



VOICE OF SINAI

For Members and Friends of Congregation Sinai

1532 Willowbrae Ave. San Jose, CA 95125

www.sinai-sj.org

Sunday, May 15, in the Sanctuary:

Congregation Sinai's 2011 Annual Meeting

Join us for:

- Board President's "State of the Shul" Address
- Mitnadev Lev Awards
- Chakham Lev Award

...and more!

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Next month:
Shavuot Dinner
and Tikkun Leyl
Shavuot!

Rabbi

Josh Berkenwald

*rabbi@sinai-sj.org***Synagogue Administrator**

Joelle Pluemer

*jpluemer@sinai-sj.org***Education Director**

Katherine Mueller

*educator@sinai-sj.org***Nursery School Director**

Miriam Gurantz

*director@sinainurseryschool.org***Administrative Assistant**

Rebecca Gray

*office@sinai-sj.org***President**

David Fernandez

First Vice President

Jerry Lopatin

Second Vice President

Michele Myron

Treasurer

Jay Seliber

Financial Secretary

Joseph Kulakofsky

Recording Secretary

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Shoshanah Miller

Marcy Greenberg

Julia Minkowski

Rita Jacobson

Gary Richman

Robert Jacobvitz

Joshua Roza

Deborah Leibovitch

Charles Statman

Alan Steinberg

Congregation Sinai

1532 Willowbrae Avenue

San Jose, CA 95125

Email: *office@sinai-sj.org*

Telephone: 408-264-8542

Fax: 408-264-4316

Website: *www.sinai-sj.org*

Rabbi's Message

The Most Powerful Word in the World

[The following is an adaptation of a sermon that Rabbi Berkenwald recently delivered.]

I want to share with you the most powerful word in the world today. A word that can bring down governments. A word that can destroy reputations. A word that can kill. The word is... forward.

You know what I am talking about. An email conversation with sensitive information gets forwarded along, with the entire history of previous conversations included at the bottom. Perhaps you have received one of those emails. Maybe you have even forwarded along a conversation, accidentally of course, that spread embarrassing or harmful details about another person. I have, and I feel awful about it. Once we hit send, there is no taking it back. It is in the cloud forever, able to resurface at any time.

The ability to share information is a double-edged sword. As we speak, it is being used to enable people to rise up to demand freedom from authoritarian rulers across the Middle East. The release of the Wikileaks documents are another example. Both made possible by "forward."

The sharing of information has an impact on a personal level as well. Sometimes with deadly results. We saw this recently with the tragic death of Rutgers freshman student Tyler Clementi, who took his life after being the victim of cyberbullying.

While the technology that enabled all of these events is cutting edge, and has brought many benefits, there is an ancient danger posed by the ease of information sharing. The Torah's warning, "Do not be a talebearer amongst your countrymen," (Lev. 19:16) has been understood to be a prohibition against gossip since ancient times. Although I cannot provide statistics to back this up, I would argue that the prohibition against *lashon hara*, literally "an evil tongue," is the most frequently violated commandment in all of Judaism.



Rabbi Josh Berkenwald

One ancient teaching states that a gossip can stand in Rome and cause a death in Syria.¹ The tragedy of Tyler Clementi is a case in point.

Gossip is also compared to an arrow in several revealing metaphors.

Why is gossip like an arrow, as opposed to other weapons? Because other weapons can only slay those who are near them, whereas an arrow can kill from a distance.²

Another metaphor: If a man takes a sword in hand to slay his fellow, who then pleads with him and begs for mercy, the would-be slayer can change his mind and return the sword to its sheath. But once the would-be slayer has shot an arrow, it cannot be brought back even if he wants to.³

Metaphor number three: The thirteenth century Rabbi Jonah Gerondi said, "One who draws the bow often sends his arrow into a person without the latter's knowing who hit him."⁴

These three metaphors reveal three problems with gossip: 1) it can harm from great distances, 2) it cannot be retracted, 3) it is often anonymous, making it impossible for the victim to confront its source.

When the Talmud warns that gossip uttered in Rome can kill in Syria, it imagines transmission by caravan, over a period of months or years. In the digital age, the transmission of *lashon hara* can be measured in fractions of seconds.

Our lives are increasingly played out not in one another's physical presence, but digitally. First email, now Facebook and Twitter. For many, social interaction takes place somewhere in the cloud.

The three arrow metaphors about gossip are just as true of the internet. We are connected over great distances. Once an email is sent, or a Tweet posted, or a status updated, it cannot be taken back. The internet also makes it easy to spread information anonymously.

There is another aspect of digital *lashon hara* that makes it even more difficult to resist. In a face to face conversation with a real person, we hear voice inflections and see facial and body expressions that make it a full communication. The presence of the other person forces us to watch what we say, at least a little bit. We serve as checks on one another's behavior.

But when sitting in front of a screen, or texting below the table in class or at a meeting, our physical interaction is with a two-dimensional piece of glass. The human

connection is gone.

This is why people write things in emails that they would never say in person. Basic rules of decent behavior are so much easier to ignore when there is no physical person in front of us.

We are currently in the period of the *Omer*, the seven weeks of counting that begins on the second day of Passover and lasts until the day before Shavuot. I suggest that we spend the remaining days focusing on the digital *lashon hara* in our lives. Here is a way that I think may help.

One of the Sages of the Talmud, Rabbi Yossi, taught: "I never made a statement for which I would have to turn around and check whether the person about whom I was speaking was present."⁵ Let's bring Rabbi Yossi into the age of Facebook and Twitter. Before sending an email, Tweet, or status update that mentions someone who is not among the recipients, ask the following question: How would I feel if that person read this message in my presence? Forget about wondering how the other person would feel. How would I feel?

If you think you might be at all uncomfortable, that is a pretty good indication that the message is within the realm of *lashon hara*.

(This is also a good rule to follow if the person about whom you are writing is among the recipients. If you would not want the other person to read the message with you in the same room, it might be better to keep it to yourself, or pick up the phone instead.)

The meditation that concludes the *Amidah*, the standing prayer which is traditionally recited three times a day, begins: *Elohai, netzor l'shoni me'ra, us-fatai midaber mirmah*. "My Lord, prevent my tongue from evil, and my lips from speaking deceit." It is a prayer that acknowledges that we all struggle with gossip, and that we need God's help to stop it. I think it may be time to modify the prayer. "Prevent my tongue from evil" doesn't quite capture what is needed in the era of digital *lashon hara*. Perhaps we ought to say the following instead: "My Lord, prevent my fingers from evil, and my thumbs from typing deceit."

God knows, we need the help.

1. PT Peah 1:1
2. *ibid*.
3. Midrash Tehillim 120:4
4. Gates of Repentance, part 3, paragraph 207
5. BT Arachin 15b

President's Message Community

I was thinking this month about how we, as diverse individuals, build communities. We are all members of multiple communities: our kids' schools, sports teams, theatre groups, and of course, our synagogue. All of these communities are vital to our everyday lives and help us make it through each day feeling like we are part of something larger.



President
David
Fernandez

As we enter the new fiscal year for the synagogue, I wanted to comment on how our synagogue community is doing. The good news is that our community is growing and thriving. There are so many ways to participate in and enjoy being part of our shul. I enjoy coming to synagogue and hearing what the Rabbi has to say about what has happened during the week or an explanation of what we have read in the Torah, visiting and catching up with friends, and becoming better educated as a Jewish adult. We had a wonderful Scholar in Residence weekend a few weeks back, and I personally had the opportunity to take a different view of what is going on in Israel and how to consider alternative viewpoints. I look forward to being able to leave the cooking to someone else once a month on a Friday, and spending time with so many of you. I enjoy listening to what my children have learned during religious school or chatting with a Nursery School family about how they have integrated what their children have learned into their family's rituals. So, what is left for me to talk about, you may ask?

I have enjoyed my first ten

months as the President of Congregation Sinai and watching the new programs unfold, our membership grow, and event participation increase. While our synagogue has had great programming this year and events are more crowded than ever, it does take more work to put on the programming that we all enjoy and to accommodate the increased participation in events. As a result, there is a need for additional help with the everyday tasks that make our synagogue a great place to be. It does not need to be a lot. If you like to cook, come and help Cindy Levinson in the kitchen preparing one of those great Friday night dinners. You don't need to shoulder the whole burden of an activity yourself if it seems to be too much for you, but you can lighten the load of one of our lead volunteers. Even a few hours of time can make a huge difference in how an event turns out. If you are interested in finance, our finance committee can use some additional assistance, or if fundraising is your thing, we can always use good new ideas. Our Men's Club and Sisterhood are often in need of someone to lead an event. If social action is your passion, perhaps you could help us find some additional ways to provide to those less able to provide for themselves. There is much to be done. If you are interested in helping plan and execute activities in our next fiscal year, making our synagogue even more successful, please let me know. You can always come to my office hours or email me.

Our next fiscal year comes with much promise for success and opportunities for learning, celebrating and helping others. Consider what you can do to make the Sinai community stronger than ever. I hope to see many of you at our annual meeting on May 15th, where we will elect a slate of officers and approve our budget for next year.

Nursery School

Shalom,

Our “model” Passover Seder took place in the Nursery school on Friday, April 15. The children helped by preparing parts of our special lunch, which included soup, charoset, and dessert. Our parent volunteers made the matzah balls, cut the eggs, placed vegetables and fruit on the children’s plates, and set up the long table covered with white paper decorated by the children’s drawings. The children had a chance to taste gefilte fish and flavored matzah since we are not supposed to eat kosher for Pesach plain matzah before the holiday. In addition to the teachers reading our special Haggadah, the children participated by singing and reciting the “Mah Nishtanah.”

The Challah Club (afternoon program) celebrated One Day Without Shoes on April 5. We all took off our shoes and socks for most of the day and discussed what it would be like if we didn’t have shoes at all. The kids talked about needing to buy shoes for kids who don’t have them so their feet don’t get cuts, which can get dirty and infected. One child said that we should give them our shoes that don’t fit anymore. We also made a big poster which we all signed with our handprints. You can see it when you enter the front of the school.

It’s hard to believe that when we come back from our Pesach break, it will be the end of April and that the end of the school year is just around the corner. From the survey returned by the parents, it looks like we are

going to have a nice turnout for our summer program. It will start on June 20 and run for 8 weeks, ending August 12.

The registration for next year is going really well. We will be delighted to welcome some new families to our program. The school year is scheduled to begin on Monday, August 29th. We still have limited space available. If you know of any family with children 2-5 years old that might be interested in our program, please ask them to contact me at 408 264-8486 or visit our website:

www.sinainurseryschool.org.

Miki Gurantz, Director
Sinai Nursery School

Youth Education

Hebrew High

Tuesday, May 3, 10, 17, 24

7-9 pm

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

Please note that May 24 is the last day of class.

Family Education Day: Grades K-2

Sunday, May 1

9am-12:00 Noon

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

Social Hall to explore sibling rivalry throughout the Torah.

Yom HaShoah Memorial Sunday, May 1

11:30 am - 12 Noon

Memorial for the Holocaust led by our Kitah Zayin. Parents are invited to attend. The memorial is only for students in grades 3rd-7th. K-2 will have class time during the memorial.

Yom HaZikaron and Yom Ha’Atzmaut Program

Tuesday, May 10

4:15 pm - 6:15 pm

Activities are planned to commemorate Yom HaZikaron (Israel’s Me-

morial Day) and Yom Ha’Atzmaut (Israel’s 63rd anniversary of Israeli Independence Day).

**Remember!
The last day
of Religious
School is
Tuesday,
May 15.**

Religious School

In the Congregation Sinai Religious School, we are spending our last month of school exploring the May holidays, including Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), Yom HaZikaron (Remembering Israeli Soldiers) and Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Israel Independence).

Our Yom HaShoah curriculum begins in Kitah Dalet (4th grade) with the concept of remembrance in Judaism. Students look at the different things we are asked to remember in Jewish tradition, including the exodus from Egypt, God's creation, and Shabbat.

Our Kitah Hey (5th grade) students will focus on how we remember people in Jewish tradition after they have passed. They will practice saying Kaddish and will make their own Yizkor candles.

Kitah Vav (6th grade) will focus on how we deal with mourning and remembering catastrophes within

Jewish history. They will study stories from the Talmud that deal with how the Jews responded to the destruction of the temple (B. Bava Batra 60b) and apply those values to a modern Jewish catastrophe, the Holocaust.

Kitah Zayin (7th grade) studied the Holocaust all year. They focused on the different ways Jews fought back in the Holocaust. They covered the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, the Jewish partisan movement, and examples of passive resistance, including Holocaust art work and observing Jewish holidays in the concentration camps.

We culminate our learning about the Holocaust with a 3rd-7th grade memorial for Shoah led by our Kitah Zayin Class. The memorial included songs by Hannah Senesh, readings, and a candle lighting.

For Israel Independence day on Tuesday May 10, 3rd-7th grade is celebrating by exploring Israeli cul-

ture through food, games, and geography. Before we begin our celebration of Israel Independence Day, we will remember Israeli soldiers who passed by singing Hatikvah and reciting Kaddish and some famous poems about the Israeli army. Students will also hear an Israeli speak about his experience in the army.

We will have three activities during our Israel Independence Day celebration. We will make bourekas, a popular pastry from Israel that is filled with Bulgarian cheese or potato. The students will then play a popular children's game called "Goomy," named after the elastic band with which it is played. Goomy is similar to Chinese jump rope. Finally, we will learn about Israel's geography and make candy maps of Israel.

Katherine Mueller
Education Director

Religious School End of School Celebration Sunday, May 15, 9:00 am-1:30 pm

The whole community is invited to attend the closing ceremony of Religious School, featuring:

- 7th grade graduation
- B'nei Mitzvah Jewish Lens Photo Gallery
- Service attendance recognition ceremony
- Staff appreciation
- Adrenaline Rush 40 foot long Jumper and other games
- Celebration Lunch

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 playdate. Abba, Savta, Saba, (Daddy and grandparents) and Nanny are all welcome, too. Children three and under are invited to come and play. This month, Ima and Me will meet on May 4, 11, 18, and 25.

Kadima Lag B'Omer Bonfire

Sunday, May 1

Join us for a Lag B'Omer Bonfire! Contact kadima@sinai-sj.org for more information.

Torah For Tots

Saturdays, May 7 and 21

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.

"Torah N Tefillah" Service for Grades 3 - 7 Saturday, May 21

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. Come to the Mirkin Chapel to learn new melodies, explore Shabbat teachings, and hear engaging stories. TNT is led by Sinai's Director of Education, Kate Mueller, along with Sinai Teens.

Jewish Girl Scouts Awards Ceremony

Sunday, May 15

3:30 pm

Join us in the Sinai Social Hall for

the 2011 Jewish Girl Scouts Awards Ceremony!

USY Regional Convention

May 27-30

The convention will be held at the Walden West Outdoor School, in Saratoga. The weekend will be filled with sessions exploring "Spies and Lies" in Judaism, the use of covert operations throughout Jewish history and the skills necessary to complete successful missions. Please contact Youth@sinai-sj.org for more information.

Jr. Kadima Picnic at Houge Park

Sunday, May 29

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Free for Jr. Kadima members, \$5 for non-members. For more information, contact Rozita Tabibian at jrkadima@sinai-sj.org.

Upcoming Events

Community Yom HaShoah Service at Temple Emanu-El

Sunday, May 1

Yom Hashoah, 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. Services follow at 7:00 pm.

B'nei Mitzvah Class of 5772 Inauguration

Saturday, May 7

9:00 am

During Shabbat services, B'nei Mitzvah students of the class of 5772 will participate in leading services. Parents will present their children with chumashim. Please join the community as we welcome next year's B'nei Mitzvah Class! Following the service, please join us for Kiddush Luncheon hosted by the Inauguration Class families.

Congregation Sinai Annual Meeting

Sunday May 15

Please come at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary for this important annual event. Highlights include: presentation of the "State of the Shul" address, presentations to exceptional volunteers and congregational votes on the 2011-2012 fiscal year budget and slate of the Board of Directors. All Congregation Sinai members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Babysitting will be available for younger children.

...continued next page.

Celebration Brunch

Sunday, May 15

Join us in the Social Hall at 12 pm following the Annual Meeting for brunch as we mark a year of growth and achievement for the synagogue, honor the efforts of our enthusiastic and committed Board of Directors, and wind up a great year for the Religious School. No RSVP necessary.

Religious School Closing Ceremony

Sunday, May 15

9:30 am - 10:30 am

The whole community is invited to attend the closing ceremony of Religious School. Student photo gallery, student awards, staff appreciation and more.

Kabbalat Shabbat Services and Persian Shabbat Dinner

May 27

Join family and friends at 6 pm for Kabbalat Shabbat as we welcome Shabbat together. A delicious and festive Shabbat dinner featuring Persian food will follow at 7 pm. Early bird pricing: \$20.00 per adult age 13 and up, \$5.00 per child age 5-12 (children under age 5 are free), \$54.00 maximum per family if reserved by May 24. RSVP for early bird pricing to office at 408-264-8542 or office@sinai-sj.org.

Sinai Lunch Team for the San Jose Family Homeless Shelter

Sunday, June 5

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

We are looking for people who are interested in raising money, planning, cooking, and serving a meal to residents of the San Jose Family Shelter on Sunday, June 5. On that day, Congregation Sinai members will make it all happen. We are counting on you to be part of it! If you can help, please email socialaction@sinai-sj.org or call the office at 264-8542.

Adult Activities

Sisterhood Meeting

Wednesday, May 11

10:30 am

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

Sisterhood Girl's Night Out at the Comedy Club

Thursday, May 5

8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Sisterhood Girls Night Out at the Comedy Club: Thursday, May 5 at 8 pm. Come have an evening of laughs and fun at Rooster T. Feathers in Sunnyvale. \$12. Stand up comic Wendy Liebman television credits include 9 appearances on The Late Show with David Letterman, The Tonight Show with Carson and Leno, HBO, Comedy Central and many more. Please RSVP to Deborah Lei-

bovitch at sisterhood@sinai-sj.org. Join Sisterhood for dinner before the show at 5:30 pm at Great Vegi Land in Sunnyvale. Carpooling available.

Sisterhood Book Club

Sunday, May 15

7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

We will be discussing the book 'Snow Flower and the Secret Fan' by Lisa See - a novel about the lives of 19 upper class chinese women. Please contact the Sinai office for location.

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 May 5, 12, 19, and 26.

The Mitzvah Initiative

Thursdays, May 5 and 19

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.





RABBI BERKENWALD, AS APPOINTED AGENT, EXPLAINING THE TRANSACTION TO TRANSFER OWNERSHIP OF THE CHAMETZ IN FRONT OF WITNESSES



MEMBERS BRINGING THE LAST OF THEIR CRUMBS TO THE SHUL PARKING LOT TO BURN BEFORE PASSOVER



TYLER SELIBER AND DAVID LAVI BAKING MATZA



KITAH VAV STUDENTS WITH MORAH TALYA DISPLAYING THEIR MATZA COVERS



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 Natalia Frumkin becomes our newest adult member.



Natalia Frumkin - May 14

As I prepare for my Bat Mitzvah, I am learning many values that will help me succeed in life. One of those values is integrity. When I am at home, it is with integrity that I am learning my Haftorah. As I prepare for my milestone I find it very important to put my heart and mind into my work. I must concentrate on what the text teaches me, and how my prayers guide me. It is not the time I take in preparation, but how I spend the time pursuing my work that makes the difference. The dictionary explains that integrity is honesty but I think it is more than that. To me, integrity is the ability to perform moral deeds without guidance or credit from others. It is with integrity that we make our decisions and carry on with life. I have learned that whenever the path splits, consult your heart and soul and think about your moral responsibility.

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



Sinai Sisterhood women having fun at the latest Girls Night Out Dinner

Back row: Susan Silver, Sheri Frumkin, Elena Weinberg, Joelle Pluemer, Samira Talmoud, Cindy Levinson, Alisa Israel Goldberg, Marcia Klein, Hadassah Levinkron

Front row: Deborah Leibovitch, Karen Piemme, Miriam Leiseroff, Wendy Askenas

(Not pictured: Camille Redhill, Eve-Lyn Redhill, Rita Buxbaum, and Rayna Levinson)

All Sinai Members Are Cordially Invited to Attend
The 2011 Annual Meeting

Sunday, May 15, at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary

Board President's "State of the Shul" Address

Mitnadev Lev Awards for this year's outstanding volunteers:
Susan Ellenberg, Alan Klapper, Jay Seliber, Rozita Tabibian

Chakham Lev Award:
Steve Dick

Congregational vote on the 2011- 2012 fiscal year budget

Congregational vote on the 2011-2012 Board of Directors slate

Celebration Brunch following the Annual Meeting at noon



Shabbat Dinner at Sinai

Friday, May 27, 2011

Kabbalat Shabbat at 6:00 pm

Shabbat Dinner at 7:00 pm

Featuring savory traditional Persian food

Early Bird Special: RSVP by May 24

\$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: RSVP after May 24

\$24 per adult (age 13 and up)

\$10 per child (age 5 - 12)

Free for children under age 5

\$65 maximum per family



Todah Rabah, Thank You

תודה רבה

Todah rabah to...

- MJ Lopatin, Chair of Ritual Committee, for organizing a Gabbaim Training Workshop
- David and Rozita Tabibian for hosting the Passover Wine Tasting and sponsoring Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon
- Cindy Levinson, Chair of the B'tevon Committee, for organizing and preparing Shabbat dinner in April, assisted by Janet Dombro, Renee Fields, Suze Peters, Rene Prupes, Rozita Tabibian, and Susan Silver
- Debbie Lewis for leading the Ima and Me playgroup every Wednesday at Sinai
- Joseph and Beth Green for generously sponsoring Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon in honor of Scholar in Residence Stuart Schoffman
- Michele Myron and Clara Rosenfeld for preparing cholent for the Scholar in Residence fleischig Kiddush Luncheon
- Robert and Ellen Tobin for donating books to the library
- Al and Ruth Sporer for donating books to the library
- Kathy Gottfried of the Chesed Committee for working quietly behind the scenes to provide support and assistance to congregants
- Rozita Tabibian for organizing the Jr. Kadima Seder Plate Making event for 6th to 8th graders
- Rita Jacobson for volunteering in the office
- Janet Dombro for laundering kitchen towels
- Miriam Leiseroff for laundering tablecloths
- Lucy Fried, Susan Silver, Cindy Levinson and Suzie Peters for helping Rabbi Berkenwald kasher the Sinai kitchen for Passover
- Barry Mirkin and Steve Citron-Pousty for being witnesses to the transaction of the sales of the Chametz, mekhirat hametz
- David Tabibian for donating the grape juice for Sinai's Second Night Seder
- Lucy Fried for catering a delicious Seder meal and to Rabbi Berkenwald for leading a warm and inspiring seder
- Eve-Lyn Redhill for the beautiful calligraphy on the B'nei Mitzvah certificates
- Daniel and Esti BenDavid for sponsoring Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon in honor of Naama's Bat Mitzvah

An extra special Todah Rabah to Joseph & Beth Green for generously sponsoring the Scholar-in-Residence weekend. Renowned scholar, lecturer and writer Stuart Schoffman travelled from Israel to join us at Sinai to address the topic of "Tikkun Olam in Dangerous Times."

Special appreciation to Rina Katzen for generously subsidizing Sinai's Second Night Seder in honor and in memory of her dear parents Bella and Aharon Pozin, founders of the city of Ra'anana, Israel.

Thank you to all of the daveners, leyners, service participants, and gabba'im who made this year's Passover services memorable. It couldn't have happened without you!

Mazal Tov, Congratulations

מזל טוב

- Eli Reinhard for being honored as the House Benefactor at the Hillel Pillars of the Community Awards lunch in April
- Susan Ellenberg, Alan Klapper, Jay Seliber, and Rozita Tabibian for being the recipients of Sinai's Mitnadev Lev Awards
- Steve Dick for being the recipient of Sinai's Chakham Lev Award
- Jerry and Rita Jacobson on the marriage of their grandson, Hananya, to Mindy

Todah Rabah and Yasher Ko'ach to all those who participated in the Mitzvah of Ma'ot Chittim:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| • James & Teri Baron | • David & Beverly Hirsch | • Jon and Susan Silver |
| • Max & Ruth Bart | • Seymour & Lorraine Hoff | • Alfred and Ruth Sporer |
| • Scott Budman & Jenny Green | • Jerome and Rita Jacobson | • Leah Thorpe |
| • Daniel & Diana Cowans | • Rina Katzen | • Robert and Ellen Tobin |
| • Rachel Dombro | • Stuart and Julie Krigel | • ...and the many people who donated anonymously. |
| • Steve and Janet Dombro | • Andy and Joelle Pluemer | |
| • Dorothy Drabkin | • Eli Reinhard | |
| • Harold & Alisa Israel Goldberg | • Daniel and Amy Schiff | |

The money collected enabled Rabbi Berkenwald to deliver checks totaling \$1050 to Jewish Family Services and Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger, on behalf of Congregation Sinai.

FYI

Due to the Voice deadline, donations are not always listed in the same time frame as the acknowledgment letters generated by the synagogue office. We try to mail the cards as quickly as possible and apologize if, from time to time, the donations appearing on this page are not in exact synch with the acknowledgments you have received.

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.

Tribute Funds

We gratefully acknowledge donations to the following funds:

Building Fund

- Barry & Rosemarie Mirkin in honor of Sy Hoff's special birthday

Chesed Fund

- Jerry & Rita Jacobson sending get well wishes to Ethel Hamburger
- Jerry & Rita Jacobson in honor of Sy Hoff's special birthday
- Rita Pearl in memory of Anna Miriam Pearl

Ellner Religious School Fund

- Rina Katzen in honor of the engagement of Barbara Frank's grandson Noam Frank to Roni Fisher
- Rina Katzen in honor of the engagement of Jerry & Rita Jacobson's grandson Hananya to Mindy

General Fund

- Kay Brown in appreciation of a moving experience during Shabbat services
- Dave Fernandez & Lori Krauss in honor of Josh Roza's college graduation
- Dave Fernandez & Lori Krauss in honor of Lavi Paoletti's Bar Mitzvah
- Harold Goldberg & Alisa Israel Goldberg in honor of Sy Hoff's special birthday
- Harold Goldberg & Alisa Israel Goldberg in honor of Rambod Jacoby's birthday
- Harold Goldberg & Alisa Israel Goldberg in memory of Ebi Yaghoubi
- David & Beverly Hirsch in memory of Robert Hirsch
- David & Beverly Hirsch in honor of the engagement of Jerry & Rita Jacobson's grandson Hananya to Mindy
- Albie Jachimowicz in memory of Nathan Jachimowicz
- Mike & Carolyn Kulakofsky in memory of Sadie Kulakofsky
- Jon & Susan Silver sending get well wishes to Joelle Pluemer
- Jon & Susan Silver in appreciation of Bob & Ellen Tobin
- Bob & Ellen Tobin in memory of Philip M. Tobin
- Bob & Ellen Tobin in memory of Dora Tobin
- Joe Vela & Fay Levinson in honor of Sy Hoff's special birthday

Kiddush Fund

- James & Teri Baron in appreciation of the Sinai community
- Jerry & Rita Jacobson sending get well wishes to Joelle Pluemer
- Jerry & Rita Jacobson in memory of Ebi Yaghoubi
- JoAnn Shank in honor of Sy Hoff's special birthday

Prayerbook Fund

- Harold Goldberg & Alisa Israel Goldberg dedicating a Siddur Sim Shalom for Shabbat and Festivals in honor of Shira Kahn-Samuelson's Bat Mitzvah
- Harold Goldberg & Alisa Israel Goldberg dedicating a Siddur Sim Shalom for Shabbat and Festivals in honor of Lavi Paoletti's Bar Mitzvah

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- Phil & Monique Alexander in appreciation of Rabbi Berkenwald arranging the sale of their chametz
- James & Teri Baron in appreciation of everyone at Congregation Sinai
- James & Teri Baron in appreciation of Rabbi Berkenwald arranging the sale of their chametz ...continued next page.

Tribute Funds continued:

- Michael & Evelyn Berliner in appreciation of Rabbi Berkenwald arranging the sale of their chametz
- Scott Budman & Jenny Green in appreciation of Rabbi Berkenwald arranging the sale of their chametz
- Steve Dick & Lynn Osband in appreciation of Rabbi Berkenwald arranging the sale of their chametz
- Stella Dushats in memory of Rosa Dushets-Kogan
- Michael and Sheri Frumkin in memory of Isadora Kalman
- Harold Goldberg & Alisa Israel Goldberg in appreciation of Rabbi Berkenwald arranging the sale of their chametz
- Jerry & Rita Jacobson in appreciation of Rabbi Berkenwald arranging the sale of their chametz
- Aaron & Maria Elena Jarson in appreciation of Rabbi Berkenwald arranging the sale of their chametz
- Rina Katzen sending get well wishes to Joelle Pluemer
- Rina Katzen in honor of Sy Hoff's special birthday
- Joseph & Ryuko Kulakofsky in appreciation of Rabbi Berkenwald arranging the sale of their chametz
- Michael & Carolyn Kulakofsky in appreciation of Rabbi Berkenwald arranging the sale of their chametz
- Roger & Cynthia Levinson in appreciation of Rabbi Berkenwald arranging the sale of their chametz
- Andy & Joelle Pluemer in appreciation of Rabbi Berkenwald arranging the sale of their chametz
- Eli Reinhard in appreciation of Rabbi Berkenwald arranging the sale of his chametz
- Daniel & Amy Schiff in appreciation of Rabbi Berkenwald arranging the sale of their chametz
- Shamouil & Soraya Shamouilian in appreciation of Rabbi Berkenwald arranging the sale of their chametz
- Jon & Susan Silver in appreciation of Rabbi Berkenwald
- Harvey Slater in memory of Della Slater
- Al & Ruth Sporer in appreciation of Rabbi Berkenwald arranging the sale of their chametz
- Bob & Ellen Tobin in appreciation of Rabbi Berkenwald arranging the sale of their chametz
- David & Elena Weinberg in appreciation of Rabbi Berkenwald arranging the sale of their chametz

Congregation Sinai Fund Contribution Form

A contribution is made in the amount of \$ _____

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

Name of individual: _____

Contributor: _____

Acknowledge to:

Address: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

- | | |
|---|--|
| <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 |
|---|--|

April Yahrzeits

Nissan

Jacob Farber	27	Abraham Giskin	6	Stephen Green	15
Bess Heibman Brauner	28	Anne Miller	6	Yisrael Jakober	15
Iekhiel Cogan	28	Rebecca Miller	6	Paul Lewis Richter	15
Leonard Golub	28	Janine Fishstrom Dombro	7	Harold Rothchild	15
Bernard Luczak	28	Ezra Rabban	7	David Segal	17
Molly Stanhope	28	Luise Radmann	7	Abram Skopicki	17
Julian Snitow	29	Laura Farber	8	Edward Kapiloff	18
Avraham Klapper	30	Alvin Martin Frank	8	Hyman Weisel	18
		Becky Stewart	8	Shana Devorah Yalova	18
		Leya (Helen) Fishman	9	Max Bleviss	19
		Abraham Levitow	9	Albert Bohbot	19
		Rose Jacobs	10	Jehudah Leiserowitsch	20
		Ida Tobin	10	Max Richter	20
		Sophie Bachman	11	Moshe Shamouilian	20
		Isak Hoff	11	Janette Kaufman	22
		Samuel Michelberg	11	Kenneth Hal Siegel	22
		Henry Teman	11	Shlomo Levin	23
		Irving Farr, Cantor	13	Yetta Krever	25
		Genya Gabovich	13	Kchasia Amburg	26
		Lewis Stahl	13	Isadore Frank	26
		Dora Peskoff	14	Louis Kalichstein	27
		Milton Frankel	15	Anna Segal	27

Iyar

Francis Rosenbleeth	1				
Daniel M. Kahn	2				
Patty Lynn Cohen	3				
Aaron Rozenfarb	3				
Roza Cogan-Rozenthal	4				
Esther Fintzak	5				
Shimon Mendel Lapa	5				
Esther Rozenfarb	5				
Dora Rudoy	5				

In Memoriam

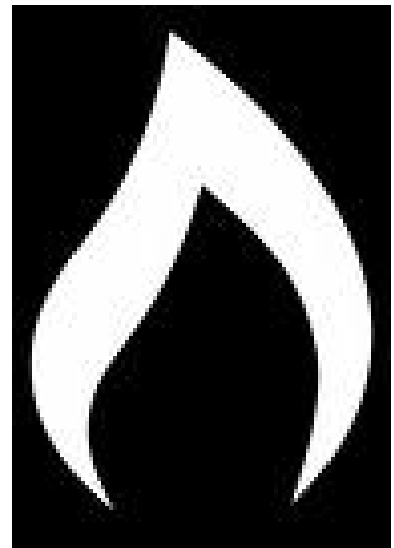
May their memories be a blessing

Mary Landau

Mother of Stephen, Roberta and Susan Landau

Ebi Yaghoubi

Father of Rambod (Jessica) Jacoby



May 2011 27 Nisan 5771 - 27 Iyar 5771

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
27 NISAN	28 NISAN	29 NISAN	30 NISAN	1 IYAR	2 IYAR	3 IYAR	4 IYAR	5 IYAR	6 IYAR	7 IYAR	8 IYAR	9 IYAR	10 IYAR
9 am RS Bnei Mitzvah Program 9 am RS K-2 Family Ed Day 9 am Sunday Minyan 10 am Men's Club Bike Ride 11:30 am RS Yom HaShoah 2 pm Jr. Kadima Event 6 pm Yom HaShoah at Emanu-El	<i>Omer: Day 13</i>	<i>Omer: Day 14</i> 4:15 pm Religious School 7 pm Hebrew High	<i>Omer: Day 15</i> <i>Rosh Chodesh Iyar - Day 1</i> 9 am Ima and Me	<i>Omer: Day 16</i> <i>Rosh Chodesh Iyar - Day 2</i> 9:30 am Silicon Valley Beit Midrash 7:30 pm The Mitzvah Initiative 8 pm Sisterhood Girl's Night Out for Comedy	<i>Omer: Day 17</i> Candle Lighting 7:43 pm	<i>Omer: Day 18</i> Enor 9 am Inauguration Class of 5772 9 am Shabbat Services 11 am Torah for Tots 12 pm Kiddush sponsored by Bnei Mitzvah Class of 5772	<i>Omer: Day 19</i> No Religious School 9 am Sunday Minyan 10 am President's Office Hours	<i>Omer: Day 20</i> <i>Yom HaZikaron</i>	<i>Omer: Day 21</i> <i>Yom HaZikaron</i> 4:15 pm Religious School 7 pm Hebrew High	<i>Omer: Day 22</i> 9 am Ima and Me 10:30 am Sisterhood Meeting	<i>Omer: Day 23</i> 9:30 am Silicon Valley Beit Midrash	<i>Omer: Day 24</i> Candle Lighting 7:49 pm	<i>Omer: Day 25</i> Behar 9 am Natalia Frumkin Bat Mitzvah 9 am Shabbat Services Shabbat Ends: 8:50 pm
<i>Omer: Day 26</i> 9 am Last Day of Religious School 9 am Sunday Minyan 10:30 am Annual Meeting 12 pm Brunch after Annual Mtg. 3:30 Girl Scouts Awards 7:30 pm Sisterhood Book Club	<i>Omer: Day 27</i>	<i>Omer: Day 28</i> 7 pm Hebrew High	<i>Omer: Day 29</i> 9 am Ima and Me	<i>Omer: Day 30</i> 9:30 am Silicon Valley Beit Midrash 7:30 pm The Mitzvah Initiative	<i>Omer: Day 31</i> Candle Lighting 7:55 pm	<i>Omer: Day 32</i> Bechukotai 9 am Shabbat Services 10:30 am Torah N' Tefillah 11 am Torah for Tots 12 pm Kiddush Luncheon sponsored by Jonathan and Susan Sweedler	<i>Omer: Day 33</i> <i>Lag B'Omer</i> 9 am Sunday Minyan 1 pm JCC Lag B'Omer Family Music Festival	<i>Omer: Day 34</i> Nursery School Lag B'Omer Celebration	<i>Omer: Day 35</i> 7 pm Hebrew High	<i>Omer: Day 36</i> 9 am Ima and Me	<i>Omer: Day 37</i> 9:30 am Silicon Valley Beit Midrash	<i>Omer: Day 38</i> Candle Lighting 8:01 pm 6 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Services 7 pm Shabbat Dinner	<i>Omer: Day 39</i> Baamidbar 9 am Shabbat Services Shabbat Ends: 9:01 pm
<i>Omer: day 40</i> 9 am Sunday Minyan	<i>Omer: Day 41</i> Memorial Day Nursery School/Office Closed in observance of holiday	<i>Omer: Day 42</i>											

Girls' Dinner Out



Wednesday, June 1, 2011, 6:00 pm

*Potluck (or not)
at the Goldbergs'*

International Flavors Potluck Buffet
Bring a dish for the potluck, or just bring yourself.

*Special Discussion:
"Where Tradition and Modernity Meet"*

The World Council of Conservative/Masorti Synagogues (Masorti Olami) builds, renews and strengthens Jewish life throughout the world, with efforts that focus on existing and developing communities in Europe, Latin America, the Former Soviet Union, Africa, Asia and Australia.

Enjoy foods from the cuisines of communities served by Masorti Olami, learn more about its efforts and discuss the ways in which we reconcile tradition and modernity in our own lives.

Please RSVP by Friday, May 27
sisterhood@sinai-sj.org or 408-264-8542

The Goldbergs' address will be provided to those attending.

If you wish to bring a dish for the International Flavors Potluck Buffet, please contact Alisa Israel Goldberg for more information. *Bringing a dish is optional.*

SILICON VALLEY JEWISH MUSIC FESTIVAL

LIVE MUSIC • FOOD & ARTS VENDORS
FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES

• FREE COMMUNITY-WIDE EVENT FOR ALL AGES •

SUNDAY, MAY 22ND
1:00-8:00PM FREE

14855 OKA RD, LOS GATOS

408.357.7411 www.SiliconValleyJCC.org/Music



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."

Nursery School and the Office will be closed on Monday, May 30th, in observance of Memorial Day.

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.



Save The Dates:

June 5
Sinai's Lunch Team San Jose Family Homeless Shelter

June 7
Shavuot Service and Dairy Delight Dinner

June 7
Joint Tikkun Leyl Shavuot with Temple Emanu-El at Sinai

June 8
Shavuot Morning Services

June 9
Shavuot Morning Services with Yizkor



CONGREGATION SINAI

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

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