

# 1861-2011

## INSPIRING REFORM FOR 150 YEARS

### CHICAGO SINAI CONGREGATION

# BULLETIN

## September 2010

### WORSHIP SERVICES

**Friday, September 3, 6:15 p.m.**  
SHABBAT EVE SERVICE  
Rabbi Sternfield will conduct the service

**Wednesday, September 8**  
ROSH HASHANAH EVE SERVICES

**Thursday, September 9**  
ROSH HASHANAH SERVICES  
Followed by our annual  
Congregational Reception

**Friday, September 10, 6:15 p.m.**  
SHABBAT EVE SERVICE  
Rabbi Sternfield and Rabbi Levinsky will  
conduct the service

**Friday, September 17**  
KOL NIDRE SERVICES

**Saturday, September 18**  
YOM KIPPUR SERVICES

**Friday, September 24, 6:15 p.m.**  
SHABBAT EVE SERVICE  
Rabbi Levinsky will conduct the service

**Sunday, September 26, 11:00 a.m.**  
SUKKOT FAMILY SERVICE  
Rabbi Sternfield and Rabbi Levinsky will  
conduct the service  
See back page for more information.

**SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY**  
*Meets Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. in the library*

### NEWS AND VIEWS by Rabbi Sternfield

As we soon embark upon yet another year on the Jewish calendar, **we formally commence Chicago Sinai Congregation's 150th year.** To put things in their proper perspective, when Sinai was first constituted, Abraham Lincoln was the President of the United States. So much has transpired in the life of our nation and of the Jewish people in these 150 years. The America of today bears little resemblance to the America of 1861. Likewise the Jewish people in the United States have experienced heights unimaginable even a generation ago. **The blessings we enjoy today, and that we largely take for granted, could not have been dreamt of by Sinai's founders,** whether in public arena or in our private lives.

Nor could they possibly have anticipated the unfathomable tragedy of the Shoah or the miracle of the birth of the State of Israel. **It would be no exaggeration to state that there have been more momentous events in the life of our Jewish people in the past 150 years than in any previous time in our history.**

What I find especially significant for our congregation is that **Sinai has been able to adjust continuously to so many of these changes and challenges, while remaining faithful to the core liberal values of our founders and its rabbis.** I firmly believe that these principles are as essential today as they were at the outset of Sinai's history. I would not suggest that Chicago Sinai Congregation has all the answers; that we somehow have the formula for the vibrant Jewish future that we all hope for. However **I do believe that we do have some of the answers. We also have plenty of room for improvement.**

So, as we observe this sesquicentennial year, let us rededicate ourselves to the liberal Jewish heritage that has made this such a remarkable congregation while, at the same time, committing ourselves to the ongoing task of responding to the unique challenges of our times.

*L'shanah tovah tikateivu.* May we all be inscribed for blessing in the New Year.

### IN THIS ISSUE

Rabbi Sternfield/Worship Services	1
Reflections from Rabbi Levinsky	2
150 Anniversary/High Holy Schedule	3
Volunteer/Cinema/Book/Special Programs	4
Study/Outreach/Children	5
Social Action/In the Lives	6
Tributes	7
Religious Education	8
Preschool	9
Committees/Lay Leadership	10
September Calendar	11

## Are You Ready?

It's August, again, and our thoughts become a little more bittersweet as we realize that another marvelous Chicago summer comes to an end. We spent time on vacation with our families and our loved ones. We spent more time outside pursuing the activities that we love the most. We finally read that book that had been sitting on the shelf all year. When August comes our thoughts shift a little bit, towards autumn and the High Holidays.

We are rarely ready for this shift of perspective. We are rarely ready for summer to come to an end. We are rarely ready to begin our preparations for the High Holidays. **Just as summer must be left behind, our transgressions must be left behind. We have to prepare ourselves.**

Are you ready?

Back in the 19th century in the Yemenite Jewish community, emissaries would be sent around to all of the public spaces, when the month of Elul began signaling that there was one month until Rosh Hashanah. These emissaries would remind people that Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur were right around the corner and that it was time to begin searching our souls, trying to make ourselves better people.

Are you ready?

Other Jewish communities would observe what they called the Small Yom Kippur. When the new moon would arrive signaling that there was one month until Rosh Hashanah, people would gather in the synagogue. Ten people were chosen to fast for the sake of everyone else. Everyone would read penitential prayers. For the participants in this practice, it was clear that the time had come to contemplate changing their ways. It was time to focus upon the most important things in our lives—treating others well and fixing the broken parts of the world around us.

Are you ready?

While we may not embrace these specific practices, the rabbis' heart is in the right place. **We are much better able to turn Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur into a positive experience if we take the time to prepare ourselves.** We can take a few minutes in the morning when we wake up or in the evening when we go to bed to examine our lives. We can be a little more aware of the way that we are acting and the way that we have acted over the past year. **We can focus on the things that bring real value to our loved ones and the world.**

If we do these things, or whatever we find within our hearts and souls that draws our attention to these sacred days, in the month before the High Holidays, then Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur will be much easier. **The High Holy Days will be a time when we can be truly happy with ourselves and what we have become over the past year.** We will have already done our soul searching, and we can sit back calm and relaxed and take in the beauty of the words and music. We can listen to the sermon with an open heart. We can be proud of the repentance that we have already accomplished.

Are you ready?

## YOM KIPPUR FOR INTERFAITH FAMILIES

*With Rabbi Levinsky*

Many of the traditions of Yom Kippur—fasting, confessing of inadvertent sins, confessing of other people's sins—can be problematic for Jew and non-Jew alike. This makes it difficult for Jews and non-Jews in interfaith families to observe Yom Kippur with heart and meaning. The Jew may find herself defending practices about which she feels less than stellar herself. The non-Jew may be hesitant to question practices he perceives as integral to his partner's faith. In this one session class, we will openly discuss some of these traditions, comparing them to similar Christian traditions and seeking to safely discuss questions about and problems with some of the beliefs and practices of Yom Kippur. Everyone is welcome. The class will meet on **Sunday, September 12 at 10 am.**

# CELEBRATING THE SINAI SESQUICENTENNIAL 1861-2011

Chicago Sinai Congregation's 150th anniversary year will kick off during this fall's High Holy Days, the time when our community will begin honoring our historic past, our vibrant present, and our bright future. A number of events and special programs will take place between the High Holy Days and June, 2011.

On **Sunday, September 26**, Sukkot and Sinai's 150th Birthday Celebration will be held, complete with cake and party favors for kids of all ages.

On **Sunday, October 17**, a special service will be conducted in the historic sanctuary at the Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church, which was the fourth home of Chicago Sinai Congregation at the turn of the century, and the only building which remains from our past.

On **Sunday, February 27**, a city-wide symposium on the future of Reform Judaism with the leaders of the Movement will be held at Sinai, following a special Sunday Service.

On **Sunday, May 15**, our Spring Choral program will feature Ernest Bloch's service (based on the original Union Prayer Book). The program will be performed at Sinai and led by our own Scott Kumer.

The Sesquicentennial year culminates with our Annual Celebration to be held on **Saturday, May 21, 2011** in the rotunda of the Museum of Science and Industry. The museum was given to the city some 75 years ago by our distinguished past member Julius Rosenwald. All former living Sinai rabbis will be invited to attend the Celebration in May and will be honored at the prior Friday evening Shabbat service.

A **commemorative DVD** is in the works to capture the richness of our historic congregation. It is designed to paint a picture of where we came from and where we are going.

An important academic history, entitled **Sundays at Sinai: A History of Radical Reform in America** is scheduled to be published during the year, written by distinguished scholar and professor of Jewish Studies at Penn State University, Dr. Tobias Brinkmann. Dr. Brinkmann is the world's foremost authority on the German-Jewish migration to Chicago during the 19th century. The work is entirely independent and not funded by Sinai.

Throughout the year other special musical events will take place along with a variety of programs for our religious school children. We will have a special event honoring long-time members. Sinai will also invite clergy from Fourth Presbyterian Church (Rev. John Buchanan) and Holy Name Cathedral (Cardinal George) to be the honored speakers at individual Friday evening Shabbat services. In addition, such groups as the Social Action Committee and the Art Committee will be gearing a number of their efforts and activities to focus our congregation on the meanings and lessons of being a 150-year-old Chicago institution.

## HIGH HOLY DAYS SCHEDULE 2010/5771



### **ROSH HASHANAH EVE WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2010**

There will be a 5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. service at Sinai, along with an 8:00 p.m. service at Fourth Presbyterian Church.

### **ROSH HASHANAH DAY THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2010**

We will have a Family Service at 9:30 a.m. at Sinai. There will be a Rosh Hashanah Day service at Sinai at 11:00 a.m. and at Fourth Presbyterian Church at 11:00 a.m. Join us for our Rosh Hashanah Reception at the Temple immediately following the Rosh Hashanah morning services.

### **KOL NIDRE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2010**

We will have a 5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. service at Sinai, along with an 8:00 p.m. service at Fourth Presbyterian Church.

### **YOM KIPPUR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2010**

We will have our Family Service at 9:30 a.m. at Sinai. There will be a Yom Kippur service at Sinai at 11:00 a.m. and at Fourth Presbyterian Church at 11:00 a.m. The Memorial/Yizkor Service begins at 1:00 p.m. at Fourth Presbyterian Church. At 3:30 p.m., Memorial/Yizkor and Concluding Services will be at Sinai.

# Volunteer and Mitzvah Opportunities

## SECOND SUNDAY LUNCH PROGRAM

On the second Sunday of every month we make bag lunches to donate to the Greater Bethlehem Healing Temple. Bag lunches include a sandwich, juice box, packaged bag of chips and packaged dessert. We are committed to donating 200 bag lunches on each second Sunday.

If you would like to donate bag lunches please drop them off at the Temple **no later than 10:00 a.m. on September 12.**

## SUPPER AT FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We continue our commitment to help feed the homeless by cooking and serving dinner at Fourth Presbyterian Church. Eight volunteers (16+ years old) are needed. To sign up please email Merle Terry at [mterry1013@aol.com](mailto:mterry1013@aol.com).

Upcoming dates are **September 19, October 17, November 21 and December 19.**

On the second Monday of every month we invite you to join us as we help Fourth Presbyterian Church serve dinner at Catholic Charities, 721 North LaSalle Street. Eight volunteers are needed from 3:30 p.m. until 6:15 p.m. To sign up please email Eva Farkas at [eva.farkas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eva.farkas@sbcglobal.net).

## Special Programs

### CJE AT SINAI ADULT DAY PROGRAM

CJE offers a two-day per week program on Mondays and Thursdays for older adults with early stage memory loss. This five hour program offers a great variety of stimulating programming and includes lunch in a social setting. For more information please contact Judy Holstein, Director of Adult Day Services, at 847.492.1400.

### BRIDGE CLASSES AT SINAI

The *Beginning Bridge* class covers overcalls, takeout doubles, negative doubles, pre-empts and other subjects of competitive bidding. The class meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. For more information or to register email Ellen and Rich Gabriel at [msbid@rcn.com](mailto:msbid@rcn.com).

In the *Improving your Judgment: Opening the Bidding* class you will learn how to use the rule of 20 in first and second seat. Make light opening bids in third position. Use the rule of 15 in fourth seat. You will learn the effective use of preemptive hands and how to make the most descriptive bid with powerhouse hands. The class meets on Thursday afternoons from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information or to register email Ellen and Rich Gabriel at [msbid@rcn.com](mailto:msbid@rcn.com).

Classes will begin in **October, 2010.**

## Cinema, Book Groups

### SINAI BOOK CLUB

Join fellow congregants for a monthly exploration of both fiction and non fiction books of Jewish interest. On **September 21** we will discuss Rashi's Daughters, Book III: Rachel: A Novel of Love and Talmud in Medieval France by Maggie Anton. Mark your calendars to join us at **3:00 p.m.** in the library on the second floor. Please call the Temple office to register for these stimulating discussions.

### SUNDAY BOOK REVIEW GROUP

The Sunday Book Review Group meets at **12:30 p.m.** after the Sunday morning worship service in the Library on the second floor. Please check the Sinai website at [www.chicagosinai.org](http://www.chicagosinai.org) for the next meeting date and title of the book.

### INTERNATIONAL JEWISH FILM SERIES

Once a month we will watch and explore a film that focuses on themes that are both morally profound and engage issues of contemporary or historical Jewish concern. On Wednesday, **October 20** the evening begins at **6:00 p.m.** with dinner and an introduction to the film. A discussion follows and the evening usually ends by 8:30 p.m. The cost of dinner is \$10. To make a reservation please call the Temple office.

### FILM REVIEW SERIES

Join us on Thursday, **September 30** at 7:00 p.m. as Zbigniew Banas, a former movie critic for *The Reader*, leads a discussion of a current film. Please check the Sinai web site, [www.chicagosinai.org](http://www.chicagosinai.org) for the title of the film. Participants view the movie in the theatre and meet to discuss the film at Sinai. The group will meet in the Chapel on the second floor. The cost of \$10 per person includes dessert. To make a reservation please call the Temple office.

[www.chicagosinai.org](http://www.chicagosinai.org)

## Study and Outreach

### SHABBAT MORNING PRAYER AND TORAH STUDY

Join in a discussion of the week's Torah reading on Saturday mornings. A brief worship service will begin at 9:30 a.m. followed by Torah study with Rabbi Levinsky. Everyone is welcome and no prior knowledge or experience is required. Feel free to come to one or both events.

### WEDNESDAY ADULT EDUCATION WITH RABBI STERNFIELD

Join Rabbi Sternfield on Wednesday mornings from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. **to study the linear translation of both the Torah and Rashi.** Through open dialogue we will develop a deeper understanding and appreciation for the sophistication of Rashi, a great medieval sage. **You are welcome to join us before class at 7:30 a.m. for our Wednesday worship service** led by members of the class. The next Rashi class will meet on **October 6** in the second floor meeting room.

### THURSDAY ADULT EDUCATION WITH RABBI LEVINSKY

For many, the book of Ecclesiastes is the book of the Bible that most resonates with our modern world. While often world-weary, the book ultimately embraces optimism in the face of difficulty. Join us **Thursdays at noon in the library** for a lively discussion of this source of wisdom, as we share our thoughts and experiences from our own lives. The next class will meet on **October 7** in the second floor meeting room. The next topic we will study is *Kabbalah*.

### SINAI OUTREACH PROGRAM

Conducted by our Rabbis, the Sinai Outreach Program is **intended for interfaith couples and is open to both members and non-members.** On **September 26** we will discuss "**High Holy Days in the life of an interfaith family.**" Outreach begins at 12:30 p.m. and concludes by 2:00 p.m. Classes meet in the second floor Chapel.

### INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

Sinai offers this class, free of charge, for **anyone who wants to learn more about Judaism.** The class meets on Thursdays from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Social Hall. The class is taught by our Rabbis. The first introductory class will meet on **September 30.** The topic will be Biblical history.

## For Children

### SUNDAY MORNING FAMILY SERVICES

11 am - 12 noon

- September 26: Sukkot followed by lunch and Sukkah Decorating, Special 150th Anniversary Event  
November 21: Thanksgiving  
January 23: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
February 13: Family Torah Service  
March 20: Purim, followed by Purim Carnival  
May 8: Mother's Day  
June 5: Confirmation

### TOT SHABBAT

The Young Families Club, together with the Preschool, has planned Tot Shabbats for families with children ages 5 and under. **This is a wonderful opportunity to introduce your children to the Temple and to meet other families!** Tot Shabbat begins with a brief worship service conducted by one of our Rabbis at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner and entertainment for the children. Our first Tot Shabbat will be held on Friday **October 15.**

Reservations are required so please call the Temple office and let us know the number of adults and children in your party. The cost is \$20 per family for Temple members and \$25 per family for non-members.

### SINAI PRESCHOOL

Sinai Preschool is a **NAEYC accredited preschool** serving families with children 26 months to 5 years of age. Additionally, we offer **Parent/Tot classes** for families with young children 12 to 26 months. **Afternoon Enrichment classes** are also available. We provide a developmentally appropriate and emotionally supportive learning environment where the needs of the individual child as well as the group are met. The program is relationship-based where young children learn to explore through play.

Interested families please contact Rochelle Friedman at: 312.867.7010 or [rfriedman@chicagosinai.org](mailto:rfriedman@chicagosinai.org).

Temple Office 312.867.7000

# Social Action

Chicago Sinai Congregation has a long history of social action and advocacy involvement. In the past few years, through the face-to-face process, the congregation has identified the following three key areas of interest: 1. education/poverty, 2. environment and 3. healthcare. We continue to support local, national and international efforts. For more information, or to join a committee, please contact Dawn Lieberman, Social Action Facilitator, at [socialaction.dlieberman@chicagosinai.org](mailto:socialaction.dlieberman@chicagosinai.org).

## JENNER SCHOOL - SINAI SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

We are excited to begin our second year working with the students and faculty at The Jenner Academy for the Arts. Preparations to match and extend the help we gave to Jenner last year are now underway. In late July, we met with Velma Woodson and Berlinda Fry, Jenner's leaders, and discussed our past year's involvement, and how we can further help Jenner this year.

**There are so many ways for YOU to get involved with Jenner.** Our weekly tutors will begin in mid September, and opportunities exist in reading and math for our weekly volunteers. Typically, you'll tutor three students per week, for one half hour each, and over the school year. You'll see academic progress and so many students want and need the additional perspectives on life and living that is imparted to them through these interactions with Sinai volunteers. There is a particular need for volunteers in the upper grades at Jenner. If you don't consider yourself a "teacher", these sixth, seventh and eighth grade students might be just the ticket for you to get involved.

Jenner also needs volunteers as classroom aides, assisting in classrooms for one morning per week. Classroom sizes are often past optimum and giving aid to the students and teacher means so much to both. Typically, our classroom aides have worked with younger grades and your help has been much appreciated.

We will continue to sponsor special projects at Jenner, and if you don't wish to volunteer hands-on at Jenner, your contributions made to the "Sinai Schools Initiative" will go a long way towards enhancing the student activities and supplies for the coming year. From everyday supplies, like composition notebooks and printer cartridges, to an outside science curriculum for the younger students, our continuing sponsorship of one field trip per student, we have been instrumental in covering some of the funding gaps that, year after year, deprive the Jenner students of the educational experience that we expect from a primary school. Your contributions, both generally and for specific initiatives, help the Jenner kids. We again plan to provide a Thanksgiving turkey to every family and sponsor the Eighth grade graduation "ribbon pinning" dinner. Plans are underway to provide additional help to the Jenner students and their families in this upcoming school year.

Getting involved with Jenner is a great way to extend our Sinai tradition of *tikkun olam*, helping students and knowing that you're making a difference. Jenner is less than two miles from Sinai. Send us an email and we'll let you know how you can get involved and make our second year with Jenner equal to, and better than, our first. Contact Jill Peters [jillpeters@rcn.com](mailto:jillpeters@rcn.com) or Mike Mannis [mmannis@aol.com](mailto:mmannis@aol.com) for more information.

## In the Lives of our Congregants

### FLOWERS

#### A gift of The Weintraub Family

*in honor of Lorriane Gilead's special birthday  
and Bat Mitzvah*

#### A gift of The Mozer Family

*in honor of Chloe and Isabel Mozer  
becoming B'not Mitzvah*

### ONEG

#### Sponsored by Gabriel Gilead

*in honor his wife Lorraine Gilead becoming a Bat Mitzvah*

#### Sponsored by The Mozer Family

*in honor of Chloe and Isabel Mozer  
becoming B'not Mitzvah*

### CONGRATULATIONS TO

#### Chloe and Isabel Mozer

*daughters of Jordan and Karen Mozer  
on becoming B'not Mitzvah*

#### Ted and Laura Goeglein

*on the naming of their son and daughter  
Michael and Dora Goeglein*

#### Liz Wolf

*on the birth and naming of her grandson  
Jacob Barrett Schaffer*

### ROSH HASHANAH RECEPTION FLOWERS

*a gift from*

**Marco and Joan Weiss**

# Tributes

## TEMPLE FUND

### *In honor of the Temple*

Henry and Elizabeth Taylor

### *In memory of Marsha May Sternberg*

James Marsh Sternberg, M.D.

### *In memory of the two sisters of Ida Lessman*

Myra L. Cohen

### *In honor of the birthday of Florrie Siegel*

The Feldman Family

### *In honor of the Birthday of Mr. Tom Horwich*

The Feldman Family

### *In honor of Lorraine Gilead's Bat Mitzvah*

Lynne Kleinman

Marcia Hecht Tarre

Joyce and Robert Anderson

Nancy Dishman and Family

Goldie Arkin

Stefi Geisel

### *In honor of Bill and Donna Barrows for a great trip*

Mary and Jerry Kaltman

### *In memory of Augusta Friedman*

Zelda Star

### *In memory of Joe Welch's brother*

Bill and Donna Barrows

### *In memory of Jean Spritz*

Bill and Donna Barrows

### *In memory of Nancy Stewart*

Bill and Donna Barrows

### *In honor of Dr. Howard and Mrs. Sulkin's dedication to the congregation*

Marj Gardner

### *In memory of Al Simon's father*

Don Letchinger and Gloria Gottlieb

### *In honor of James Newmark's Birthday*

Mimi and Mel Letchinger

### *In memory of Mrs. Ann Schorr*

Florrie Siegel

### *In memory of Burton Samuels*

Jill W. Graham

### *In honor of Sinai's Best Photographer, Bill Barrows*

Don Letchinger and Gloria Gottlieb

### *In honor of Jim Newmark's Birthday*

Don Letchinger and Gloria Gottlieb

### *In memory of Marian Tomkin*

Maxwell and Marcia Westerman

### *In memory of Gertrude Kahn*

Maxwell and Marcia Westerman

### *In memory of Edward Newman*

Margie and Jim Leopold

Mimi and Mel Letchinger

### *In honor of Elizabeth Carlson's Bat Mitzvah*

Chad and Heather Arnold

## RABBI STERNFIELD'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

### *In memory of Joseph Schmitz*

Ellen Gossage

### *In honor of Judy and Floyd Whellan's 50th Anniversary*

Bill and Jan Flapan

### *In memory of Adele Gilead*

Gabriel Gilead and Lorraine Frank Gilead

### *In memory of Stanley Frank*

Gabriel Gilead and Lorraine Frank Gilead

### *In honor of Jonathan and Kimberly's first anniversary*

Grandma and Grandpa Beeber

### *In memory of husband Irving M. Hyman*

Deena Hyman

## YOUTH FUND

### *In honor of Betty and Tom Philipsborn's granddaughter's birth*

Elaine Koenigsberg

### *In honor of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Whellan's granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah*

Elaine Koenigsberg

### *In honor of Heidi Wagman and Peter Bensinger, Jr.'s daughter's Confirmation*

Mimi and Mel Letchinger

## SCHOLARSHIP FUND

### *In honor of Clare Brody's Graduation*

Lenore Melzer

### *In honor of Marjorie Biederman's Birthday*

Louise Greisheim

## MUSIC FUND

### *In honor of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Whellan's Special Anniversary*

Elaine Koenigsberg

### *In honor of the birth of Liz Wolf's great-grandson, Jacob*

Philip and Eileen Hoffman

### *In honor of Rita Meltzer's Birthday*

Jean London

### *In honor of Sinai's Music Program*

Carolyn B. Hadesman

## LIBRARY FUND

### *In honor of Sinai's Library*

Carolyn B. Hadesman

## JENNER SCHOOL FUND

### *In memory of Joseph Citron*

Ferle Terry

## PULPIT FLOWER FUND

### *In honor of the 90th Birthday of Marjorie Biederman*

Nancy Hensel

## RABBI LEVINSKY'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

### *In honor of Rabbi Levinsky's work with the*

### *Saturday Morning Torah Study*

Jeffrey and Janet Wilson

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

### *In honor of the speedy recovery of Marvin Koffman*

Anita and Leonard Fript

### *In memory of Fred Cohen*

The Schor Family

### *In honor of Lorraine Frank Gilead's Bat Mitzvah*

Leonore A. Gill

Suzanne and Leon Mendelsohn

Carol and Howard Anderson

# Religious Education

Shalom,

Ah, the new year. Here we go again...school supplies, extracurricular activities and overcrowded schedules. Take a breath. Before we race headlong into these activities, let's take a moment and let our Jewish values and customs guide us and help us to create a year that is even more meaningful, more relaxed and more enjoyable than the year that has just passed.

First, a little digression: The other day one of my children read a list of words and asked me to select which word I thought was the most over used:

Literally; Ridiculous; Awesome; Man; Whatever; Seriously; Nice; Like; Actually

Perhaps the fact that we are about to begin our High Holy Days led me to instantly reply, "Awesome". I thought about how many times I have used this word in seemingly careless ways. "You were an awesome pitcher at your baseball game today" "That movie was awesome." "Her new outfit is awesome."

The 10 days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are considered *Yomim ha Noraim* "Days of Awe". We are supposed to stop and account for ourselves and our actions during the past year: Am I satisfied with the way I am living my life? Who have I hurt? Have I let others know I love them? What mistakes have I made? Have I contributed to my community in a way that makes a positive difference? We do this by a process of "*teshuvah*" literally, "returning to ourselves" or repentance.

There are 4 steps to *teshuvah*:

1. Acknowledge we made a mistake
2. Sincerely apologize
3. Try to make amends (if possible)
4. Don't repeat the mistake

Judaism does not ask us to feel guilty or punish ourselves because of our mistakes. Rather, it requires that we acknowledge them so that we can move on to make our lives even better, not just for ourselves, but for those we touch as well.

What is so "awesome" about this process? To me, it reminds me that not only can I improve my own my life, but also that I am connected in some way to God, or a higher power, or even a deeper sense of myself (depending on what you believe.) I am part of something that is bigger than me.

For me, being part of our Sinai community teaching our children is an honor. Our entire religious school staff is preparing to make this a truly "awesome" year for our students and families. I look forward to seeing everyone soon.

*L'Shanah Tova* (Happy New Year),

Heidi Kon

The first day of Sunday Religious School is September 12.  
The first day of Wednesday Religious School is September 15.

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL INFORMATION

If you would like more information about our religious school or need registration forms, please contact Heidi Kon at [hkon@chicagosinai.org](mailto:hkon@chicagosinai.org).

## ADULT B'NAI MITZVAH CLASS NOW FORMING

Are you interested in learning Hebrew and studying Torah?  
Please contact Heidi Kon at [hkon@chicagosinai.org](mailto:hkon@chicagosinai.org).  
Depending on the number of participants, we will offer an Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class this year. Class would meet Wednesday evenings from 7:00 -8:30 p.m.

# Preschool

Accredited by NAEYC's  
National Academy of  
Early Childhood Programs



Dear Sinai Families,

Sinai Summer Camp was terrific! Some of the highlights were: planting and growing flowers and vegetables, making summer treats such as homemade lemonade, watching painted lady caterpillars change into butterflies and saying good-bye to them at our annual "Butterfly Release Party." The children had a great time playing in the wading pools and sprinkler as well as building sand castles in the sandbox. Also, we enjoyed family friendly music and a Shabbat celebration with Todd Kessler, religious school music teacher. Our end of camp Hawaiian Luau celebration was a special event. Most important were lasting positive relationships the children made with their teachers and Sinai. We are delighted that many families and teachers will be returning for the 2010-11 school year. A special "thanks" to Lee Pikelnny, religious school madrachim, who worked with summer camp. He was loved by the children and staff alike.

We can hardly believe it is already September! I look forward to seeing all preschool parents at the Preschool Parent Orientation Meeting on **Monday, September 13th**. Preschool classes begin on **Wednesday, September 15th**.

September and the High Holy Days are a time for past reflections and "new beginnings." I extend my wishes for a happy, healthy New Year to all the families of Chicago Sinai Congregation. *L'Shana Tovah*.

Sincerely,  
Rochelle Friedman

## PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

We are still accepting applications for Sinai Preschool for the 2010-11 school year. There are limited spaces available in our 5-day afternoon program for children ages 42 months to 5 years. Additionally, there are a few remaining spaces in our Parent/Tot Class for children ages 18-26 months. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss preschool with you. Please contact me at 312.867.7010 or [rfriedman@chicagosinai.org](mailto:rfriedman@chicagosinai.org).



*Camp children having fun with water and foam painting*



*Classroom 2 children having fun in the sandbox*



*Miss Susan reading to the boys in Classroom 2*



*Classroom 2 children watching the butterflies fly away, following their release from the butterfly pavilion*

# Sinai Committees

# Sinai Lay Leadership

Joining one of our committees is a great way to get to know Temple members and to do important work on behalf of Sinai. To join a committee contact the committee chairs listed below.

## Adult Education

Anna Baluyot 773.772.5265  
[anna.baluyot@comcast.net](mailto:anna.baluyot@comcast.net)

## Art & Judaica

Vicki Samuels 312.664.7160  
[vwoolner@mac.com](mailto:vwoolner@mac.com)

## Care

Henry Nussbaum  
312.337.4177  
[HenryNussbaum@ismie.com](mailto:HenryNussbaum@ismie.com)

## Finance

Alan Tinsmon 312.440-8683  
[atinsmon@kapfam.com](mailto:atinsmon@kapfam.com)

## House

Bruce Miller 773.782.8277  
[bruce.miller@am.jll.com](mailto:bruce.miller@am.jll.com)

## Interfaith

Ed Traisman 847.570.9257  
[basetrais@comcast.net](mailto:basetrais@comcast.net)  
Peter Rubnitz 773.832.1777  
[peter@urbanoasis.biz](mailto:peter@urbanoasis.biz)

## Library

Judy Genesen 312.642.8341  
[ljgenesen@aol.com](mailto:ljgenesen@aol.com)

## Membership

Susan Stone 312.645.1913  
[skstone07@sbcglobal.net](mailto:skstone07@sbcglobal.net)

## Music

Edwin Eisendrath  
773.342.2843  
[eisendrath@comcast.net](mailto:eisendrath@comcast.net)

## 150th Anniversary

Bill Marks 312.337.8323  
[whmarks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:whmarks@sbcglobal.net)  
Andrea Kinnear  
773.525.3585  
[akinnear@alumni.northwestern.edu](mailto:akinnear@alumni.northwestern.edu)

## Planned Giving

Peter Bensinger  
773.929.5927  
[peter.bensinger@bartlit-beck.com](mailto:peter.bensinger@bartlit-beck.com)

## Religious School

Sarah Putrim  
773.509.1210  
[putrim@sbcglobal.net](mailto:putrim@sbcglobal.net)

## Social Action

Carol Yanowitz  
773.782.8277  
[carolyano@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carolyano@sbcglobal.net)

## Advocacy

Ann Courter 708.524.8554  
[courhir@comcast.net](mailto:courhir@comcast.net)

## Community Concerns

Shelley Stern Grach  
312.337.3919

## Environment

Michael Wapner  
847.318.9255  
[mikewapner@aol.com](mailto:mikewapner@aol.com)

## Healthcare

Ellyn Daniels  
312.944.0058  
[dr.ellyndaniels@rcn.com](mailto:dr.ellyndaniels@rcn.com)

## Mitzvah

Carol Yanowitz  
773.782.8277  
[carolyano@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carolyano@sbcglobal.net)

## Sinai Schools Initiative

Michael Mannis  
847.234.0060  
[mmannis@aol.com](mailto:mmannis@aol.com)  
Jill Peters 773.248.8768  
[jillpeters@rcn.com](mailto:jillpeters@rcn.com)

## Young Professionals

Carrie Baker  
312.343.1759  
[carrieeebaker@gmail.com](mailto:carrieeebaker@gmail.com)  
Sarah Samuels  
312.310.7160  
[sarah.samuels@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.samuels@gmail.com)

## Young Families

Andrea Kinnear  
773.525.3585  
[akinnear@alumni.northwestern.edu](mailto:akinnear@alumni.northwestern.edu)

## Executive Committee:

Peter B. Bensinger, Jr., *President*  
Andrea Kinnear, *Vice President*  
William Marks, *Vice President*  
Bruce Miller, *Vice President*  
Susan Stone, *Vice President*  
Ellyn Daniels, *Secretary*  
Alan Tinsmon, *Treasurer*

## Board of Trustees

Floyd Abramson  
Carrie Baker  
Anna Baluyot  
Jeffrey Becker  
Peter B. Bensinger, Jr.  
Hart Billings  
Ellyn Daniels  
Jessica Diamond  
Ross Emmerman  
Lou Genesen  
Norman Hirsch  
Raymond Hodgdon  
Robert Hoyt  
Kate Kestnbaum  
Andrea Kinnear  
Elaine Koenigsberg  
Dana Levenson  
Michael Mannis  
William Marks  
Lynn Metz  
Bruce Miller  
Henry Nussbaum  
Grant Peters  
Jennie Rosenthal  
Peter Rubnitz  
Larry Schor  
Dan Silverstein  
Michele Smith  
Sally Spritz  
Susan Stone  
David Tabolt  
Howard Tanzman  
John Tingley  
Alan Tinsmon  
Michael Wapner  
Gregg Wolper  
Carol Yanowitz  
Gail Zugeran  
Michael Weisman,  
*Youth Representative*

## Life Trustees:

Myra Cohen  
James Deutelbaum  
Etha Bea Fox

## Past Presidents:

Donna Barrows  
Joan H. Epstein  
Henry Freund  
Alec Harris  
Stanley Jarrow  
Miriam Letchinger  
Victoria Woolner Samuels  
Mark Segal  
Bruce Stern  
Errol Stone  
Howard Sulkin  
Jack D. Tovin

**September 20:  
First Board Meeting**

# Chicago Sinai Congregation

SEPTEMBER 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 11:00am Schaffer Baby Naming 6:15pm Shabbat Service (Oneg)	4 9:30am Torah Study 10:30am Chloe & Isabelle Mozer B'not Mitzvah
5	6 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	7	8 EREV ROSH HASHANAH	9 ROSH HASHANAH/ RECEPTION OFFICE CLOSED	10 6:15pm Shabbat Service (Oneg)	11 9:30am Torah Study
12 9:30am Youth Choir/FIRST DAY 10:00am RS/FIRST DAY 10:00am Yom Kippur for Interfaith Families 12:30pm Confirmation Class/FIRST DAY	13 10:15am Movie Group 3:30pm Fourth Church Dinner	14	15 9:00am Sinai Preschool/FIRST DAY 4:00pm RS/FIRST DAY	16	17 KOL NIDRE OFFICE CLOSED	18 YOM KIPPUR OFFICE CLOSED NO Torah Study
19 10:00am RS 12:30pm Confirmation Class 2:00pm Sunday Supper at Fourth	20 10:00am CJE at Sinai 5:30pm Board of Trustees meeting	21 3:00pm Book Club	22 4:00pm RS	23 SUKKOT OFFICE CLOSED	24 6:15pm Shabbat Service (Oneg)	25 9:30am Torah Study
26 RS Picnic/150th Kickoff 9:30am Youth Choir 10:00am RS 11:00am Sukkot Family Service 12:30pm Outreach/HHD's in life of Interfaith Family 12:30pm Sukkot decorating with Lunch 12:30pm Confirmation Class	27 10:00am CJE at Sinai	28	29 4:00pm RS	30 SHEMINI ATZERET OFFICE CLOSED 7:00pm Intro to Judaism 7:00pm Film Review		

**You are invited to join us for**

*Sinai's 150th Anniversary Kickoff  
Religious School Picnic and  
Sukkah Decorating*

**When?** Sunday, September 26, immediately following the Sukkot Family Service

**What?** A picnic, Sinai's 150th birthday party and Sukkah decorating

**Where?** Social Hall and Back Garden

**Questions? Call the Temple office at 312.867.7000**

**Chicago Sinai Congregation**

15 W. Delaware Place  
Chicago, Illinois 60610  
Tel 312.867.7000  
Fax 312.867.7006  
[www.chicagosinai.org](http://www.chicagosinai.org)

Michael P. Sternfield	Senior Rabbi
David L. Levinsky	Associate Rabbi
Howard A. Berman	Rabbi Emeritus
Peter B. Bensinger, Jr.	President
Susan Solomon	Executive Director
Scott Kumer	Music Director
Heidi Kon	Education Director
Rochelle Friedman	Early Childhood Director
Susan Solomon	Bulletin Editor

Periodicals Postage Paid at Chicago, IL.

USPS 0103-880

Published monthly, except for a combined issue  
in July/August, by Chicago Sinai Congregation

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to  
CHICAGO SINAI CONGREGATION  
15 W. Delaware Place, Chicago, IL 60610