 6 to 12, Free for children 5 and under. Please call the Sinai office at 408-264-8542 or visit the Sinai website www.sinai-sj.org for online registration. Open to all. Todah Rabah to Rina Katzen for her generous subsidy of Second Seder at Sinai.



Meet our Bar 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 celebrate as Lavi Paoletti becomes our newest adult member.



Lavi Paoletti - March 5th

As I got ready for my Bar Mitzvah I had to learn many things. Some of the things were how to read trope, chant trope, and chant some new prayers. It was very hard and I had some moments when it seemed to be all too much. But I powered through it, and am almost ready. I am looking forward to being a Bar Mitzvah because I will be able to make more religious decisions. Also, I get to lead Kiddush and wear a talit. There are also many responsibilities that come with this though. I have to try my hardest to follow all the mitzvot. Also, I am expected to be responsible for the mitzvot I break. I am looking forward to my Bar Mitzvah but there are also many responsibilities that come with it.

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

Shabbat Dinner at Sinai

Friday, March 11, 2011

Kabbalat Shabbat Services at 6 pm - Community Shabbat Dinner at 7 pm

RSVP by Tuesday, March 8 and receive the Early Bird Discount

to the Sinai office at (408) 264-8542
or email to office@sinai-sj.org
or online at www.sinai-sj.org

Early Bird Special

\$20 per adult (age 13 and up)
\$ 5 per child (age 5 - 12)
Free for children under age 5
\$ 54 maximum per family

Regular Price

\$24 per adult (age 13 and up)
\$10 per child (age 5 - 12)
Free for children under age 5
\$ 65 maximum per family

Adult Education at the Jewish Community Center

Sponsored by the Center for Jewish Life and Learning

Looking for Jewish education for adults? The Addison-Penzak Jewish Community Center of Silicon Valley has an extensive menu of offerings. Each month, this column will let you know about a few of them. You don't have to be a JCC member to attend these classes.

- **Classic Jewish Texts**, taught in English by Rabbi Joey Felsen of the Jewish Study Network. Rabbi Felsen will guide you through the fundamental works of Maimonides, Luzzato, and other classic Jewish commentators. Every Tuesday from 9:30am-11:00am at the JCC. This class is FREE and you can attend on a drop-in basis. No registration is necessary.
- **Mussar Schmooze**, taught in English by Rabbi Joshua Fenton, Director of the JCC's Center for Jewish Life and Learning. Mussar is Jewish ethical literature. This class uses mussar as a basis to explore right living and the process of refining character. Every Wednesday from 11:00am-12:15pm at the JCC. This class is FREE and you can attend on a drop-in basis. No registration is necessary.

The Addison-Penzak JCC is located at 14855 Oka Road, Los Gatos. For more information, contact the JCC's Center for Jewish Life and Learning at (408) 357-7492 or visit the website at www.SiliconValleyJCC.org.

Todah Rabah, Thank You תודה רבה

Todah rabah to...

- An anonymous family for sponsoring Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon
- Wayne & Julie Firsty for sponsoring Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon in honor of the Firsty's girls, Shayna and Alana
- Maureen Ellenberg for sponsoring Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon in honor of the dedication of the Ellenberg Memorial Board
- Miriam Leiseroff for donating books for the library
- Julie O'Neill for volunteering her time to work on special projects in the office
- Miriam Leiseroff for volunteering in the office
- Stan Goldstein and Alisa Israel Goldberg for designing and producing the ads for the Sinai Directory
- Cindy Levinson, chair of the B'tevon Committee, for organizing a delicious Shabbat dinner
- Cindy Levinson (Chair), Janet Dombro, Renee Fields and Malka Doron for helping with the Shabbat dinner in February
- Debbie Lewis for leading the Ima and Me playgroup every Wednesday at Sinai
- Cyd Braker for assembling New Members Welcome Bags and delivering them to new members
- Lorraine Hoff for donating the proceeds from the sale of all her lovely handmade greeting cards
- Susan Silver and Miriam Leiseroff for organizing and planning a lovely Sisterhood Girls Dinner Out
- Sheri Frumkin for arranging for a speaker at the Girls Dinner Out
- Karen Piemme for her talk on a vegan lifestyle at the Girls Dinner Out
- Alisa Israel Goldberg for designing a flier for the Girls Dinner Out
- Wendy Askenas for donating storage bins
- Maureen Krantz and Julie O'Neill for setting up the Mishloach Manot online ordering system
- Josh Roza and Melissa Marfia-Roza for organizing the Sinai Superbowl Party
- Asaf and Malka Doron, Roger and Cindy Levinson, and David and Rozita Tabibian for helping with the Superbowl Party
- Cyd Braker and Alisa Goldberg for creating the Chavurah Survey Monkey questionnaire
- Alisa Goldberg for designing the Chavurah Madness flyer
- Susan Ellenberg for leading the 3rd-5th grade Family Education Day in February

Mazal Tov to...

- Phil and Monique Alexander on the engagement of their son Jake to Hannah
- Jerry and Rita Jacobson on the engagement of their grandson Hananya to Mindy
- Barbara Frank on the engagement of her son Noam to Roni



CONGREGATION SINAI

PRESENTS

CHAVURAH MADNESS

Sunday, March 13, 2011 at Noon
In the Social Hall

Already in a Chavurah?
Share your advice in our Chavurah Experiences Forum.

Just placed in a Chavurah? Meet up with your new Chavurah friends and get tips from experts on organizing your first event.

Free Food!

Free Childcare!

Still wondering if it's for you? Come hear more about the options and fill out an interest form.

“Share your Jewish Life with Friends”

Join a Chavurah
at Congregation Sinai



Congregation Sinai's Scholar in Residence Weekend

April 8 & 9, 2011 *featuring* **Stuart Schoffman**

"Tikkun Olam in Dangerous Times: In Search of a Jewish Moral Compass"

You are invited to join Congregation Sinai the weekend of April 8-9 for a stimulating Scholar-in-Residence program. Given what's happening in the streets of Cairo currently, and the tragedy in Tucson at the beginning of the year, we anticipate thought-provoking and lively discussions with Stuart Schoffman.

Friday Night, April 8, 2011, 5:30 pm – 9:00 pm - Community Shabbat Dinner and Lecture
Lively Kabbalat Shabbat service at 5:30 p.m., followed by a delectable dinner at 6:30 p.m.
(reservations required for dinner – see below).
Lecture at 7:30 pm by Stuart Schoffman about "Security, Democracy, and Social Justice:
A View from Jerusalem" followed by a dessert reception. Both the lecture and the dessert are free of charge.

Saturday, April 9, 2011 Shabbat Morning Service and Lecture followed by Kiddush Luncheon
Start Shabbat morning off with services beginning at 8:30 a.m. Then, hear Stuart Schoffman's thoughts on
"Peace, Anti-Semitism, and Tikkun Olam: A View from the Talmud" at 11 a.m., during a break in Shabbat morning
services. Please stay for a hearty Kiddush luncheon following services, during which time Stuart will host an
interactive Q&A dialog. Free to all.



Stuart Schoffman is a fellow of the Shalom Hartman Institute and editor of *Havruta: A Journal of Jewish Conversation*. For more than twenty years, as a writer for the *Jerusalem Report* and Jewish newspapers in North America, he has combined Jewish scholarship with reportage and analysis of politics, religion and culture. His translations from Hebrew include books by the Israeli authors A.B. Yehoshua, David Grossman, and Meir Shalev. Before making aliya in 1988, he worked as a journalist for *Fortune* and *Time* magazines in New York, and as a Hollywood screenwriter. He has taught American history at the University of Texas, and film at the University of Southern California and Tel Aviv University. A native New Yorker, Stuart holds degrees in history from Harvard and Yale. He lectures widely on Jewish and Israeli affairs.

For reservations for Friday evening's dinner or questions about the program, please call the Sinai office at **408-264-8542** or email office@sinai-sj.org.

Pricing for Friday night's Shabbat dinner is as follows:

Early Bird Special (RSVP by April 5): \$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 April 5): \$24 per adult (age 13 and up) and \$10 per child age 5-12
(free for children under age 5). \$65 maximum per family.



This program is made possible by the generosity of Sinai members, Joseph & Beth Green.

1532 Willowbrae Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125 | (408) 264 - 8542 | office@sinai-sj.org | www.sinai-sj.org

Ritual Committee

We are grateful to everyone who helped evaluate the new High Holiday prayerbook Mahzor Lev Shalem at High Holidays last year, and to those who answered the survey or sent emails. Your responses were enlightening and your many comments showed a great deal of thought and caring. Both the Ritual Committee and the Board found them useful in evaluating the pros and cons of the new mahzor, and helpful in making the decision to adopt Mahzor Lev Shalem for High Holidays this year.

Just a reminder: if you want to order your personal copy of Mahzor Lev Shalem for \$36 to study during the year, the deadline is March 21,

2011. Through a generous contribution from Sandy Reischer Greenfield and Rene Reischer Cudahy, in memory of their beloved parents Michael and Ruth Reischer, every seat in our sanctuary will have a copy of the new mahzor at High Holidays this year, so it is entirely optional to have your own copy. If you do want to place an order, please fill out the order form on this page and submit it to the Sinai office by March 21st.

MJ Lopatin
Ritual Committee Chair



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.**

CONGREGATION SINAI
Invites You, Your family and Friends to its

ANNUAL SECOND NIGHT COMMUNITY PASSOVER SEDER

Spirited singing, engaging discussions and a delicious catered meal.
Fun for singles and families of all ages. Led by Rabbi Berkenwald.

A large blue circle with a yellow border contains several smaller circles. The top circle says "A fabulous fully Kosher Le-Pesach catered by Lucy Fried. (Vegetarian option available by pre-request)". The middle-left circle says "Subsidized Cost: \$38 for adults, \$20 for children 6 to 12, Free for children 5 and under." The middle-right circle says "1532 Willowbrae Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125". The center text says "Monday, April 19, 2011 7:30 p.m.". The bottom-left circle contains an icon of a leafy branch. The bottom-right circle contains a Star of David icon. The bottom-center circle says "Sinai's annual Seder is subsidized due to the generosity of our sponsor Rina Katzen".

Seating is limited and will be filled on a first-come basis. Kindly **RSVP** by **Monday, April 11** by calling the Sinai office at **408-264-8542** or visiting the Sinai website **www.sinai-sj.org** for online registration.

1532 Willowbrae Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125 | (408) 264 - 8542 | office@sinai-sj.org | www.sinai-sj.org

Tribute Funds

We gratefully acknowledge donations to the following funds:

General Fund

- Hebe Aver & family in memory of Abraham Livchitz’s mother Oda Livchitz
- Maureen Ellenberg in memory of Robert S. Gottesman
- Maureen Ellenberg in memory of Khalil Tabibian
- Maureen Ellenberg in memory of Carole Hoffman
- Steve & Susan Ellenberg in memory of Beverly Slater
- Steve & Susan Ellenberg in honor of the engagement of Jerry and Rita Jacobson’s grandson Hananya to Mindy
- Dave Fernandez & Lori Krauss in memory of Jeanette Tobin
- Dave Fernandez & Lori Krauss in memory of David Halabe
- Dave Fernandez & Lori Krauss in memory of Robert S. Gottesman
- Dave Fernandez & Lori Krauss in memory of William Goldstein
- Dave Fernandez & Lori Krauss in memory of Khalil Tabibian
- Dave Fernandez & Lori Krauss in honor of Fay Citron-Pousty’s Bat Mitzvah
- Dave Fernandez & Lori Krauss in honor of Eytan Hendel’s Bar Mitzvah
- Dave Fernandez & Lori Krauss in honor of Shira Kahn-Samuelson’s Bat Mitzvah
- Dave Fernandez & Lori Krauss in honor of the engagement of Jerry and Rita Jacobson’s grandson Hananya to Mindy
- Seymour & Lorraine Hoff sending get well wishes to Lucy Fried
- Seymour & Lorraine Hoff in honor of the birth of Elie and Lottie Monarch’s grandson
- Jerry & MJ Lopatin in memory of Robert S. Gottesman

...continued next page.

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: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Acknowledge to:

Address: _____

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

Tribute Funds (continued)

We gratefully acknowledge donations to the following funds:

General Fund (continued)

- Dave Mexicano & Elaine Dimarie-Mexicano in memory of Jeanette Tobin
- Daniel & Amy Schiff in honor of the engagement of Jerry and Rita Jacobson's grandson Hananya to Mindy
- Daniel & Amy Schiff in honor of the engagement of Barbara Frank's grandson Noam Frank to Roni Fisher
- Jon & Susan Silver in honor of the engagement of Jerry and Rita Jacobson's grandson Hananya to Mindy
- Jon & Susan Silver in honor of the engagement of Barbara Frank's grandson Noam Frank to Roni Fisher

Kiddush Fund

- David & Elena Weinberg sending get well wishes to Lucy Fried
- David & Elena Weinberg sending get well wishes to Marlene Markus
- David & Elena Weinberg sending get well wishes to Victoria Simon
- David & Elena Weinberg in honor of Eytan Hendel's Bar Mitzvah
- David & Elena Weinberg sending get well wishes to Cilly Meyberg

Prayerbook Fund

- Geri Finkelstein in memory of Joseph B. Gutstein

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- David & Joan Abrams in memory of Margaret Kasser Abrams
- Stella Dushats in memory of Abraham Dushets-Kogan
- Stella Dushats in memory of Gitle Sheftle Serebrysky
- Joy Hellman in appreciation of Rabbi Berkenwald's time, knowledge, and assistance
- Jerry & Rita Jacobson in honor of Dr. Stuart Krigel's special birthday
- Allen & Deborah Leibovitch in memory of Khalil Tabibian
- Miriam Leiseroff in memory of Khalil Tabibian
- Miriam Leiseroff sending get well wishes to Sandy Greenfield
- Eric and Lisa Rosenblum in memory of William Goldstein
- Eric & Lisa Rosenblum in memory of Khalil Tabibian
- Eric & Lisa Rosenblum in honor of Richard Jaffe's "Beatles" birthday
- Eric & Lisa Rosenblum in honor of Joelle Pluemer's birthday
- Eric & Lisa Rosenblum in celebration of Roger Levinson's cool new car
- Al & Ruth Sporer in honor of the engagement of Jerry and Rita Jacobson's grandson Hananya to Mindy
- Al & Ruth Sporer in honor of the engagement of Barbara Frank's grandson Noam Frank to Roni Fisher
- Alan & Leslie Steinberg in memory of Robert S. Gottesman

March 2011 25 Adar I 5771 - 25 Adar II 5771

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 25 ADAR I 4:15 pm Religious School 7:30 pm Intro to Judaism Class	2 26 ADAR I 9 am Ina and Me	3 27 ADAR I 9:30 am Silicon Valley Beit Midrash 7:30 pm The Mitzvah Initiative	4 28 ADAR I Candle Lighting 5:46 pm	5 29 ADAR I Pekude Parashat Sheshkallim 9 am Shabbat Services 9 am Lavi Paolenti Bar Mitzvah 11 am Torah for Tots Shabbat Ends: 6:47 pm
6 30 ADAR I Rosh Chodesh Adar II - Day 1 9 am Religious School 9 am Sunday Minyan 9:30 am Sunday Phon-a-Thon 10:30 am Sisterhood Meeting 12 pm RS Grade 4-6 Conference 7:30 pm Men's Club Movie 7:30 pm Sisterhood Book Club	7 1 ADAR II Rosh Chodesh Adar II - Day 2 Nursery School Closed for Staff Development Day	8 2 ADAR II 4:15 pm Religious School 7 pm Hebrew High 7:30 pm Intro to Judaism Class	9 3 ADAR II 9 am Ina and Me	10 4 ADAR II 9:30 am Silicon Valley Beit Midrash 10:30 am Arts and Crafts at Sinai	11 5 ADAR II 6 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Services 7 pm Shabbat Dinner Candle Lighting 5:53 pm	12 6 ADAR II Vayikra 9 am Shabbat Services Shabbat Ends: 6:54 pm
13 7 ADAR II 9 am Religious School 9 am RS Bnei Mitzvah Program 9 am RS K-2 Family Education 9 am Sunday Minyan 10 am President's Office Hours 12 pm Chavurah Madness 1 pm Girl Scouts Meeting	14 8 ADAR II 4:15 pm Religious School 7 pm Hebrew High	15 9 ADAR II 4:15 pm Religious School 7 pm Hebrew High	16 10 ADAR II 9 am Ina and Me	17 11 ADAR II Fast of Esther 9:30 am Silicon Valley Beit Midrash 7:30 pm The Mitzvah Initiative	18 12 ADAR II Candle Lighting 6:59 pm Nursery School Purim Celebration	19 13 ADAR II Tzav Parashat Zachor 9 am Shabbat Services 10:30 am Torah N' Tefillah 11 am Torah for Tots 7:30 pm Purim Extravaganza Battle of the Bands and the Gantze Megillah
20 14 ADAR II Purim 9 am Purim Megillah Reading 9 am Religious School 11 am Purim Puppet Show 11:30 am Purim Carnival and Persian BBQ	21 15 ADAR II Shushan Purim	22 16 ADAR II 4:15 pm Religious School 7 pm Hebrew High	23 17 ADAR II 9 am Ina and Me	24 18 ADAR II 9:30 am Silicon Valley Beit Midrash	25 19 ADAR II Candle Lighting 7:05 pm	26 20 ADAR II Shemini Parashat Parah 9 am Shabbat Services 12 pm Kiddush Luncheon sponsored by Jonathan and Susan Sweedler Shabbat Ends: 8:06 pm
27 21 ADAR II 9 am Religious School 9 am RS Bnei Mitzvah Program 9 am Sunday Minyan 10:30 am Religious School Grades 3-4 Jewish Culture 1 pm Girl Scouts Meeting	28 22 ADAR II 4:15 pm Religious School 7 pm Hebrew High	29 23 ADAR II 4:15 pm Religious School 7 pm Hebrew High	30 24 ADAR II 9 am Ina and Me	31 25 ADAR II 9:30 am Silicon Valley Beit Midrash		

Upcoming events at the JCC

Thurs, March 10th, 7:30pm – Speaker Series: Reb Mimi Feigelson of American Jewish University discusses Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach. Free.

Fri, March 11th, 12:00-2:00pm – Catered Lunch and Entertainment for Adults Ages 55+. \$5 JCC members, \$7.50 non-members. RSVP to hope@svjcc.org or 408.357.7488.

Sun, March 13th, 1:00-2:00pm – Speaker Series: Roger Kamenetz, author of *The Jew in the Lotus*. \$5 JCC members, \$ non-members.

Sun, March 13th, 7:30pm – Free Screening of *The Magic Flute*.
A great one-hour intro to opera, by the San Francisco Opera.

Sun, March 27th, 7:30pm – Speaker Series: Professor Shulamit Magnus of Oberlin College discusses the memoirs of a Jewish woman from 19th-century Russia. \$5 JCC members, \$7 non-members.



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



SUPER SUNDAY

Super Sunday is the largest fundraiser of the year for the Jewish Federation of Silicon Valley, and during the course of the day, thousands of households are called to ask for continued support of the community. Please volunteer on March 6 with the Jewish Federation to make calls at the Levy Family Campus Auditorium, 14855 Oka Road, Los Gatos, CA 95032. Dollars raised toward the annual campaign benefit Jewish agencies, locally and abroad. Contact the Jewish Federation at 408-357-7503.

March Yahrzeits

Adar I

Sandy Lurie	25
Barbara Solin	26
Brent Hershman	27
Joseph Aver	28
Joseph B. Gutstein	28
Harold Meyberg	28
Gitl Sheftl Serebrysky	28
Irving Brodsky	29
Amalia Leiser	30
Basheva Leiser	30
Gloria Richter	30

Adar II

Louis Limberg	1
Blanche Miller	1
Maury Buxbaum	4
Mario Meyers	4
Marvin Jacobson	6
Rose Slatkin	8
Frania Rajszer	9
Thelma N. Cohn	12
Emanuel Hillel Pearl	12
Paula Limkowsky	14
Abraham Rood	14

Elly Esfir Frankel	15
Roland Netzah	15
Anna Ziplowich	17
Judy Siegel	19
Haya Tenenboym	20
Ruth Reischer	24
Jacob Cohen	25

In loving memory of Rose Weiner:

A special todah rabah to Jon and Susan Sweedler who recently made a significant donation to the Kiddush Fund in cherished memory of Rose Weiner, Susan's beloved aunt and long-time Sinai member. Thanks to the Sweedler family's generosity, 20 Sinai Kiddush luncheons will be dedicated to the memory of Aunt Rose.

Rose and her seven siblings (including Susan's mother) grew up in a warm and loving home where Shabbat was a special time for gathering. Shabbat lunch, in particular, was a time when everyone could relax and enjoy each other's company. The food was delicious and guests were welcomed. At Sinai, Rose was also actively involved in bringing people together – often over a meal or a tea. Her warmth and liveliness were assets to the community for many years. We will honor her spirit and her memory each time we enjoy a Shabbat lunch together in remembrance of the special place she held in the hearts of her family and her community.

Y'hi zichra baruch, may her memory be a blessing for us all.

The first Kiddush will be held on March 26th.



Save The Dates:

March 13
Chavurah Madness

March 19-20
Purim

April 2
Passover Wine Tasting Kiddush

April 8-9
Scholar In Residence, Shabbat Dinner, Lecture, Services, and Kiddush

April 19
Second Night Community Passover Seder



CONGREGATION SINAI

1532 Willowbrae Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125
408-264-8542 www.sinai-sj.org
Rabbi Joshua Berkenwald

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