



# VOICE OF SINAI

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

## Scholar in Residence Weekend

*With Stewart Schoffman*

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

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Friday, April 8 7:30 pm  
*Security, Democracy, and Social Justice:  
 A View From Jerusalem*

Saturday, April 9 11:00 am  
*Peace, Anti-Semitism, and Tikkun Olam:  
 A View From the Talmud*

Stuart Schoffman is a fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute and editor of "Havruta: A Journal of Jewish Conversation." He worked as a journalist for Fortune and Time magazines in New York. A native New Yorker, Stuart holds degrees in history from Harvard and Yale. He lectures widely on Jewish and Israeli affairs.



*See inside for details on  
 Passover Events!*

*Happy Passover!*

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## Rabbi's Message Questions at the Seder... and Beyond

Jews love to ask questions. We take great pride in the “nothing is off limits” aspect of our culture and religion. Children are trained from a young age to be curious and inquisitive, perhaps even slightly irreverent.



*Rabbi Josh  
Berkenwald*

This month, we celebrate the holiday that places the asking of questions at center stage. *Mah Nishtanah* – Why is this night different – is the most well-known passage in the haggadah, and the first part of the seder that children learn. But the mitzvah of asking does not end with the ritual singing of the Four Questions. In fact, it is not even necessary to recite those specific questions. The Talmud records a story about one seder that the sage Abbaye spent with Rabbah. When Abaye saw that the tables were being cleared away before they had even begun the meal, he turned to his friend and inquired: “We still haven’t eaten, why are they taking the tables away?” Rabbah responded: “You have [just] exempted us from reciting *Mah Nishtanah*.” (BT Pesachim 115b) Any sincere inquiry about the rituals performed at the *seder* fulfills the mitzvah of asking questions. And the obligation to ask questions is not just for children. Adults, in the absence of children, must recite *Mah Nishtanah* as well.

The reason that questions play such a central role in the *seder* is rooted in our most ancient sources. The Torah refers on three occasions

to children asking their parents about the meaning of ritual practices performed during Passover. Parents are to answer their children’s inquiries “On that day you shall tell your child...” – proceeding to describe, in the first person, how God redeemed “us” from slavery in Egypt. These three questions and answers, along with a fourth parental answer that is not prompted by a question, are the basis of another beloved part of the *seder*. The Four Children emphasize our duty to respond to the curiosity of every child, even the one who is not able to verbalize his or her thoughts.

There is an important pedagogical lesson here. Symbolic rituals performed in the home create opportunities for parents to teach their children about the foundational stories of Judaism: in this case, the Exodus from Egypt. It is not difficult to conduct a *seder* in which questioning is central. Think of the many symbolically rich elements: special foods, hiding the afikomen, singing special songs, four cups of wine, and the list goes on. Even the most bare-bones *seder* is filled with opportunities to spark our curiosity.

This lesson should not be one that we restrict to Passover. In twenty-first century America, the two days of the *seder* are not enough. If we want to instill a religiously inquisitive spirit in the next generation, we have to go out of our way to spark our kids’ curiosity. Find a great Jewish book and bring it home. Try out a recipe from a Jewish community other than your own. Print out an article from the web to discuss during dinner on Friday night. Invite your child to light his or her own Shabbat candles. Anything we can introduce into our homes to make Jewish living interesting and new will convey the message that being Jewish is important to us. And, it might get our kids asking questions: questions about Jewish values, his-

tory, ritual, culture, and even God.

While coming to synagogue and learning in religious school or Jewish Day School are important, there is no more powerful way to instill children with a love of Judaism than to surround them with *yiddishkeit* where they are most comfortable – at home. The wisdom of the *seder* is that it takes place not in the sanctuary but around the dining table.

This Passover, let us find ways to prompt new questions. As the holiday ends, may the spirit of questioning that we create during our *seder* remain in our homes to infuse our lives with curiosity and love of Judaism throughout the year.

*Chag Kasher v'Sameach.* Have a Happy and Kosher Passover.

## President's Message Seder Memories

As we approach the month of April, Passover comes to mind. For me, Passover has always meant family, food and friends. I have many fond memories of Passover Seders that were filled with discussion, conversation and good food. Although a week without bread and similar fare is difficult for me, I know that the importance of understanding who we are and where we come from is crucial.

One of my most memorable Seders as a child took place at the home of one of my family's good friends. At the time, the Seder seemed to go on forever, but in retrospect, it was probably not that long. It is one of the few times in my life that I ever did the full Hebrew reading of the Haggadah. Along the way, I learned a lot about Passover and the struggle for freedom. Until that night, Passover always seemed like the movie, *The Ten Commandments*. I learned that night that it was something more.

I also learned a valuable lesson about cooking. One of the guests had cooked a Passover honey cake using the synagogue's recipe book. We all took a bite and almost choked. It was crunchy. The baker said "it called for a cup of tea". We found out that she had opened enough tea bags to get a



*President  
David  
Fernandez*

cup of leaves and added those to the batter. One of the other guests said "I know that recipe, it is a cup of brewed tea, not tea leaves". To this day, I always look at my honey cake twice.

The second Passover meal I remember was when my parents invited 35 people to our house. There were three tables that stretched from the dining room, through the front hall and into the living room. My mom cooked a spectacular meal. While the Seder was abbreviated, the scene was boisterous and everyone left with a warm feeling of being part of a community.

Last year, as we were thinking about where to seat people for our Seder, we realized that we had over-committed our space. So we opted for a middle eastern style Passover. We cleared out the playroom, put pillows on the floor, jammmed those who could not sit on the floor so easily onto the sofa, and literally reclined for our Seder. Our Seder was filled with fun conversations and singing. While there were grape juice spills and lots of matzah to vacuum up afterwards, it was well worth it to see everyone being part of something larger. It was also a way to involve people who were not part of our community into our celebration. We always try to open our home to people who do not have a place to go for Passover, a lesson I learned from my family. We have met lots of great people along the way.

Chag Sameach and may your Passover Seders be filled with food, family and friends.

*The President's office hours this month:*

Sunday, April 10  
10 am - 11 am

Happy  
Passover,  
Congregation  
Sinai!

## Nursery School

Shalom,

Staff from Congregation Sinai, APJCC in Los Gatos, South Peninsula Hebrew Day School and Shir Hadash had a wonderful staff development day on March 7th. We were involved in Torah learning with Rabbi Melanie Aron from Shir Hadash about the importance of listening in Jewish tradition. Our featured speaker was Alise Shafer, the founder and director of the Evergreen Community School in Santa Monica. She talked about listening to children from a Jewish perspective based on her background and rich experience. We also had the opportunity to interact and share with teachers from the other schools. At the last minute we found out that the Silicon Valley Jewish Federation had a fund to sponsor the day, and we are very grateful to them.

*“Mishenichnas Adar marbim b’simcha”* - when Adar comes we rejoice.

Purim is one of the children’s favorite Jewish holidays. They get to

dress up in costumes and march in a parade, make a lot of noise (with the graggers), bake and eat sweet pastries like hamantashen, and participate in a fabulous Purim carnival. The story in the megillah is filled with interesting characters that the children can identify with and relate to. After the costume parade at school, the children enjoyed special games, but their favorite activity was face painting.

The Challah Club (afternoon program) had a great time learning about fire safety. We decided to introduce the children to fire safety when one child noticed a man inspecting the fire alarms at the synagogue. We took a tour of the building and noticed all the alarms and fire extinguishers. We learned about Stop, Drop and Roll, practiced evacuating the school, and learned how to prevent forest fires. The highlight of the week was when Daniel and Allyson Moskowitz (and Smokey the stuffed bear) came in their fire fighter gear and talked about fire safety and gave out stickers!

The month of April is about learning and preparing for Pesach. We read about the Jewish people being slaves in Egypt, and how Moses, with the help of his siblings and under God’s guidance, got them out. From slavery to freedom is the essence of the story that is written in the Haggadah. We have already started cleaning our classrooms to prepare the school for our model Seder on Friday, April 15th. We will be telling the story of Pesach, acting out portions of it, talking about the symbols, singing special songs (especially the Mah Nishtanah), and enjoying the lunch prepared by the children that includes typical Pesach dishes.

We are in the midst of enrolling children for our 2011-2012 school year. Please contact me if you would like to get any information or come to visit.

Happy Pesach! Chag Sameach!

Miki Gurantz, Director  
Sinai Nursery School

## Religious School

### Hebrew High Tuesday, April 5 7-9 pm

High school teens, take a look at what Hebrew High has to offer. No matter if you are attending to reconnect with friends you don’t normally see, expand your Jewish knowledge, please your grandparents, meet new Jewish teens, get a good laugh or enjoy lico-rice, 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.

### Family Education Day: Grades 3-5 Sunday, April 3 9am-12:00 Noon

All religious school and day school families with students in grades 3-5 will join Susan Ellenberg in the Sinai

Social Hall to explore sibling rivalry throughout the Torah.

### Kadima Chocolate Seder

Sunday, April 10  
12 Noon - 1:00 pm

Our next Kadima event for teens in grades 7 & 8 will take place in the Social Hall from noon to 1:30 pm. Chocoholics welcome!

## Youth Education

### **Pesach in the Sinai Religious School**

I would like to share with you our upcoming Pesach programs in our Religious School. We will be having two school-wide programs to get ready for the holiday. One will be an Exodus Simulation, designed to give students an opportunity to experience the story of our exodus from slavery. The other program will teach students about the mitzvah of bedikat chametz – the search for chametz.

Our Exodus Simulation will take place during Religious School on Sunday, April 10. There will be five stations representing different parts of the Exodus story. Students will visit each station as a class. The stations

will be lead by 7th grade students, who will be dressed as Egyptian taskmasters and Israelites, parents, and Rabbi Berkenwald.

At the first station, students will carry “bricks” back and forth to recreate the Israelites’ experience of slavery in Egypt. Next, students will meet, Moses, played by Rabbi Berkenwald, who will inform them of God’s plan to free them from slavery. At the third station, students will make paintings with red paint and put them on the doorpost to avoid being stricken by the Tenth Plague. Next, students will prepare for their journey by making matzah. At our final station, students will cross the “Red Sea” and celebrate their freedom with singing and dancing to *mi chamocha*.

Our Bedikat Chametz program will take place on Sunday April 17. Students will search the shul for bread crumbs using feathers and flashlights. Then they will learn the appropriate brachot for Bedikat Chametz with Rabbi Berkenwald. Each student will decorate a dust pan that has the brachot on it so they can use it at home for their family’s bedikat chametz ceremony.

I look forward to seeing all of you at shul during Pesach!

Happy Passover,  
Katherine Mueller  
Education Director

## Adult Activities

### **Sisterhood Meeting**

**Sunday, April 3, 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](mailto:sisterhood@sj-sinai.org).

### **Silicon Valley Beit Midrash**

**Weekly on Thursdays**

**9:30 to 11:00 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 April 7, 14, and 28. Please note that there is no class on April 21 due to Pesach.

### **The Mitzvah Initiative**

**Thursdays, April 7 and 28**

**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. Please note that classes will be held on the first and fourth Thursday of this month due to Pesach.

### **Congregation Sinai's Annual Meeting**

*will be held on Sunday, May 15, at 10:30 am to 12 Noon in the Sanctuary. Join us for the “State of the Shul” address, presentations to exceptional volunteers, and budget discussion. All Congregation Sinai members are welcome.*

## Youth Activities

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

**Wednesdays 9 - 10 am**

Meet us in 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](mailto:imaandme@sinai-sj.org). This month, Ima and Me will meet on April 6, 13, and 27. Please note that Ima and Me will not meet on April 20.

### Jr. Kadima Event - Color Me Mine

**Sunday, April 3**

**3:00 pm - 4:30 pm**

Calling all 5th and 6th graders - Join Sinai and Beth David Jr. Kadima for Seder Plate making! We will meet

on Sunday, April 3 at 3 pm at Color Me Mine, 5337 Prospect Rd, San Jose 95129. Cost is \$16 for kadima member and \$20 for Non member. To RSVP contact Rozita Tabibian at [jrkadima@sinai-sj.org](mailto:jrkadima@sinai-sj.org).

### Torah For Tots Saturdays, April 2 and 16 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](mailto:torahfortots@sinai-sj.org).

### "Torah N Tefillah" Service for Grades 3 - 7 Saturday, April 9

**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 service. Join us in the Mirkin Chapel to learn new melodies, explore Shabbat teachings, and hear engaging stories. TNT is lead by our Director of Education, Kate Mueller, along with Sinai Teens.

### Jewish Girl Scouts Troop

**Sundays, April 10 and 24**

**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](mailto:girlscouts@sinai-sj.org).

## Upcoming Events

### 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 wines. Learn about what makes wine Kosher and how to pair wines with your seder menu. Enjoy the knowledge and wine samples provided by Jeff Morgan and John Herzog of Herzog Wine Cellars. 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.

### Scholar in Residence Weekend With Stewart Schoffman Friday, April 8 through Saturday, April 9

Join Congregation Sinai the weekend of April 8-9 and welcome Stuart Schoffman for a stimulating Scholar-in-Residence program. The theme of the weekend is "Tikkun Olam in Dangerous Times: In Search of a Jewish

Moral Compass."

You are invited to participate in part or all of the weekend's program.

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

### Kabbalat Shabbat, Shabbat Dinner and Lecture

**April 8**

As part of our Scholar in Residence weekend, bring in Shabbat with a lively Kabbalat Shabbat service at

...continued next page.

5:30 p.m., followed by a delectable dinner at 6:30 p.m. (reservations required for dinner – see below). 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. For reservations for Friday evening’s dinner or questions about the program, please contact the Sinai office: 408-264-8542 or office@sinai-sj.org.

Pricing for Friday night’s 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.

## Shabbat Morning Service and Lecture followed by Kiddush Luncheon

April 9

As part of our Scholar in Residence weekend, 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.

## 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 participatory 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](http://www.sinai-sj.org) for online registration. Open to all. Todah Rabah to Rina Katzen for her generous subsidy of Second Night Seder at Sinai.

## Community Yom HaShoah Service at Temple Emanu-El Sunday, May 1

Yom Hashoah, which is also known as Holocaust Remembrance Day, commemorates the lives and heroism of Jewish people who suffered, fought, and died in the Holocaust between 1933 and 1945.

6:00 pm: Lecture by Rabbi Irvin Ungar: “To the Hallowed Memory of Europe’s Martyred Jews”: The Holocaust Art of Arthur Szyk, Presented by Rabbi Irvin Ungar, Curator of The Arthur Szyk Society.

This illustrated presentation pays tribute to the memory of European Jewry through the art of Polish-Jewish artist Arthur Szyk (1894–1951), the leading artist for Jewish rescue in America during the Holocaust. A self-identified “soldier in art,” Szyk - whom Eleanor Roosevelt called a “one-man army” - fought the Nazis with pen and brush on behalf of the Allies and the Jews of Europe. Besides his powerful wartime art, Szyk is best known for his illuminated Passover Haggadah.

Services follow at 7:00 pm.

## Welcome New Members!

## ברוכים הבאים - Bruchim Haba'im

*Congregation Sinai welcomes the following new members this month:*

Rachel Dombro

Chaim and Rina Amir, Tammy and Ella

*We look forward to spending time with you over the coming holidays and events.*




# Passover Wine Tasting Kiddush

**Saturday, April 2nd, 2011**

Following  
Shabbat morning Services

**Jeff Morgan**, wine maker and co-owner of Covenant Wines, and **John Herzog** from Herzog Wine Cellars will be attending the Sinai wine tasting event and pouring some wines from their collections.

Passover Wine Tasting and Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon sponsored by David and Rozita Tabibian and Royal Liquors.



If you're planning for Passover - or even for next Friday night's dinner - you won't want to miss this special Kiddush.

Enhance your appreciation of wine and come taste a variety of fine Kosher for Passover wines.



Get expert advice from David Tabibian of Royal Liquors about pairing wines for the Seder, Shabbat and year round enjoyment.

Share your review in a relaxed and convivial setting.



### Meet our Bat 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 Naama BenDavid becomes our newest adult member.



**Naama BenDavid - April 30th**

I was born in Israel, and my first language was Hebrew. I like to read, draw, and write stories. I attended many services when I was younger, my mother teaches Hebrew, and even though I immigrated to America as a baby, I speak fluent Hebrew. I always liked listening to Bible stories my parents and teachers told me, so it is natural for me to want to know more, read a Parashah, and become a Bat-Mitzvah. I participated in both of my brothers' B'nei Mitzvah, and now it is my turn. I am looking forward to reading the Torah.

The family of our April Bat 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, April 8, 2011

Kabbalat Shabbat Services at 5:30 pm - Community Shabbat Dinner at 6:30 pm

RSVP by Tuesday, April 5 and receive the Early Bird Discount

to the Sinai office at (408) 264-8542  
or email to [office@sinai-sj.org](mailto:office@sinai-sj.org)  
or online at [www.sinai-sj.org](http://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

After-Dinner Lecture at 7:30 pm by Stuart Schoffman about  
"Security, Democracy, and Social Justice: A View from Jerusalem"  
followed by dessert reception

# 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.

## **Friday Night, April 8, 2011, 5:30 pm – 9:00 pm**

5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat service, followed by a delectable dinner at 6:30 pm.

(reservations required for dinner – see below.)

7:30 pm Lecture by Stuart Schoffman, "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 am. Then, hear Stuart Schoffman's thoughts on "Peace, Anti-Semitism, and Tikkun Olam: A View from the Talmud" at 11 am, 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 at 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. He worked as a journalist for *Fortune* and *Time* magazines in New York. 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 through the generosity of Sinai members, Joe and Beth Green

## Holocaust Remembrance Day - Purchase a Yellow Candle



Sunday, May 1 is Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day.

*The Yom HaShoah Yellow Candle™ Program reaches out to the present and the future. As we light these yellow candles to commemorate those who perished, we remember the past and the victims of the Holocaust. Through the mitzvah of Tikun Olam - Repairing the World – we help to ensure, Never Again!*

Congregation Sinai is now selling Yellow Candles to light on May 1st.

Please purchase yours for \$18 at the Sinai office.

## 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.

- **Make Your Own Haggadah.** Join us on Thursday, April 7th from 7:30-9:30pm for a book-binding workshop. RitLab and the Contemporary Jewish Museum will provide a wide selection of art and texts so you can tell your own Exodus story. This event is free and non-members are welcome.
- **Lecture with Avivah Zornberg.** On Thursday, May 19th at 7:30pm, the public is invited to a lecture with Avivah Zornberg, one of the world's greatest Bible scholars. A fascinating speaker, Dr. Zornberg has taught and lectured in Israel, the U.S., Canada and Great Britain. Her books include *The Beginning of Desire*, *The Particulars of Rapture*, and *The Murmuring Deep*. Cost to attend the lecture is \$5 for JCC members, \$7 for non-members.
- **Summer Workshops.** The JCC will be offering summer workshops on topics including "Mining Solomon's Gold," "Pickle Your Own Pickles," "Big Love in Judaism: The Jewish Perspective on Polygamy," and an Israeli dance workshop. Watch the JCC website for details.

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

## Passover Services at Sinai

### Siyyum Bechorim and Chametz Burning - Monday, April 18

- 7:00 am - 8:30 am** Erev Passover - Siyyum Bechorim  
Break the Fast of the First Born with a morning service, learning and breakfast (the final chametz before the holiday). Non-first borns also welcome.
- 8:30 am - 10:00 a.m** Chametz Burning  
Burn the last of your crumbs in the Sinai parking lot before Passover.. Rabbi Berkenwald will show you how.

### Passover Services at Sinai - All services begin at 9 am.

- Tuesday, April 19:** Passover Morning Services at Sinai – 1st day of Passover
- Wednesday, April 20:** Passover Morning Services at Sinai – 2nd day of Passover
- Saturday, April 23:** Shabbat Chol Hamoed Pesach
- Sunday, April 24:** Chol Hamoed Pesach services - 6th day of Passover
- Monday, April 25:** Passover Morning Services at Sinai – 7th day of Passover
- Tuesday, April 26:** Passover Morning Services at Sinai – 8th day of Passover with Yizkor Memorial Service

#### Tze Ulmad – Go and Learn

#### How to Count the Omer

The omer should be counted every night after nightfall, beginning on the second night of Passover and ending on the night before Shavuot.

1. Say the following blessing:

*Barukh ata adonai, eloheinu melekh ha-olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu al sefirat ha-omer.*

We praise You, Adonai our God, Master of time and space, whose commandments add holiness to our lives, Who commanded us to count the omer.

2. Count the appropriate day using the following formula:

Today is \_\_\_\_\_ days, which is \_\_\_\_\_ weeks and \_\_\_\_\_ days of the Omer.

For a chart that includes what one should say on each night, use a siddur or go to:

[http://www.uscj.org/Omer\\_Counter\\_for\\_5776951.html](http://www.uscj.org/Omer_Counter_for_5776951.html)

## 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 fabulous fully  
Kosher Le-Pesach  
catered by Lucy Fried.  
(Vegetarian option  
available by  
pre-request)

**Subsidized Cost:**  
\$38 for adults,  
\$20 for children 6 to 12,  
Free for children 5 and  
under.

1532 Willowbrae Avenue,  
San Jose, CA 95125

**Tuesday,  
April 19, 2011  
7:30 p.m.**

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](http://www.sinai-sj.org)** for online registration.

## *PESACH GUIDE 2011/5771*

*This document is based on a guide prepared by the Kashrut Subcommittee of the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards. For more information, please consult Rabbi Berkenwald.*

This guide provides information about purchasing and using food and ingredients for Pesach. Changes in food production, as well as new kitchen appliance technologies result in yearly changes to our Pesach guide. For a complete guide to kashering your kitchen, along with more extensive information about food during Pesach, come to the Sinai office or visit the Sinai website. As always, Rabbi Berkenwald is available to answer questions that arise.

### **SALE OF CHAMETZ – MEKHIRAT CHAMETZ**

Because the Torah prohibits the ownership of *chametz* during Pesach, one should dispose of all food products that contain *chametz*. If doing so would result in significant financial loss, one may sell one's *chametz* to a non-Jew. The transfer, *mekhirat chametz*, is accomplished by appointing an agent, usually the rabbi, to handle the sale. It is a valid and legal transfer of ownership. At the end of the holiday, the agent arranges for the reversion of ownership of the now-permitted *chametz*. If ownership of the *chametz* was not transferred before the holiday, the use of this *chametz* remains prohibited after the holiday – and any such products should be given away to a non-Jewish food pantry.

### **GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Because the Torah prohibits the eating of *chametz* during Pesach, and because many common foods contain some admixture of *chametz*, guidance is necessary when shopping and preparing for Pesach. During the eight days of Pesach, the minutest amount of *chametz* renders the whole admixture *chametz*, and its use on Pesach is prohibited. However, during the rest of the year, *chametz* follows the normal rules of admixture, i.e., it loses its identity in an admixture of one part *chametz* and sixty parts of non-*chametz* (*batel b'shishim*). This affords us the opportunity to differentiate between foods purchased before and during Pesach. For example, milk rarely, if ever, contains *chametz* and thus may be bought before Pesach without special certification.

*Kasher l'Pesach* labels that do not bear a recognized symbol of rabbinic supervision or the name of a living rabbi, or which are not integral to the package, should not be used without consulting your rabbi. Following are the generally accepted principles of kashrut for Pesach according to Ashkenazic practices (except where noted). If you have any doubts or questions, or want to know where you can find *kasher l'Pesach* foods, please contact Rabbi Berkenwald.

### **PROHIBITED FOODS**

- A. Chametz** – Any food, liquid, alcohol, or food derivative made from the five grains (wheat, barley, oats, spelt, and rye) without a *kasher l'Pesach* label. This includes, but is not limited to: leavened bread, cakes, biscuits, crackers, cereal, coffees containing cereal derivatives, etc.
- B. Kitniyot** – Ashkenazic authorities have added the following foods (*kitniyot*) to the above list: rice, corn, millet, legumes (beans and peas). These and other plant foods (e.g. mustard, buckwheat, sesame seeds, etc.) are not permitted on Pesach. String beans, however, are permitted. Although many rabbinic authorities have prohibited the use of peanuts and peanut oil, our Movement's Committee on Laws and Standards has permitted their use and consumption on Pesach provided said items have proper kosher certification and no obvious *chametz*. Some Ashkenazic authorities permit, while others forbid, the use of legumes in a form other than their natural state. Examples include: corn sweeteners, corn oil, soy oil. Sephardic authorities permit the use of all of the above. Because Israeli products are often marked "contains kitniyot," Ashkenazi Jews should be vigilant when purchasing Israeli products.

## PERMITTED FOODS

### A. The following foods do not require a *kasher l'Pesach* label if purchased before or during Pesach:

Fresh fruits and vegetables (for legumes see above); eggs; fresh or frozen whole or gutted fish; fresh or frozen kosher meat other than chopped meat, raw nuts in their shell; bottled water.

### B. The following foods do not require a *kasher l'Pesach* label if purchased prior to Pesach, but do require a *kasher l'Pesach* label if purchased during Pesach:

Milk; Lactaid milk; white granulated sugar; unopened packages or containers of ground and whole bean regular unflavored coffee (however, be aware that coffees produced by General Foods are not kosher for Passover unless marked KP); pure unflavored tea (not herbal tea); noniodized salt; pepper; extra virgin olive oil; pure orange juice or frozen juice concentrate with no additives; Realime and Realemon reconstituted juice; frozen (uncooked) fruit (with no additives); baking soda; raw shelled nuts that do not list BHA or BHT in the ingredients; raisins; quinoa; filleted fish; frozen raw fish that contains no ingredient other than fish; canned tuna packed in water only; Hershey's Chocolate Cocoa Powder.

### C. The following foods require a *kasher l'Pesach* label if purchased before or during Pesach:

All baked products (matzah, cakes, matzah flour, farfel, matzah meal, and any products containing matzah); wine; cheese, butter, yogurt, sour cream, cottage cheese, and all other dairy products; canned or bottled fruit juices (these juices are often clarified with *kitniyot* which are *not* listed among the ingredients); dried fruits; decaffeinated coffee; decaffeinated tea; flavored and herbal teas; frozen vegetables; frozen processed foods; all ground spices and spice blends; canned tuna packed in anything other than water (broth, oil, etc.); vinegar; liquor; oils; dried fruits; candy; chocolate flavored milk; ice cream; yogurt and soda.

## CLEANING PRODUCTS

Any detergents, cleaners, etc. which are not foodstuffs and which are not eaten, may be used for Pesach and do not require a *kasher le-Pesach* label. These items include: isopropyl alcohol, aluminum products, ammonia, coffee filters, baby oil, powder and ointment, bleach, charcoal, candles, contact paper, plastic cutlery, laundry and dish detergent, fabric softener, oven cleaner, paper bags, plates, wax paper, plastic wrap, polish, sanitizers, scouring pads, stain remover, and bottled water with no additives.

## MEDICINE *Before discontinuing any medication, consult with your physician.*

- A. All pill medications (with or without *chametz* binders) that one swallows are permitted without special rabbinic certification as being kosher for Passover.
- B. All chewable pills that have *kitniyot* are permitted. If the chewable pills contain *chametz* and no substitute is available, ask your rabbi.
- C. All liquid medications that have *chametz* should not be used. If they contain no *chametz* but do contain *kitniyot*, they are permissible.

## COSMETICS AND TOILETRIES

- A. All varieties of body soaps, shampoos, stick deodorants, ointments, creams, nail polish, hand lotions, eye shadow, eyeliner, mascara, blush, foot and face powders, and ink and paint are permitted for use on Pesach regardless of their ingredients.
- B. Colognes, perfumes, hairspray, shaving lotions, and deodorants that have restorable, denatured alcohol should not be used. This applies only to products in a pure liquid state.
- C. Lipstick that contains *chametz* should not be used.



## WOW! WHAT A PURIM WE HAD THIS YEAR!

We couldn't have done it without YOU!

### Purim Mishloach Manot

Maureen Krantz (Chair) and Julie O'Neill (Website coordinator), Rita Jacobson, Susan Silver, Deborah Leibovitch, Hadassah Levinkron

### Megillah Readers

Rabbi Josh Berkenwald, Steve Dombro, Alisa Israel Goldberg, Joseph Green, Aaron Pluemer, Al Sporer

### Purim Daveners and Gabba'im

Rabbi Josh Berkenwald, Steve Dombro, Joe Green, Seymour Hoff, Harold Greenberg, MJ Lopatin



### "Battle of the Bands" Performer

Rabbi and Dana Berkenwald, Steve, Janet, Rachel, Jonathan, Elisa Dombro and Andrew Wysong, Rabbi Yoshi Fenton, Julia Minkowski, Alan and Dani Steinberg, Daniel and Dalia Tabibian, Al Sporer, Ben Krigel, Raffi Krigel and Zach Ellenberg and Frank Schiff, Izzy Ulmann, and the Shalom and Rock N' Roll Band: Evan & Danielle Robinson, David Sabes, Scott Budman, and David Stashower

### "Battle of the Bands" Masters of Ceremony

Steve Dick and Arielle Kurtze

### Persian Feast Volunteers

Rozita Tabibian (Chair of the Purim Persian Seudah), Joan Abrams, Wendy Askenas, Jill Citron-Pousty, Jennifer Katinsky, Sheri Klapper, Deborah Leibovitch, Cindy Levinson, Suzanne Peters, Susan Silver, David Fernandez, Daniel Fernandez, Wayne Firsty, Julie Firsty, Rita Jacobson, Hana Lang, Alan Leibovitch, Eva Lippman, Julia Minkowski, Julie O'Neill, Lynn Osband, Ann Sager, Soraya Shamouilian, David Tabibian, Dalia Tabibian and Michelle Wolf-Bloom



### Purim Carnival Parent Volunteers

Malka Doron, Marci Greenberg, Maria Elena Jarson, Joe Kulakovsky, Lori Krauss, Vicki Lavi, Bruce Lippmann, Shoshana Miller, Diana Nguyen, Jenny Picraux, Hank Sager, Jay Seliber, Alan Steinberg, Leslie Steinberg and Samira Talmoud







**Purim Carnival Youth Volunteers**

Sammy Arshop, Naama BenDavid, Naava Ellenberg, Daniel Fernandez, Joni Gore, Michaela Kastelman, Hannah Katinsky, Jacob Kulakovsky, Jonah Kulakovsky, Tanya Piskun, Aaron Pluemer, Kiana Shahabikia, Yael Shamouilian, Josh Steinberg, Rachel Steinberg, Dani Steinberg, Tina Talmoud and Shauna Talmoud

*Special thanks to USY Advisor, Debbie Lewis, and Education Director, Kate Mueller*

Thank you to the Firsty, Frumkin, Greenberg, Katinsky, Katzen, Kulakfosky, Lavi, Leibovitch, Levinson, Lippmann, Shamouillian, Tobin, Walborsky, Wolf-Bloom families and the Sinai Sisterhood for sponsoring Purim Carnival rides. Due to inclement weather, the Adrenaline Rush inflatable ride was unavailable. Exciting news! It will be brought to Sinai on May 15 for the last day of Religious School and the Annual Meeting.

Thank you to all Sinai members who generously donated Matanot La-Evyonim "Gifts to the Poor." Rabbi Berkenwald delivered on Purim 75 meal cards to a Santa Clara County homeless shelter.



## Todah Rabah, Thank You

## תודה רבה

### Todah rabah to...

- Reuma Etkin for sponsoring Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon in honor of Lavi's Bar Mitzvah
- The Landsman and Sager families for sponsoring Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon
- John and Susan Sweedler for sponsoring Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon in loving memory of Rose Weiner, aunt of Susan Sweedler.
- Gary Richman for organizing the Men's Club Movie Night at the Bluelight Cinemas
- Rita Buxbaum for hosting the Sisterhood Book Club meeting
- Sinai members who volunteered with the Jewish Federation to make calls on Super Sunday
- Miriam Leiseroff for volunteering in the office
- Suzanne Peters for organizing Arts and Crafts at Sinai
- Marcia Klein for donating baking pans to the Sinai kitchen
- Jack Sloan for donating food for Kiddush
- Janet Dombro for laundering all the kitchen towels
- Miriam Leiseroff for laundering all the tablecloths
- Cindy Levinson, chair of the B'tevon Committee, for organizing, shopping and cooking a delicious Shabbat dinner
- Todah to all those who helped Cindy Levinson (chair) with the Shabbat dinner in March: Dana Berkenwald, Malka Doron, Janet Dombro, Susan Silver and Rozita Tabibian
- Eve-Lyn Redhill for the beautiful calligraphy on the B'nei Mitzvah certificates
- Debbie Lewis for leading the Ima and Me playgroup every Wednesday at Sinai
- Lorraine Hoff for donating the proceeds from the sale of all her lovely handmade greeting cards
- Cindy Lewis for designing a flyer for Purim
- Susan Ellenberg for leading the K-2 grade Family Education Day in March
- Everyone who donated libations for Purim
- Cyd Braker for lending board games and movies to use on Chavurah Madness
- Marina Fields, Fiona Fields, Aaron Pluemer and Rayna Levinson for supervising young children during Chavurah Madness

## Mazal Tov, Congratulations

## מזל טוב

- James and Teri Baron on the marriage of their daughter Kathryn Marty to Michael D'Amico. We wish the happy couple and their families all the very best.

*Special appreciation to the Chavurah Committee for making the Chavurah Madness program so successful. Thanks to Cyd Braker, Shoshanah Miller and David Fernandez, seven new Sinai chavurot were created.*

**Tribute Funds - We gratefully acknowledge donations to the following funds:**

**Animal Fund**

- Eve Lyn Redhill in appreciation of Miriam Leiseroff’s hard work preparing for Tu B’shvat Seder

**General Fund**

- Rabbi Josh, Dana, Noa & Solly Berkenwald in appreciation of Silly Silly Sy and his Assistant Lorraine performing magic for Solly’s birthday
- Steve & Susan Ellenberg in memory of Dr. Sandy Ellenberg
- Maureen Ellenberg sending get well wishes to Joelle Pluemer
- Jerry & Rita Jacobson in honor of Jean Jacobson’s special birthday
- Jerry & Rita Jacobson in honor of Lavi Paoletti’s Bar Mitzvah
- Michael & Carolyn Kulakofsky in honor of the engagement of Jerry & Rita Jacobson’s grandson Hananya to Mindy

**Kiddush Fund**

- Eli & Lottie Monarch in honor of the engagement of Jerry & Rita Jacobson’s grandson Hananya to Mindy
- Michael & Shelley Nagel in memory of Dr. Sandy Ellenberg
- Gary & Sheila Romalis in honor of Solly Berkenwald’s 5th birthday
- Al & Ruth Sporer sending get well wishes to Joelle Pluemer

**Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund**

- Mark & Marleen Brodsky in memory of Vickie Wagh’s father, Joseph Everett Wolf, Sr.
- Larry & Lucy Fried in appreciation of Rabbi Berkenwald and the Sinai community for the support that Lucy received during her illness
- Sandy Greenfield in memory of Frania Rajszer
- Sandy Greenfield in memory of Ruth Reischer
- Mike & Carolyn Kulakofsky in memory of Thelma Cohn
- Rita Pearl in memory of Emanuel Pearl
- Sam & Soraya Shamouilian in appreciation of Rabbi Berkenwald for his help and support of the community
- Jon & Susan Silver in memory of Boris Drabkin

**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: _____ _____
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<input type="checkbox"/> General Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Building Endowment Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Kiddush Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Book Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Chesed Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Nursery School Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Roy Uffer Synagogue Beautification Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Ellner Religious School Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Lillian & J. Lester Cowans Endowment Fund
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# April 2011 26 Adar II 5771 - 26 Nisan 5771

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 ADAR II	29 ADAR II	1 NISAN	2 NISAN	3 NISAN	4 NISAN	5 NISAN
3 9 am Religious School 9 am Religious School Bnei Mitzvah Program 9 am Sunday Minyan 10:30 am Sisterhood Meeting 3 pm Kadima Event - Color Me Mine	4 Erev Pesach Candle Lighting 7:27 pm Nursery School Closed 7 am Skyum Bechorim 8:30 am Chametz Burning	5 Rosh Chodesh Nisan 4:15 pm Religious School 7 pm Hebrew High	6 9 am Ina and Me	7 9:30 am Silicon Valley Beit Midrash 7:30 pm The Mitzvah Initiative	8 Candle Lighting 7:18 pm 5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Services 6:30 pm Shabbat Dinner 7:30 pm Scholar in Residence Lecture by Stuart Schoffman followed by Dessert	9 Metzora 8:30 am Shabbat Services 10:30 am Torah N'Tefillah 11 am Lecture by Stuart Schoffman 12:30 pm Kiddush Luncheon sponsored by Joe and Beth Green
27 ADAR II	28 ADAR II	8 NISAN	9 NISAN	10 NISAN	11 NISAN	12 NISAN
10 9 am Religious School 9 am Sunday Minyan 10 am President's Office Hours 10 am 6th Grade Bnei Mitzvah Parent Meeting 1 pm Girl Scouts Meeting	11 Candle Lighting 7:27 pm Nursery School Closed 7 am Skyum Bechorim 8:30 am Chametz Burning	12 4:15 pm Religious School	13 9 am Ina and Me	14 9:30 am Silicon Valley Beit Midrash	15 Candle Lighting 7:24 pm	16 Acharei Mot 9 am Shabbat Services 11 am Torah for Tots Shabbat Ends: 8:25 pm
13 NISAN	14 NISAN	15 NISAN	16 NISAN	17 NISAN	18 NISAN	19 NISAN
17 9 am Religious School 9 am Religious School Bnei Mitzvah Program 9 am Sunday Minyan 10:30 am Religious School Tragedies vs. Victories	18 Erev Pesach Candle Lighting 7:27 pm Nursery School Closed 7 am Skyum Bechorim 8:30 am Chametz Burning	19 Passover - Day 1 Nursery School Office Closed in observance of Passover 9 am Passover Morning Services 7:30 pm Second Night Passover Seder at Sinai 1st Day Yom Tov Ends: 8:28 pm	20 Passover - Day 2 Nursery School Office Closed in observance of Passover 9 am Passover Morning Services Yom Tov Ends: 8:29 pm	21 Passover - First Intermediate Day Nursery School Closed 9:30 am Silicon Valley Beit Midrash 7:30 pm The Mitzvah Initiative	22 Passover - Second Intermediate Day Nursery School Closed Candle Lighting 7:30 pm	23 Passover - Third Intermediate Day 9 am Shabbat Services Shabbat Ends: 8:31 pm
20 NISAN	21 NISAN	22 NISAN	23 NISAN	24 NISAN	25 NISAN	26 NISAN
24 Passover - Fourth Intermediate Day 9 am Sunday Minyan 1 pm Girl Scouts Meeting	25 Passover - Day 7 Nursery School Office Closed in observance of Passover 9 am Passover Morning Services 1st Day Yom Tov Ends: 8:33 pm	26 Passover - Day 8 Nursery School Office Closed in observance of Passover 9 am Passover Morning Services with Yizkor Yom Tov Ends: 8:34 pm	27 Nursery School Resumes 9 am Ina and Me	28 9:30 am Silicon Valley Beit Midrash	29 Candle Lighting 7:37 pm	30 Kedoshim 9 am Shabbat Services 9 am Naama Ben David Bat Mitzvah Shabbat Ends: 8:38 pm

## April Yahrzeits

### Nissan

Faina Raitsin	17	Anna F. Bleviss	20	Morris Haberman	22
Nathan Jachimowicz	18	Nelly Ruth Bohbot	20	Sadie Jacobvitz	23
Bernard L. Joseph	18	Ita Gelpman	20	Nell Silver	23
Bernard Lipin	18	Katie Konits	20	William Shulman	24
Eleanor Dreifuss	19	Della Slater	20	Henry Lapa	25
Ralph Weiss	19	Louis Staub	20	Moisey Raitsin	25
		Mayer Weisel	20	Sigi Rodman	25
		Anna Miriam Pearl	21	Sylvia Taxier	26
		Elvira Pollnau-Ramml	21	Frank Uffer	26

### Mah Koreh? Weekly e-News From Sinai

Our weekly email is sent out on Tuesdays, and includes all the facts and figures for 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 [office@sinai-sj.org](mailto:office@sinai-sj.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](mailto: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."

### Bikur Cholim - the Mitzvah of Visiting the Sick

Due to changes in the 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.

## Upcoming events at the JCC

**Wed, April 6th, 6:30-7:30pm – Healthy Eating During Passover.** How to survive & lighten up heavy Passover food w/JCC's registered dietitian.

**Thurs, April 7th, 7:30-9:30pm – Make Your Own Haggadah.** Tell your own Exodus story. With the Contemporary Jewish Museum. Free.

**Sun, April 10th, 3:00-5:00pm– Chocolate Seder.** For families with young or school-age children, a model seder with lots of chocolate! JCC members \$20/family, non-mem \$30/family. RSVP by 4/4 to 357.7417.

**Sun, April 17th – J Serve: A Day of Community Service for Teens.** For details contact Jason Goldstein at 357.7497. Free.

**Sun, April 17th, 12:00-3:00pm – Swim Lesson Kickoff.** Get placed in right level for summer swim lessons & get coupon for FREE private lesson.

**Sat, April 30th, 7:00-10:00pm–Yom HaAtzma'ut Dance for Teens.** For details contact Jason Goldstein at 357.7497. Free.



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

# NOTICE

**Nursery School** will be **closed** during Passover, April 18 through April 26. Nursery School will resume on April 27.

**The Congregation Sinai office** will be **closed** for Passover on April 19-20 and 25-26.

**Ma’ot Chittim for Passover**

The Hagaddah says, “All who are hungry: come and eat. All who are needy: come and join the Passover celebration.”

We fulfill the mitzvah of “Ma’ot Chittim” to ensure that every Jew in the community has enough to eat during Passover.

**Project NOAH** - Donate Kosher-for-Passover food items for distribution by Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley. Contributions of the following 2011 Kosher for Passover items would be greatly appreciated: Gefilte fish, horseradish, jam, candies, honey, latke mix, potato starch, grape juice, matzoh ball soup in a jar, matzoh, macaroons, cookies, matzoh meal, cake meal, and tea. Donation bin is in the foyer from April 1 through April 14.

**Ma’ot Chittim Fund** - This year, Rabbi Berkenwald will pool all financial contributions for Ma’ot Chittim to make a collective Sinai gift to JFS’ Project NOAH and to Mazon: a Jewish Response to Hunger. Please donate generously!

**Authorization to Sell Chametz**

Nisan 5771 – April 2011

The Torah prohibits the ownership of *chametz* (leavened grain) during Pesach (Passover). If possible, all *chametz* – food not acceptable during Pesach, or materials containing such unacceptable food – should be destroyed or given away before the holiday begins. Should this be impossible, the *chametz* may be stored in such a way that one is sure to not use it during the holiday. Its actual ownership is transferred to a non-Jew until the holiday ends.

The transfer, *mekhirat hametz*, is accomplished by appointing an agent, usually the rabbi, to handle the sale. It is a valid and legal transfer of ownership. At the end of the holiday, the agent arranges for the reversion of ownership of the now-permitted *chametz*. If ownership of the *chametz* was not transferred before the holiday, the use of this *chametz* is prohibited after the holiday as well.

It is appropriate to make a gift of *tzedakah* when appointing an agent for the sale of *chametz*.

**Please complete and return this form no later than 2:00 p.m. on Friday, April 15, 2011.**

I, the undersigned, do hereby make and appoint Rabbi Joshua Berkenwald my true and lawful representative to act in my behalf to sell all chametz possessed by me – knowingly or unknowingly – as defined by Torah and rabbinic law, and to lease all places wherein chametz owned may be found upon terms and conditions as discretion dictates. This transaction will be in effect for the duration of Pesach, which this year begins with sundown of April 18, 2011 and runs through April 26, 2011.

And to this I hereby affix my signature on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of April in the year 2011.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit this form promptly to:

**Congregation Sinai**  
**1532 Willowbrae Avenue**  
**San Jose, CA 95125-4450**



## Save The Dates:

**May 1**

**Holocaust Memorial Community Service at Temple Emanu-El**

**May 7**

**B'nei Mitzvah Inauguration Class of 5772**

**May 14**

**Natalya Frumkin's Bat Mitzvah**

**May 15**

**Annual Meeting**

**May 15**

**Last Day of Religious School**



## CONGREGATION SINAI

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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