

# TEMPLE SINAI

*Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism*

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*Happy Passover!*

April, 2016

Adar II, Nissan 5776

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## *Rabbi's Message*

As the winter finally gives way to spring, there are reminders all around us of this seasonal transition: the temperature rises, the days start to get a little longer, the flowers and the trees begin to bloom, and of course, the baseball season begins.

The Jewish calendar also provides us with a potent reminder of spring's arrival, and that is the festival of Pesach, also known as Hag Ha-Aviv, the Spring Festival. The message of Passover is consistent with the spring season. Just as in nature spring marks a rebirth, so too does Passover recount the birth of the Jewish people. Our redemption from Egyptian bondage was the requisite for the formation of our ancestors into a nation.

Passover is also the holiday of freedom, Z'man Cheruteinu. While it is the story of our freedom from slavery,

it is also a story about persecution and slavery to any people in any age. Passover is our constant reminder of our obligation to struggle for the freedom of all people.

And yes, we were slaves in Egypt. Yes, with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, we felt the presence of God in our midst. But beneath the Haggadah's tale of deliverance is a Passover lesson for all to hear. It is a lesson about family, gathered again around a festive table. It is a lesson about faith in goodness, faith in each other. What an important lesson this is, especially this year during the primary campaign with the toxic speech, vilifying others because of religion and/or background and the incitement to violence. We need to stand up and express our outrage at the unprecedented vitriol that is being spewed. We

need to deepen our faith in each other and embrace humankind to help bring about a world of understanding and peace.

Let us look forward to spring, not backward on the winter which has past. Thus Passover is a time for us to contemplate the miracle of birth, of human life, of our struggle for freedom, of our deep faith and of familial ties to all of humanity. It is the holiday which emphasizes "the can-do spirit". It teaches us that even in the most trying of times, we all have the ability to forge forward through rough terrain and look forward to days of hope and blessing.

*Rabbi Jeffrey Bennett*

### **Temple Sinai's 60th Anniversary April 29-May 1, 2016**

**Our Anniversary Celebration plans are well underway!**

Friday, April 29, 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Services honoring our past leaders. Our Guest Speaker will be Senator Richard Blumenthal.

Saturday, April 30, 7-11 p.m.

Our Anniversary GALA. Call the Temple office, 860/561-1055 to make your paid reservation by April 18th.

Sunday, May 1, 9:00 a.m.

Children's service led by Rabbi Bennett; 10:00 a.m.

Religious School and Mitzvah Project.

### **From Adult Education**

Friday, April 8, following the 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service, we will hold a Torah Study. A light supper will be served. There is no charge, but reservations are required. Call the temple office to reserve. 860/561-1055

### **Passover First Seder, Fri., April 22 2016**

Following the 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service  
Catered by Edelweiss Catering

Costs: \$40 each adult/\$20 per child (age 10 and under) for members.

\$50 each adult/\$25 per child (age 10 and under) for non-members. We are limited to 100 guests. Watch your eblast for the reservation form. Reservations are due with payment by April 12th to the temple office.

Please join us for a special service on **Fri., April 29th**, 7:30 p.m. This service is the first part of our celebration. We will be honoring congregants who have been members for 50 years or more, past Temple and Sisterhood Presidents, and children of founding members. Letters will be sent to these groups during the first week of April. If you are in one of these groups and did not receive a letter by April 11th, please call the Temple Office.

### **From Social Action**

Our mitzvah for April is a collection of children's books to be donated. Please bring your new/gently used books to the coatroom when you come to temple. Volunteers are needed for the Mercy Shelter dinners on Sundays, April 24 and May 22. Call the temple office at 860/561-1055 if you would like to help.

We appreciate your support of Temple Sinai. To make a donation, purchase a leaf for the Tree of Life, purchase a Memorial plaque, or discuss any other matters such as updating your records (new address, email, etc.), Call the temple, 860/561-1055 Ext. 10. If you wish to make a donation of securities, contact the temple office or David Klein at: investment\_committee@sinaict.org. We are a 501(c)(3) organization; your donations are tax deductible.

## President's Message

Dear Temple Sinai Members,

As I write this spring has officially started. Spring always brings a sense of renewal, optimism, and excitement for the days ahead. We have wonderful things just around the corner, and we have just hired Sabrina Lipton as our new Cantorial Soloist! We are very fortunate to have her join our Temple family.

On **Friday, April 22nd** following the 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service, we will have our Annual Passover Seder. I am looking forward to seeing many of you that night. For those who cannot attend, I wish you a very Happy Passover!

On **Friday, April 29th**, 7:30 p.m., we will have our special 60th Anniversary Service with Senator Blumenthal as our guest speaker. The following night will be our Gala, which will be a very special celebration! We will also have a special program for the students on **Sunday, May 1st**. The morning will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a service led by Rabbi Bennett.

Finally, on **Sunday, May 15th**, we will have our annual meeting where we will review the past year, and preview the coming year. We will discuss our budget for 2016-2017, too.

Best wishes again, for a wonderful Passover to you and your families.

B'shalom,  
Ken Lesser, *President*

## Religious School News

Please plan to come to the Shabbat Services on :  
**April 1st**, 6:00 p.m when the 3rd graders will participate. The 4th graders will participate on **May 6th** at the 6:00 p.m. service. On **April 3rd**, Model Seders will be held in the classrooms for Gr K-4.

Religious School is closed for spring & Passover vacation from April 10-27. Classes resume on May 1st which is Mitzvah Day. A Happy Passover holiday to all.

L'Shalom, Rena Citron  
Director, Religious Education

## Religious School & Temple Closing Information

On Wednesdays & Sundays, listen to: WTIC AM 1080. Closing announcements will also be on Channels 3 & NBC Conn. Announcements will be made *after 7:00 a.m.* on Sundays or *during the afternoon* on Wednesdays. Call the Temple Office, 860/561-1055 and press menu key 1 for closing information due to inclement weather.

## Condolences to the families of:

*Sarah Siegal (aunt of Lynn Rosenthal)*  
*Philip Knecht (father of Sherry Maltese & grandfather of Sarah Maltese)*

*Charles Bercow (brother of Amy Woodward)*  
*Mollie Gerber (cousin of Barney Miller)*

*Everett Rosenblatt*

*Sidney Morochnik (husband of Phyllis Morochnik)*

## Temple Sinai Welcomes Cantor Sabrina Lipton

The Cantorial Search Committee and the Executive Committee are pleased to announce the appointment of Sabrina Lipton as Temple Sinai's new, full-time Cantorial Soloist. She will start full-time on Sept. 2nd, after working part-time during July and August two days a week plus singing at some Shabbat evening services.

Cantor Lipton, of Katonah, NY, comes to us with a wealth of cantorial experience in the Reform Jewish movement. She has served the Greenwich Reform Synagogue since 2009. She began her cantorial career with Temple Shaaray Tefila in Bedford Corners, NY from 1991-2005. She worked briefly at the Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale, NY, then served at Temple Sinai in Tenafly, NJ from 2008-2009.

In addition to serving on the bima during services, she will assist Rabbi Bennett in lifecycle events, teach music in the Religious School, teach the B'nai Mitzvah class, and expand our musical programming.

Cantor Lipton attended a pre-college program at The Juilliard School, attended Carnegie Mellon University, and graduated with a Bachelor of Music from the State University of New York at Purchase. She attended the Academy of Jewish Religion for two years in its Cantorial Program.

Growing up in Westchester, NY, she benefitted from the musical talent of her father, who played in college as a jazz pianist, and the instruction of her grandmother, who taught piano. Early on, she gravitated to opera. She began her vocal studies at the age of twelve. In high school, she sang in the Tanglewood Young Artist Vocal Program. She studies classical music at the Conservatoire National a Rayonnement Regional de Nice, France, which is a regional music and dance conservatory, founded in 1916.

Soon after her graduation from SUNY, Cantor Lipton sang for acclaimed soprano Dame Joan Sutherland in England at the Britten-Pears School for Advanced musical Studies in a Master class, accompanied by Richard Bonyngue, the Australian conductor and pianist. She has been teaching voice for the last 20 years with a classical technique.

Her daughter, Miranda, is preparing to go to college in August. She is hoping for a career in journalism and currently writes for a local paper. Miranda shares a love of music with her mother and plays guitar.

"I am delighted to join Temple Sinai, which is known as a welcoming and affirming congregation," Cantor Lipton said. "I'm especially pleased that this is a 'singing congregation'. My love of music is diverse. I have always had a passion for singing and performing a variety of musical styles. I also find teaching b'nai mitzvah and voice students tremendously rewarding. My biggest spiritual fulfillment however, comes from the marriage of prayer and song. I consider it to be an extreme privilege to be a part of people's life cycle events."

Our new Cantor is excited to get to know us and the surrounding area. Most of all, she can't wait to inspire learning, lead worship, bring spiritual expression and provide healing through music!

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## Sisterhood's Page

### SISTERHOOD SPEAKS ....

Spring has arrived and Sisterhood is busy. It is so busy, that we are cancelling the April 15 Shabbat dinner. April will bring us the Passover Seder and the Temple's 60th Birthday Gala. After much discussion, the Sisterhood Board felt that three dinners in three weeks would be too many. We hope that everyone will attend services on Friday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m. when we honor past Presidents of Temple Sinai and of The Sisterhood of Temple Sinai. We hope to reschedule the Fourth Annual Shabbat Dinner when we are all a bit less busy.

We wish everyone a wonderful, meaningful Passover and we wish Temple Sinai Mazel Tov on it's 60th Anniversary!

### CELEBRATING? DID YOU KNOW?

The Sisterhood of Temple Sinai can provide the items below for you! NO TAX, NO SHIPPING COSTS, and NO WORRIES!

- Order Invitations & Thank You Notes @ 20% off Retail
- Gifts & religious items at the Judaica Shop ~ open Sundays during Religious School.
- Create a lasting tribute to a special event with a Golden Book Inscription\*.
- Recognize someone special with a Bulletin Tribute ~ just \$5.00 each!
- Celebrating a special event? Order beautiful Flowers for the Bimah, and/or sponsor an Oneg after Friday services.

Please email [sisterhood@sinaict.org](mailto:sisterhood@sinaict.org) and the Sisterhood coordinator will call/email you with more information. You can also call the Temple Office, 860/561-1055 and leave a message.

*\*All/portions of these items may be tax-deductible; ask your tax advisor!*

### Join the Board of Sisterhood!

Every spring there are new positions available on the Sisterhood Board. The Board holds meetings on the first Thursday of each month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Each Board position offers different ways to support and serve Temple Sinai. Whatever the position, your help is welcome. Do you like to work quietly from home on a project such as the Sisterhood Calendar? Do you like to make phone calls and talk to other Sisterhood members about events? Can you help by sending out cards to those who are dealing with health issues or better yet, celebrating good life cycle events? Is there some good idea you've always had for a fundraiser that you'd like us to do?

The Sisterhood board is a wonderful place to get to know other Sisterhood members. We work together, play together, sometimes get together early to have dinner and visit before our meeting. And together we support the future of Temple Sinai. Jonna Gerken is chairing the Nominating Committee this year. You can contact her at: <http://sinaict.org/organizations/sisterhood/officers>, and click on her name or just contact [sisterhood@sinaict.org](mailto:sisterhood@sinaict.org) and we'll let her know. Come join us as we continue the service of the Sisterhood!

### How to send Sisterhood Tributes:

Tributes are a great way to recognize someone special. They are available at a cost of \$5.00 each. Any additional donations are always appreciated. Golden Book tributes are inscribed at a cost of \$15 for 1/4 page, \$30 for a 1/2 page and \$60 for a full page. Blanche Moskowitz is Tribute and Golden Book Chair. Contact Blanche at: [sisterhood\\_tributes@sinaict.org](mailto:sisterhood_tributes@sinaict.org) to send a tribute or call her at 860/666-8832. Sisterhood appreciates every tribute you send. They are mailed promptly after your request.

**To:** Carol Kolp, best wishes for a speedy & complete recovery,  
from: Eunice Gordon  
Shirley Lieber

**To:** Amy Pinette, best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery, from Rosh Chodesh Group 2.

**To:** Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Cohen & families, in memory of your beloved father, Milton Bayer, from Sue Austin & Charles Himmelarb.

**To:** Marcie Ellis, best wishes for a speedy and compete recovery, from Blanche Moskowitz.

**To:** Shirley Camen, to with you comfort and much love, from Blanche Moskowitz.

**THE SISTERHOOD JUDAICA SHOP**  
**OPEN SUNDAY MORNINGS, 9:00-11:30 a.m.**  
**(during Religious School hours)**

### Mazel Tov!

**To:** Barbara Lederer & Laurel Hennebury, on the birth of their first grandchild, William Caraher, born on February 10, 2016.

**To:** Bunny & Zal Bass, on the birth of their great granddaughter, Emanuelle Cohen, born in Israel on February 27, 2016.

### Sisterhood's Spring Rummage Sale Sunday, April 3 & Monday, April 4

Time to do your spring cleaning! Donate your used but not abused items to the Sisterhood's spring rummage sale. We are accepting seasonal items (spring & summer) including clothes, toys, small household items, bedding, books, etc. Electronics will be accepted for the sale only if they work. Please make sure they work before you bring them. **Drop off your donations, clean and sorted please, on Sunday, April 3 from 8:30-11:30 a.m.** We appreciated early drop offs. Set up will be from 9:00 a.m. –noon and the sale starts promptly at 12:00 p.m. Anyone is welcome to attend the sale. If you would like to volunteer with the set up or the sale, please call the temple office, 860/561-1055 or email [sisterhood@sinaict.org](mailto:sisterhood@sinaict.org).

#### Sale hours:

Sunday, April 3, 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Monday, April 4, 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

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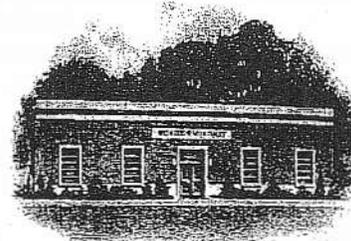
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# April, 2016 — Adar II/Nissan 5776

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Family Service; 3rd grade participation	<b>2</b> 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service; Bat Mitzvah of Samantha Tafrate
<b>3</b> 9:00 a.m. Religious School Mitzvah Day projects  Noon-3 p.m. Sisterhood Rummage	<b>4</b> 10 a.m.—1 p.m. Sisterhood Rummage Sale	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 7:00 p.m. Sisterhood Board	<b>8</b> 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service; Torah Study following services	<b>9</b> 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service; Bat Mitzvah of Emma Kramer
<b>10</b> <b>NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service	<b>16</b> 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service
<b>17</b> <b>NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL</b> 9:15 a.m. Temple Board Meeting 1:30 p.m. Jewish Genealogy	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service; 1st Night Seder following services (reservations required)	<b>23</b> 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service & Passover  <b>1st day of Passover</b>
<b>24</b> <b>NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 10:30 a.m. Passover Service; Yizkor is recited  <b>Last Day of Passover Temple Office is Closed</b>  7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service honoring our 60th Anniversary	<b>30</b> 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service  7-11:00 pm. Gala Celebration (reservations required)
<b>May 1</b> 9:00 a.m. Religious School & Mitzvah Day projects	<b>May 2</b>	<b>May 3</b>	<b>May 4</b>	<b>May 5</b> 7:00 p.m. Sisterhood Board	<b>May 6</b> 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service; 4th grade participation	<b>May 7</b> 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service; Bar Mitzvah of Cayden Goldberg

### Jewish Genealogical Society of Conn. (JG SCT)

This year we are hosting the JG SCT. The next meeting is on Sun., April 17 at 1:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room. The meeting is open to all temple members. There is no charge. Barney Miller, a Past President of Temple Sinai, is a Vice President of the JG SCT and welcomes your participation.



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