

Bulletin

CHICAGO SINAI CONGREGATION

February 2012

NEWS AND VIEWS

by Rabbi Sternfield

Enough is Enough

Since the establishment of the State in 1948, **Israelis have been remarkably patient in respecting the sensitivities of the Orthodox.** Concerning such traditionalist concerns as Shabbat observance, Kashrut, marriage and divorce laws and much more, the non-Orthodox have been overwhelmingly deferential. And where has that gotten them? **The Orthodox have become more and more strident, always demanding more, and conceding nothing.**

Over the past several years the ultra-orthodox community, under increased pressure from its most extremist Jewish fundamentalist elements, has demanded the government allow it to impose these extremist values on the Israeli public sphere, by legalizing gender segregation on public transport which forces women to sit in the back of buses. **The Reform movement's social justice arm in Israel, the Israel Religious Action Committee, (IRAC) has petitioned the Supreme Court to order the government to prevent any attempts to segregate public transport.**

Last year (January 2011), after a legal battle lasting over 4 years, **the Supreme Court**, acting as the High Court of Justice finally ruled on the petition, **declaring any gender discrimination on public transport to be illegal**, and ordering the government to take whatever steps necessary to prevent such segregation. The Court ruled that any segregation could only take place on a voluntary basis.

Despite the ruling, women passengers on buses that go through ultra-orthodox neighborhoods are often subjected to verbal and physical abuse if they refuse to sit in the back of the bus. The former includes being spat on, and called a "shiksa" or "pritze" (a Yiddish curse meaning prostitute). Often women have even been physically assaulted.

As a result, IRAC has initiated a Freedom Rider program. Volunteers regularly ride buses on routes which have been subject to illegal segregation, to ensure that the ruling banning enforced segregation is being honored by the bus companies. Many of them

WORSHIP SERVICES

Friday, February 3, 6:15 p.m.

SHABBAT EVE SERVICE

Rabbi Sternfield will conduct the service.

FIRST FRIDAY SERVICE will begin at 8:00 p.m.

Rabbi Levinsky will conduct the service.

Sunday, February 5, 11:00 a.m.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Yoel Hasson, a member of the 18th Knesset

will speak at the service.

Friday, February 10, 6:15 p.m.

SHABBAT EVE SERVICE

Rabbi Levinsky will conduct the service.

TOT SHABBAT SERVICE will begin at 5:30 p.m.

See back page for details.

Sunday, February 12, 11:00 a.m.

FAMILY TORAH SERVICE

Rabbi Levinsky will conduct the service.

Friday, February 17, 6:15 p.m.

SHABBAT EVE SERVICE

Rabbi Sternfield will conduct the service.

Sunday, February 19, 11:00 a.m.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Rabbi Sternfield will conduct the service.

Friday, February 24, 6:15 p.m.

100th Anniversary of Hadassah

SHABBAT EVE SERVICE

Rabbi Levinsky will conduct the service.

Edith Brownman will speak at the service.

Sunday, February 26, 11:00 a.m.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Rabbi Levinsky will conduct the service.

SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY

meets Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. in the library

Volume 58 Number 6

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REFLECTIONS FROM RABBI LEVINSKY

FABULOUS FEBRUARY

One would think that as the snow falls and the temperature gets colder that things would slow down at Sinai. This is not the case this February. **We have a number of fantastic programs at the Temple and I wanted to make sure that you know about them.**

First Fridays

On the first Friday of every month **Rabbi Levinsky**, our guitar player **Todd Kessler**, and his band lead a participatory, informal, and musical service. Sing along with your favorite prayers and Shabbat songs. Everyone above Bar/Bat Mitzvah age is welcome. This month's service will be on **February 3**. We will enjoy a light nosh beginning at **7:15 p.m.** followed by our First Friday Shabbat at **8:00 p.m.**

Member of Knesset Yoel Hasson

Under the auspices of JStreet, **Yoel Hasson**, a member of the Israeli government will speak to us about the current situation in the Middle East at the Sunday service on **February 5 at 11 a.m.**

Professor Ken Seeskin, A Jew Looks at Jesus

The Philip M. and Ethel Klutznick Professor of Jewish Civilization at Northwestern, and a member of our congregation, **Kenneth Seeskin** teaches us about Jesus from a Jewish perspective. **Sunday February 5 at 9:45 a.m.** in the library.

We are always trying to create new and innovative programming at Sinai and these are just a few examples of my efforts to engage with you spiritually, emotionally, and intellectually. I hope that I see you at these events.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Cont'd from page 1

will have hidden cameras, so they can document cases on non-compliance, and release footage of assaults on women to the media.

IRAC also helped organize a demonstration in Beit Shemesh, a Jerusalem suburb, in which non ultra-orthodox women and young girls have been verbally and physically assaulted by ultra-orthodox hooligans for not dressing modestly enough.

We should applaud the courageous and determined work of IRAC. Non-Orthodox Jews everywhere need to say "**Enough is Enough.**" Clearly, a line must be drawn, and now is the time.

Jews at 33 1/3:

Album Art and Jewish Cultural History

Using album art from **Rabbi Levinsky's** collection of 3500 records, an exhibit in the social hall will explore Jewish culture in America. Whether spectacular examples of *kitsch* or true artistic expressions, album art can tell us much about how the Jews present themselves to the world. The exhibit, which takes a cue from Roger Bennett and Josh Kun's book **And You Shall Know Them by the Trail of Their Vinyl**, asks these and other questions. How do Jews see themselves in America? How do Jews cope with being different than other Americans? How do Jews strive to be the same as other Americans? Album covers can provide us an entertaining lens into these questions. The opening of the exhibit will happen on **Friday, February 3 at 7:15 p.m.** as a part of the First Friday event.

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, April 21, 2012

The 44th Annual **SINAI**
 **CELEBRATION**
at the **PHOENIX**

Mitzvah Weekend, March 3-4, 2012

Save the date for this weekend to give back to the community with other Sinai members!

Please consider LEADING an activity.

This is another meaningful way that you can be involved in Mitzvah Weekend. Responsibilities include: contacting your group to confirm their attendance, working alongside the group on the day of the project, and be available as a "go to" person on the day of the event.

All of the other details have been taken care of by the Mitzvah Weekend Committee.

COMPLETE REGISTRATION PACKETS WILL ARRIVE via US MAIL early February.

Registration begins via fax, phone, or email **Monday, February 6.**

Questions? Want to LEAD an activity? Contact Dawn Lieberman at socialaction.dlieberman@chicagosinai.org.

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

Chicago Food Depository

Sort and categorize donated food supplies
1:30 - 4:30pm, ages 14+

Deborah's Place

Cook and serve dinner to low income women
6:00pm - 8:00pm, ages 15+

Lakeview Pantry

Sort donated supplies
Time TBA

Ronald McDonald House

Shop for, cook and serve meals to families of hospitalized children
5:00pm - 7:00pm, ages 7+

Warren Barr Pavilion

Play games, read, or visit with elderly residents
10:30am - noon, all ages

SUNDAY, MARCH 4

Casa Central - Center Home for the Hispanic Elderly

Visit with residents
10:00am - noon, ages 7+

Cornerstone Community Outreach

Participate in activities with clients
11:00am - 1:30pm, ages 6+

Inspiration Café

Cook and serve breakfast to low income and formerly homeless clients
6:30am - 9:30am, ages 12+

Ronald McDonald House

Shop for, cook and serve meals to families of hospitalized children
Noon - 2:00pm, or
5:00pm - 7:00pm, ages 7+

ACTIVITIES at SINAI

On Sunday, March 4th, there will be several activities for families and kids of all ages at Sinai from 10am – 1pm. These include: making cards and bookmarks for active servicemen and women in Afghanistan, sorting donated supplies for boxes going to troops, making sandwiches to be delivered to over 1000 people in need, creating crafts to be delivered to homes for the elderly, and many more.

Temple Office 312.867.7000

JOIN THE SPIRIT OF SINAI REBUILDING & CIVIL RIGHTS MITZVAH TRIP

MITZVAH WEEKEND DONATIONS

MITZVAH WEEKEND ITEMS FOR DONATIONS

Drop-off begins **Sunday, February 19** in the Sinai Lobby

FOR OUR TROOPS

- Eye drops
- Saline nose spray/drops
- Throat lozenges
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Baby Wipes
- Blistex, Chapstick, Carmex
- Q-tips
- Dr. Scholl's boot liners
- Brush Ups
- Sunblock aloe Vera
- Liquid body wash and antibacterial soap
- Purell hand sanitizer
- Windex Wipes
- Black socks
- Single use cameras
- AA Batteries
- Packaged fruit and nuts
- Drink mix dry (Crystal Light, Gatorade)
- Ground Coffee (Starbucks)

JENNER SCHOOL

- Lined paper (wide and college rule)
- Spiral notebooks with wide lined paper
- Pencils
- Colored Pencils
- Pens
- Crayons
- Eraser caps
- Small sharpeners
- Pocket folders
- 3 ring binders
- Paperclips, Tape
- Plastic 3 ring hole punch

REACH OUT AND READ

- Gently used books for children of all ages.

EZRA MULTI-SERVICE CENTER

- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Bar soap
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Mouthwash
- Razors
- Shaving cream
- Toilet paper
- Diapers

Thursday, April 12 - Sunday, April 16

Over several days in April, 2011, powerful storms swept through the South and Midwest regions of the United States bringing with them heavy rainfall, flooding, hailstorms, lightning, and hundreds of devastating tornadoes.

In Alabama, at least 128 people were killed and thousands of homes destroyed. In Pratt City, a low income area in Birmingham, most residents are in the beginning stages of recovery, and many have had trouble securing FEMA assistance and are dependent on volunteers to aid in the rebuilding process which is expected to take 10 years.

As an extension of Sinai's trips to New Orleans over the past 4 years to work in the 9th Ward, this year **Sinai is planning a trip** for our members (ages 11 and up) **to aid tornado victims in Birmingham from Thursday April 12 through Sunday April 16.**

This trip promises to be enriching, as we will rebuild and tour important historic sites in both Birmingham and Montgomery, with a master docent and high school teacher, to understand the important role the citizens of Birmingham played in our civil rights history.

We will participate in an **Understanding America** peace initiative and **hear from important local leaders.** In the evenings **we will immerse ourselves in Birmingham's rich Jazz culture** including a high school battle of the bands festival, and we will **enjoy outstanding local fare.**

We will **make interfaith connections; attend services at Temple Emmanuel,** (Birmingham's reform Temple), and **attend Sunday worship services at the Sixteenth Baptist Church** where four young girls were killed in the 1963 bombings of the Church.

This trip is not to be missed! Please join us on **Friday, February 17** after services at 7:30 p.m or **Sunday, February 26** at 10:15 a.m. to learn more about this exciting trip. **Please email hkon@chicagosinai.org to sign up now, or if you need more information.**

HADASSAH SHABBAT EVE SERVICE - Friday, February 24, 6:15 p.m

On **February 24** we will honor the centennial anniversary of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America. As you may know, Hadassah is a volunteer women's organization of over 300,000 members. From its inception on February 24, 1912, Hadassah has brought the finest medical care and respect for the land and people of Israel. Hadassah is also dedicated to providing exceptional health care to all in the Middle East, regardless of race, ability to pay, or religious affiliation. You can visit their website at www.hadassah.org for more information about the organization. **Edith Brownman** will speak at our **February 24** Shabbat Eve Service.

BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, March 4 - 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Chicago Sinai Congregation
3rd Floor

For more information or to set up an appointment, please contact Dawn Lieberman at socialaction.dlieberman@chicagosinai.org

Appointments recommended.

Walk-ins welcome!

APRIL IS DONATE LIFE MONTH

Donating your organs and tissue can save the lives of more than **25 people.**

Register to become an organ, eye, tissue and blood donor today!
www.DonateLifeAllInUs.org

LIFE SOURCE
Chicago's Blood Center

SUNDAYS AT SINAI

February 5

Sunday Worship Service. Yoel Hasson will speak at the service.

February 12

Family Torah Service

February 19

Sunday Worship Service

February 26

Sunday Worship Service

Sundays at Sinai begin at 11:00 a.m. and conclude by 12:15 p.m.

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. Class will meet on **February 4, 11, 18 and 25** in the Library on the second floor.

WEDNESDAY ADULT EDUCATION WITH RABBI STERNFIELD

Every Wednesday, Rabbi Sternfield conducts a study session on the great Jewish commentators on the Bible. The group studies the commentaries on the Torah by Rashi, Nachmanides, Ibn Ezra and other great respected rabbinic teachers. No knowledge of Hebrew is necessary. The texts are all in English translation. Although there are several long time regular participants, new learners are always welcome. It is not necessary to commit to attending every session, but regular attendance is encouraged for purposes of continuity. The class begins at 12:00 p.m. Fresh bagels and coffee are provided every week. Class will meet on **February 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29** in the second floor meeting room.

THURSDAY ADULT EDUCATION WITH RABBI LEVINSKY

Judaism and Hellenism

The first few centuries before and after the Common Era were much like our own. Just as Jews today ask themselves how can I participate in both American and Jewish life, so too ancient Jews asked how can I participate in both Greek and Jewish life. The class will explore the various ways that ancient Jews answered this question by reading literature from the period and creating a vibrant discussion. Feel free to join the class at any time. If you are interested in the class, please contact Rabbi Levinsky at dlevinsky@chicagosinai.org. Classes will meet on **February 2, 9, 16 and 23** in the Library at noon.

CINEMA, BOOK GROUPS

SINAI BOOK CLUB

Join fellow congregants at **2:30 pm on February 14** in the Sinai Library on the second floor for a monthly exploration of both fiction and non-fiction books of Jewish interest. Please call the Temple office to register for this stimulating discussion.

SUNDAY BOOK REVIEW GROUP

The Sunday Book Review Group will meet in the library on the second floor on **February 5, 2012 at 12:30 p.m.** after the Sunday morning worship service to discuss The Invisible Bridge by Julie Orringer.

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. We will meet next on **Wednesday, February 15**. Our 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, February 2** at 7:00 p.m. as Zbigniew Banas, a former movie critic for The Reader, leads a discussion of The Iron Lady in which Meryl Streep creates an uncanny impersonation of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Participants view the movie in the theatre and meet to discuss the film at Sinai. The group will meet in the Social Hall on the first floor. The cost of \$10 per person includes dessert. To make a reservation please call the Temple office.

VOLUNTEER AND MITZVAH OPPORTUNITIES

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. Upcoming dates are **February 19 and March 18**.

MONDAY SUPPER AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES

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.

Temple Office 312.867.7000

SUNDAY MORNING FAMILY SERVICES

11 am - 12 noon

February 12: Family Torah Service

March 11: Purim, followed by Purim Carnival

May 13: Mother's Day

June 3: Confirmation

TOT SHABBAT

Sinai, together with the Preschool, plans 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 at **5:30 p.m.** conducted by one of our Rabbis followed by dinner and entertainment for the children. Our next Tot Shabbat will be held on **Friday, February 10, 2012.**

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 \$30 per family for Temple members and \$35 per family for non-members.

SINAI PRESCHOOL

Sinai Preschool is a **NAEYC accredited preschool** serving families with children 24 months to 5 years of age. Additionally, we offer **Parent/Tot classes** for families with young children 12 to 24 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.

Interested families please contact Ruth Taxy, at 312.867.7010 or rtaxy@chicagosinai.org.

OTHER IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES

03.02 *Mitzvah* Weekend

03.11 Change clocks ahead one hour

04.07 Congregational *Seder* at Standard Club

05.20 Last Sunday Service

06.01 Annual Meeting of the Congregation

06.03 Confirmation

*There will be no Worship service on the following Sundays:
March 4, 2012 and April 8, 2012.*

IN THE LIVES OF OUR CONGREGANTS

WE RECORD WITH SORROW THE DEATH OF OUR MEMBERS

Shale Baskin

Husband of Judy Baskin

CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF

Edward Braverman

Brother of Roslyn Hoffman

PULPIT FLOWER SPONSOR

Evelyn Averick and The Schor Family

in memory of Jordan Bennett Weiss

Anonymous Sinai member

In honor of Hadassah's 100th anniversary

ONEG

Anonymous Sinai member

In honor of Hadassah's 100th anniversary

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Jeffrey & Ashley Quicksilver

*on the birth of their daughter
Emme Quicksilver*

Andrew & Shana Artz

on the birth of their daughter Hanna Artz

Blair Mannis

daughter of Michael Mannis

and Jennifer Mannis

on her Bat Mitzvah

Harrison Golden

Son of Mark Golden and Laura Moehlman

on his Bar Mitzvah

TRIBUTES

TEMPLE FUND

In memory of Nathan Trynin

Connie and Howard Sulkin

In memory of Nathan Trynin

Ethel and William Gofen

In memory of Uncle Leonard Abraham

Jennifer and Ben Dolin

EMIL G. HIRSCH LIBRARY FUND

In memory of Cass Goldberg

Ellen Goldberg

JENNER SCHOOL

In loving celebration of Lois and

Edmond Zisook's 55th Anniversary

Nancy and Jerry Zisook

RABBI LEVINSKY'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation for all of

Rabbi Levinsky's support for

Kenan's Bar Mitzvah

Jeanne Century and Michael Weisman

In appreciation for Rabbi Levinsky's

help with Jenna's Bat Mitzvah

Jeff Galowich

In appreciation for

Rabbi Levinsky's work

Susan Messinger

RABBI STERNFIELD'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation to Rabbi Sternfield

Gail and Charles Zugerman

MUSIC FUND

In memory of John (Janos) Balla

Connie and Howard Sulkin

In memory of Pauline Fine Tzinberg

Eileen and Philip Hoffman

SINAI RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In appreciation for all of Heidi Kon's

support for Kenan's Bar Mitzvah

Jeanne Century and Michael Weisman

CHERYL LEE SEGAL EDUCATION FUND

In memory of Cheryl Lee Segal

Carol and Alan Bornstein

Linda and Peter Karmin

COMMUNITY CONCERNS FUND

In memory of David Spritz

Shelly Fox, Tom Aries & Zachary Aries

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

In honor of Allie Bensinger's Bat Mitzvah

Esther and Ron Emmerman

In honor of my Grandchildren's

celebration of Chanukah

Lois and Edmond Zisook



NOMINATING COMMITTEE BEGINS SEARCH

The Nominating Committee is soliciting suggestions from the Congregation for potential Board of Trustees members.

Board Members play an active role in the lay leadership of the Congregation. They participate fully in the life of the Congregation, attending services and events, working on committees and going to monthly Board of Trustees meetings. Some Board members have been members of Sinai for many years and others for only a few.

Anyone who is proposed to the Nominating Committee will be contacted before being considered for nomination. In this way the Nominating Committee will have a better understanding of the qualifications and interest level of possible Board of Trustees members. Being proposed and contacted for nomination to the Board does not insure being slated and elected to the Board. The Nominating Committee will draw from a large pool of members and will put together a slate that will make the Board of Trustees representative of the Congregation.

The election of Trustees and officers slated by the Nominating Committee will be decided by a majority vote of the members in good standing present at the Annual Meeting in June. The slate will be presented to the Congregation prior to the Annual Meeting.

Please think about members who would serve well in this capacity. Being on the Board is both an honor and an obligation. It involves working on behalf of the Congregation and receiving the satisfaction of participating more fully in our community. You may put forth your own name or that of someone else.

Please get involved at Sinai; participate in this process. Return this form,
Attn: Nominating Committee, to the Temple office, by mail or fax no later than **March 23, 2012**.

I, _____

would like to serve on the Board of Trustees for the following reasons:

I would like to recommend: _____

as a potential member of the Board of Trustees for the following reasons:

Please remove this form
and mail or fax it to
312.867.7006 by March 23, 2012.

Chicago Sinai Congregation
Attn: Nominating Committee
15 W. Delaware Place
Chicago, Illinois 60610
Fax 312.867.7006

First a story about a tree: Many years ago, when we bought our home, one of the things that appealed to me was the beautiful rubrum red maple tree in the backyard. It provided the perfect amount of shade and was so colorful in the fall. Over the years, it held baby swings, tire swings, and ropes. I would often sit in a chair under the tree with a book, as my children played in the yard. It served as my "rest spot" while I was barbecuing and as a colorful painting when I would look out the kitchen window. As my children grew, so did the tree. Though I admit that there were times I was irritated by all the leaves and seedlings that would cover the deck and yard, I loved that tree. This year, our tree died. I know I have to cut it down and remove the stump and while I have been saying that I haven't done it yet because it is so expensive and not high on the priority list, the truth is, it is hard to part with that tree.

February 8 marks the holiday of *Tu B'Shevat* (literally the 15th of the Hebrew month of *Shevat*). This holiday is typically considered to be the "*Birthday of the Trees*". It coincides with the time that trees in Israel begin to bloom. Other people refer to *Tu B'Shevat* as the Jewish Arbor Day.

Originally, *Tu B'Shevat* was the day that separated one agricultural year from the next. Today we celebrate *Tu B'Shevat* to thank God for the gifts of creation, especially foods that grow on trees and the beauties of nature we enjoy. The holiday also reminds us of our responsibility to care for the earth that God created in order to preserve it for future generations.

Tu B'Shevat has also become a tree planting festival in Israel, in which both Israelis and Jews around the world plant trees in honor or in memory of a loved one or friend. For me, when I think about the joy I shared with our tree, and the fact that it provided much needed oxygen, I think that planting a tree is a lovely way to honor someone special in our lives. The Jewish National Fund (www.jnf.org) plants trees in Israel in honor or in memory of a loved one. Other organizations such as www.arborday.org and www.plantatreeusa.com plant trees in the United States.

In the bleakness of February, *Tu B'Shevat* reminds us that spring is coming and life is renewed. May it be a season a month of renewal for all of you.

Check-out what your child has been doing in class by going to our religious school class websites. Click on <http://chicagosinai.shutterfly.com> and then click on your child's class. If you forgot the password, please contact Heidi.

Please join us for

A VERY  MEGILLAH!

Sunday March 11, 2012
11 a.m.

Carnival and games will follow the Purim Spiel.

UPCOMING DATES:

February 10, 2012
Open House/Tot Shabbat

March 8, 2012
Mom's Night Out

Dear Temple Families,

As the winter months roll on we are challenged with continued time indoors and finding a way to allow our "sillies" to be expended. Children are anxious to release energy and find ways to stimulate their interests and remain "in good standing" in their households. At preschool we have the luxury of a large social hall with indoor play equipment which allows the children to run, ride trikes, play ball and have a large variety of running games. We also encourage outdoor play on our playground, in spite of all the time and energy it takes to layer our bodies for outdoor play.

We are looking ahead at lots of indoor activity as well for the preschool. Our Parent Committee is meeting to plan programs which will engage families in play, community involvement and opportunities to create a sense of community within our own small setting.

Parents and staff have recently reviewed an article found in Scientific American on the importance of play in the preschool. "The Death of Preschool" and the excessive focus on academic activity, assessment and direct instruction leads to, according to this article and the research it is based upon, "inhibiting children's natural curiosity and their ability to learn." Paul Tullis reasons that parents' perception is that 'the earlier you start doing formal learning, the better.' That, in combination with the pressures of standardized testing and the law passed in 2001, No Child Left Behind, has encouraged preschools to include more direct instruction in their curricula. Schools must now face stiff penalties for not meeting certain benchmarks which has resulted in continuous testing and the anxiety which accompanies that. As a result, children are likely to be learning isolated skills rather than using creative "out of the box" problem solving skills. At Sinai Preschool we endeavor to expose the children to a variety of activities to explore, manipulate and improvise. Our focus is the social and emotional development of each child which will promote a healthy and open-minded approach to learning. Neural pathways in the brain are being developed which will help the child during life because appropriate experiences in our preschool can hone these pathways. We look forward to healthy minds and bodies with minds open to true growth.



SINAI COMMITTEES

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SINAI LAY LEADERSHIP

Executive Committee

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Ellyn Daniels, *Vice President*
Dana Levenson, *Vice President*
Bruce Miller, *Vice President*
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March 5, 2012
Next Board Meeting

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
			<p>1 12:00pm Adult Ed with Rabbi Sternfield 4:00pm RS</p>	<p>2 10:00am CJE at Sinai 12:00pm Adult Ed with Rabbi Levinsky 7:00pm Film Review 7:00pm Intro to Judaism</p>	<p>3 6:15pm Shabbat Service (Oneg) 7:15pm Art Opening: Jews at 33 1/3 8:00pm First Friday Shabbat</p>	<p>4 9:30am Torah Study</p>
<p>5 9:45am Brunch w/Rabbis & Kenneth Seeskin 10:00am RS 11:00am Sunday Worship Service (Yoel Hasson, speaker) 12:30pm Confirmation 12:30pm Book Review Group</p>	<p>6 10:00am CJE at Sinai</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 12:00pm Adult Ed with Rabbi Sternfield 4:00pm RS</p>	<p>9 10:00am CJE at Sinai 12:00pm Adult Ed with Rabbi Levinsky 7:00pm Intro to Judaism</p>	<p>10 5:00pm PS Open House 5:30pm Tot Shabbat/Dinner 6:15pm Shabbat Service (Oneg)</p>	<p>11 9:30am Torah Study 10:30am Blair Mannis Bat Mitzvah</p>
<p>12 Lunch Program: Bring Bag Lunches 9:45am Brunch w/Rabbis 10:00am RS 11:00am Family Torah Service 12:30pm Confirmation 12:30pm Religion in Interfaith Families at Sinai</p>	<p>13 10:00am CJE at Sinai 10:15am Movie Group 3:30pm Fourth Church Dinner at Catholic Charities</p>	<p>14 2:30pm Sinai Book Club</p>	<p>15 12:00pm Adult Ed with Rabbi Sternfield 4:00pm RS 6:00pm Dinner & Film</p>	<p>16 10:00am CJE at Sinai 12:00pm Adult Ed with Rabbi Levinsky 7:00pm Intro to Judaism</p>	<p>17 6:15pm Shabbat Service (Oneg)</p>	<p>18 9:30am Torah Study 10:30am Harrison Golden Bar Mitzvah</p>
<p>19 9:45am Brunch w/Rabbis 11:00am Sunday Worship Service 2:00pm Sunday Supper at Fourth Church</p>	<p>20 PRESIDENT'S DAY TEMPLE CLOSED</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 12:00pm Adult Ed with Rabbi Sternfield</p>	<p>23 10:00am CJE at Sinai 12:00pm Adult Ed with Rabbi Levinsky 7:00pm Intro to Judaism</p>	<p>24 6:15pm 100th Anniversary of Hadassah Shabbat Service Edith Brownman, speaker (Oneg)</p>	<p>25 9:30am Torah Study</p>
<p>26 9:45am Brunch w/Rabbis 10:00am RS 11:00am Sunday Worship Service 12:30pm Confirmation</p>	<p>27 10:00am CJE at Sinai</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 12:00pm Adult Ed with Rabbi Sternfield 4:00pm RS</p>			

Please join the Sinai Preschool and Temple Families for **Tot Shabbat!**



Friday
February 10, 2012
5:30 - 7:00 pm

This music filled service will be conducted in our Chapel by one of our Rabbis and is ideal for children under the ages of 5 years. Joel Frankel, singer, songwriter and children's entertainer, will be sharing his music and songs. Dinner and entertainment in the social hall will immediately follow the service.

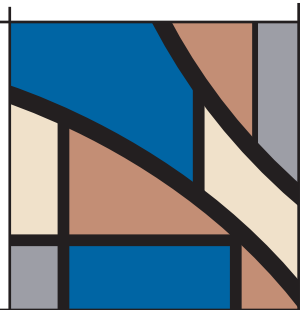
\$30 per family for Temple members
 \$35 per family for non-members.
 Call the Temple office at 312.867.7000 to RSVP.

Bulletin

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 SINAI
 CONGREGATION**

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