



A NEW PICTURE FOR THE TEMPLE SINAI WALL



I encourage you to take a look at the back wall of Temple Sinai, just opposite the bathrooms. There you will find twenty-six pictures, some in black and white and some in color, some taken inside the sanctuary, some taken in our courtyard, some with big frames, some with small frames.

Take a closer look; you will see all of the rabbis who have served this congregation from Rabbi Gaynor, our first rabbi, to me, and you will see the smiling faces of tenth graders young men and women on the edge of adulthood. And who are these lucky individuals who are immortalized on the Temple Sinai wall? They are our affirmation classes. These young people have completed the last major Jewish milestone before graduating high school.

The Jewish practice of confirmation or affirmation was started by one of the early leaders of the Reform movement, Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, in Albany, NY in 1846. Initially the confirmation ceremony was in place of the Bar or Bat Mitzvah, but it has since become a way to mark the end of the initial cycle of Jewish education. Generally, during the one year of study leading up to the event, students meet directly with the rabbi exploring key Jewish values and how they apply in real world situations. This gives the students an opportunity to put their emerging adult identities in a Jewish context and also serves as a review for the Torah reading and prayer skills they learned while studying for their Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

This year's class is an unusual group: two of the students, Adam Goldstein and Jared Geist, are members of Temple Sinai, and two of the students, Hallie Kenyon and Neely Laufer, are member of Temple Beth Am. This arrangement has allowed Rabbi Tanenbaum and me to teach together and has led to many wonderful discussions over the course of the year.

The four members of this year's class are all wonderful human beings and future leaders in the Jewish community. We will hold a joint confirmation service on Friday, June 10, at 7:30 at Temple Sinai. The pictures we take of the class on that evening will appear on the walls of both Temple Sinai and Temple Beth Am. What a remarkable symbol of the cooperation between our two communities!

On June 10, we will also be honoring Adam Goldstein and Rebecca Slonim for the completion of Adam's Eagle Scout award and Rebecca's Gold award. This is an incredible accomplishment for both individuals and the result of years of hard work. In Adam's case it meant organizing a group of individuals to repair the club house for Camp Gan Israel on North Forest Road. Rebecca dedicated her project to Temple Sinai, organizing all of our black and white pictures and storing them digitally so that we can easily make use of them as we prepare for our 60th anniversary. Kol HaKavod (all the honor) to both of them and to the entire 2011 confirmation class!

Jewish learning does not, of course, end in high school, but is supposed to be a lifelong pursuit. In that regard, we will be inviting back Cantor Audrey Kaufman to lead and teach on the weekend of June 2 and 3. And on Tuesday, June 7, we will hold our second annual Tikkun Leil Shavuot, all-night Shavuot study session at Temple Beth Tzedek, immediately following our own Shavuot service at Temple Sinai. This will be an opportunity to learn from many of the area's rabbis and teachers. I look forward to seeing you at many of these wonderful events.

B'Shalom,
Rabbi Alex



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FROM THE PRESIDENT



President
Jill Hamilton

By the time you read this, Temple Sinai will have held the first of two significant congregational meetings. We will not only have voted on a budget and new board members for the coming year, but we will have discussed and voted on the first complete overhaul of our bylaws. As mentioned last month, the updated bylaws reflect our overall values, include more modern language, and provide guidance to the temple's leadership, while allowing flexibility for future changes in our demographics and needs. We appreciate the input of everyone who attended the May 25 meeting. But we also need a quorum for our June 12 meeting. Join us at 10:30 a.m., have some brunch, and cast your vote for the updated bylaws.

With regard to our talks with Temple Beth Am, there has been little change since last month. The first two subcommittees identified are continuing their work. The worship subcommittee has continued to meet to negotiate the form that services and religious practice will take. The finance subcommittee has scheduled its first meeting for late May, and will begin to examine the financial structures of both temples to explore the potential benefits of merging our finances. Rabbi Alex and

Rabbi Tanenbaum of Beth Am gave a wonderful presentation to the larger, two-temple steering committee about our similarities and differences. We hope to share this with you in the future. As things move along further, we will probably hold "town hall" meetings or focus groups to share information and seek your input. Please feel free to approach me at any time with your thoughts or concerns.

Believe it or not, we are already beginning to plan for the high holidays, and for Temple Sinai's 60th anniversary in 2012. This fall, Temple Sinai will host the joint community Selichot service, which last year was held at Temple Beth Am. It is a lovely musical service involving clergy and musicians from Temple Sinai, Temple Beth Am, Temple Beth Zion, and Temple Beth Tzedek, and we expect as many as 200 people in attendance. For Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we have again invited Cantorial Soloist Audrey Kaufman to provide her beautiful music for our services. You can also get a little taste of Cantor Audrey on Friday, June 3, and Saturday, June 4, when she will be here to enhance our Shabbat services. And, as I mentioned, we are beginning to think about how we want to celebrate Temple Sinai's 60th anniversary. We would like this to be a really memorable celebration, and we need to start forming a committee soon. Please contact me if you would like to help.

Don't forget to join us for brunch and the second vote on the bylaws, on Sunday, June 12.

LIBRARY CORNER

by Leslie Jaszczak

We often hear about the contributions of (usually northern) Jews to the civil rights movement, but a more nuanced and complex view is given by Mary Glickman in her debut novel *At Home in the Morning*, recently acquired by the temple library. Her protagonist is Jackson Sassaport, a Mississippi lawyer, and we follow his life story from 1947 to the mid-1990s, and from the little town of Guilford to Yale and back again.

At the age of five, the timid and sheltered Jackson is comforted in a traumatic moment by Katherine Marie, an African-American girl who appears to him as "an angel of God." The lives of the two will entwine for the next forty years, as each of them marries someone else while still maintaining their deep bond of friendship through momentous changes in both their lives and the country's history. In the interactions between her characters, Glickman explores the complicated relationships that southern Jews had with blacks, their Christian neighbors, and with northern Jews, who often failed to understand the treacherous waters their southern brethren were navigating.

Some readers may have trouble with the book's non-linear narrative (anchored in 1995 but with extensive forays into the past), as well as by the lack of quotation marks for dialogue, but on the whole this thoughtful and well-written novel is well worth the read. For those who are interested in a non-fiction look at the same period, the library also has Melissa Faye Green's *The Temple Bombing*, about the firebombing of Atlanta's oldest synagogue following its rabbi's strong stand on civil rights.



ADULT EDUCATION

Our year long study of the five Megillot will conclude with the Book of Ruth on Sunday, June 12 at 1 PM. Please note that this is a change from the previous scheduled date of June 1. What a wonderful experience this has been to look in depth at these important Jewish Texts.

This event will immediately follow our second congregational meeting June 12 and it will include a luncheon. Please join us in the second vote on our updated bylaws and stay for the study of The Book of Ruth.

All congregants are urged to attend because a quorum is necessary to change the constitution.

RUACH

The next meeting of the Ruach book group will take place at temple on June 23 at 1:30 p.m.

We will discuss *The Glass Room* by Simon Mawer.

There is only one copy in the public library. Temple Sinai's own, Alex Morrison Library, owns a copy of this book as well. You can also find it available for less than \$5 plus shipping from Amazon.COM. Esther Bates will share her copy with others.

Thank you to all involved with the rummage sale. It is a wonderful fundraising event for temple and it is a great place for people to find quality items for a real bargain.

JAZZ NIGHT WAS A SUCCESS

Thank you to Adrienne Crandall, Michael Rosenberg, Lois & Sonny Heller, Kathy Gordon, and all the other volunteers who made this years Jazz night such a great event. Especially George Scott and the Colored Musicians Club Band. We had over one-hundred guests, great music, wine, delectable desserts, superb auction items, and lots of dancing.

We were able to raise over \$2500. for the Temple Sinai General Fund.

ANDREW W. GREEN, M.D.

RITA R. SLOAN, M.D.

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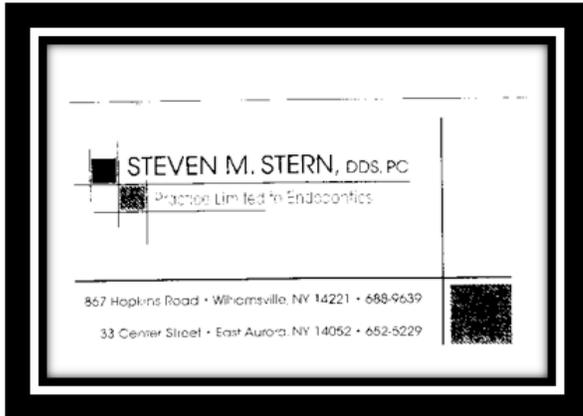
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**NEW FACULTY MEMBER FOR
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The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School of the Bureau of Jewish Education is pleased to announce the appointment of Rabbi Perry Netter of Temple Beth Tzedek to its faculty. Beginning in the fall of 2011, he will join Dr. Aaron Hughes, Associate Director of the Institute of Jewish Thought and Heritage at SUNYAB, and will teach second year Melton Students, the Ethics of Jewish Living. Professor Hughes will continue to teach the History or Dramas of Jewish Living Throughout The Ages.

Rabbi Netter will be replacing Rabbi Harry Rosenfeld, In the course Rabbi Netter will teach, he will apply his unique teaching style to ethical issues from the Jewish point of view. Topics such as justice, life and death, marriage and divorce, sexuality and community, will be presented with case studies from Talmudic, rabbinic and contemporary literature. The Melton curriculum is developed in Jerusalem at Hebrew University and offers a serious approach to issues that we all deal with on an ongoing basis.

First year Melton students are prepared for their second year by Dr. Jerry Berkowitz who teaches The Purposes of Jewish Living and by Marta Braiterman Tanenbaum, who is the teacher of The Rhythms of Jewish Living.

To become p Type to enter text art of the Melton School so you can study with the Melton School, please contact Ethel Melzer, Melton Site Director at the Bureau office at 923-0020.

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CONDOLENCES

The family of Miriam Davidson
The family of Julie Baker

Upcoming Events

Yom Yerushalayim June 1

Potluck dinner @ 5:30 PM, Tot Shabbat @ 6:00 PM, Family Service @ 7 PM Friday, June 3

Buffalo Gay Pride Parade Sunday June 5 @ 11AM, **Pride Festival @ 1-7 PM** Canalside next to HSBC Arena

Erev Shavuot June 7, **Potluck dinner @ 6 PM, Service @ 7 PM**

Joint Shavuot Service with Havurrah Wednesday, June 8 @ 10:30 AM

Affirmation Service Friday, June 10 @ 7:30 PM

Second Congregational Meeting to vote on by-laws Sunday June 12 @ 10:30 AM followed by a luncheon and **Adult Education @ 1:00 PM** "The Book of Ruth"

Shabbat BBQ @ 6:00 PM, Shabbat Service 7@ :30 PM, Friday June 24

Weekly Schedule of Services:

Shabbat Service, Fridays, 7:30 pm (Family Services on first Friday of month at 7:00 pm; Tots at 6:00 pm)

Shacharit Service, Saturdays, 10:00 am (unless noted above)

Beit Midrash Torah Study, Saturdays, 11:00 am (at 9:30 am on day of Bar/Bat Mitzvot)

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