



SINAI DIALOGUE



5771)

Temple Sinai Connects to the Global Jewish Community



November 9, 1938 was one of the worst dates in Jewish history. In one night, almost the entire German Jewish community was decimated. Thirty thousand Jews were sent to concentration camps and 1,688 synagogues were destroyed. Kristallnacht, “the night of broken glass,” marked the official beginning of the Holocaust that would eventually rob us of more than six million Jewish souls.

Seventy years later, on November 9, 2008, one of those synagogues was finally rebuilt. The small Jewish community of Gottingen, Germany, a university town, and one of the few places not bombed by Allied troops, took it upon themselves to remove an unused synagogue building from a neighboring town and rebuild it piece by piece in Gottengen. After ten years and an incredible amount of planning, the Jews of Gottingen could finally celebrate their faith in a building of their own. And, none of it would have been possible without the contributions and support of the entire Gottingen community, who raised over half a million Euro toward what was called “The Synagogue Project.”

Halfway across the world, Temple Sinai has played a role in this incredible revival. At the same time as our Torahs were enjoying the sunshine in Miami while being repaired, the scribe whom we used, Rabbi Steve Karro, was working with the Jewish community of Gottingen to help repair their Torahs as well. This past year, they finally got them back, and they just celebrated their first High Holiday services in a synagogue building with kosher Torahs.

Thanks to the efforts of George and Wilma Iggers, who are members of both communities, Temple Sinai and the Jewish Community of Gottingen have become sister synagogues. We publish each other’s newsletters and share in each other’s joys. There are few stories as heartwarming as the renaissance of Jewish life in Gottingen. How wonderful for us to connect to this rare jewel of a Jewish community.

I mention all of this hoping that in the next year or two we can organize a trip to Gottingen and see the synagogue building in person. While I have pictures of the small, wooden structure in my office, I am sure it pales in comparison to the real thing. We have an open invitation to come up on November 9th and take part in their annual Kristallnacht memorial service. It is important to show them that the larger Jewish world cares about their story and has rejoiced in their success.

So often, here in Buffalo, we forget that we are linked by an eternal bond to all Jews everywhere. We share the same traditions, prayers, and holidays. On the afternoon of Sunday, November 7th, we have a chance to demonstrate the strength of these bonds. The Buffalo Jewish community will take part in the Global Day of Learning. AdinSteinzaltz will culminate five decades of translating the Talmud into English by having Jews throughout the world study the same text together. In Buffalo, there will be events from 12pm to 4pm at Kadimah (1085 Eggert Road) that will be open to the entire community and free of charge. Come and take part in the program and feel the power of thousands of Jews studying Torah together on the same day.

B’Shalom,
Rabbi Alex

FROM THE PRESIDENT



President
Jill Hamilton

When I was a teenager growing up in Pine Bush, NY, our school district was under an austerity budget for two of the four years I was in high school. Our centralized rural school district, which covered a large physical territory but had always been small in population, experienced a sudden surge in growth during the early 1970's, when land

that had been a huge apple orchard was sold off in pieces to various developers, and there was a housing boom. The land happened to be located in one of the far reaches of the district, near the comparatively "big" city of Middletown, but it was part of our district. The new housing attracted people from New York City, who might have heard of the Middletown area and wanted to "get away from it all."

In any case, within a relatively short period of time, the district found itself having to serve perhaps as much as double the population for which it was originally designed, and three new schools were built over a period of less than 10 years. It was also a recession, jobs weren't plentiful, and people had had enough of financing the school district's growth. Two years in a row, they voted down the school district's proposed budget. That meant that we had no sports, no after-school activities, no marching band, no school play, and no busing for kids who lived less than three miles from school (the school district was about 15 miles across).

Any activity that we wanted to have involved FUNDRAISING. I sold magazines, candy bars, and all manner of tschotchkes. I hated fundraising. I couldn't wait until I was an adult and could just pay for my activities myself. I never wanted to be involved in any sort of fundraising again.

Fast forward 30 years. Since I have become temple president, it seems that all I have done is talk to people about money. There have been phone calls to return to people wanting to discuss their dues; speeches to give; solicitations to

people for temple donations; and weekly email updates to write, encouraging everyone to participate in our latest fundraisers.

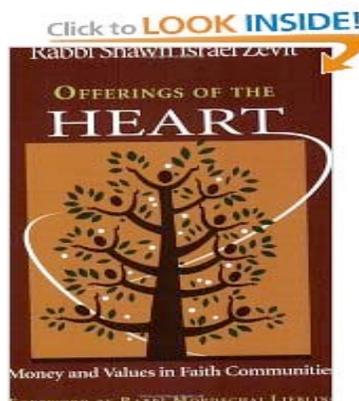
As Jews, we have an interesting relationship with money. While most people would probably like to think of religion as a spiritual experience apart from the material world, there is direct acknowledgement in the Torah of the need to feed the poor, finance the building of the mishkan, and provide food for the priests. There are many very specific rules outlining how the people are to provide for the community. As a temple, we need to make sure that we have enough money to pay our rabbi and building staff, keep our building in good condition, and operate the services that we provide, while having a dues structure that is as fair as possible. This is something the Board of Directors struggles with all the time.

Rabbi Shawn Zevit from the Reconstructionist Federation came here last spring to talk to us about these issues. He has written a wonderful book about congregations and money, *Offerings of the Heart*. To help us in our journey, we are planning to engage in a book study using Rabbi Zevit's book. The book study will take place on Sunday, November 21, at 12:30 pm (after the TikkunOlam committee prepares Thanksgiving baskets). This discussion is free and open to the entire congregation. Coffee and desserts will be provided. So, start reading (purchase information is below), and join us at temple on November 21st for what promises to be an engrossing conversation.

The book, *Offerings of the Heart: Money and Values in Faith Communities*, by Rabbi Shawn Israel Zevit, can be ordered through the following link:

<http://www.alban.org/bookdetails.aspx?id=884>

It can also be found on Amazon.com.



November Adult Education



This month, Temple Sinai encourages you to support our Jewish Community Book Fair and Cultural Arts Season. Here are the events in November:

Monday, November 1, 7:30 pm at UB Center for Tomorrow — Joel Chasnoff: *The 188th Crybaby Brigade: A Skinny Jewish Kid From Chicago Fights Hezbollah*

Wednesday, November 3, 7:30 pm at Temple Beth Tzedek— Roger Kamentz: *Burnt Books: Rabbi Nachman of Bratzlav and Franz Kafka*

Sunday, November 7, 12 pm at Kadimah— Global Day of Jewish Learning (see Rabbi's article)

Wednesday, November 10, 7 pm at JCC Benderson— Moshe Ben Abraham Concert

Sunday, November 14, 2 pm at UB Center for Tomorrow — Yoel Sharbi Family Concert

Thursday, November 18, 7:30 pm at Congregation B'Nai Shalom — Judith Viorst: *Unexpectedly Eighty: and other Adaptations* and *Lulu and the Brontosaurus*

Tuesday, November 18, 7:30 pm at UB Student Union Theater — Jake Ehrenreich: *A Jew Grows in Brooklyn: The Curious Reflection of a First Generation American*



Also, mark your calendars for Sunday, December 19 at 7:30 pm at Temple Sinai, where we will be hosting Judith Shulevitz: *The Sabbath World: Glimpses of a Different Order of Time*

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A check to Temple Sinai for value of service must be written at appointment time. Value is \$40-\$45)

TIKKUNOLAM

by Amy O'Donnell

A big thank you to everyone who brought in school supplies during the month of August for our TikkunOlam collection. The barrel was almost full of useful items. The school supplies were donated to Cornerstone Manor for homeless children and were very much appreciated. The High Holidays Food Drive in September was also a huge success. About 75 bags of food were donated. The food was divided up between seven different shelters and food pantries: Ronald McDonald House, Cornerstone Manor, Little Portion Friary, Compass House, Bissonette House, Friends of the Night People, and Benedict House. Thank you to everyone who donated food, and also to everyone who helped to sort and deliver the food.

November brings with it cold weather as well as Thanksgiving. Our monthly collection will be hats, mittens and scarves for the homeless. We will also be collecting food, turkeys, and cash (to buy more food or turkeys) for our annual Thanksgiving food drive. The Gesher School families will also be contributing to the Thanksgiving food drive. We will be putting together full turkey dinners that will be donated to Jewish Family Services to distribute to needy families. Thank you everyone for your generosity.

LIBRARY CORNER

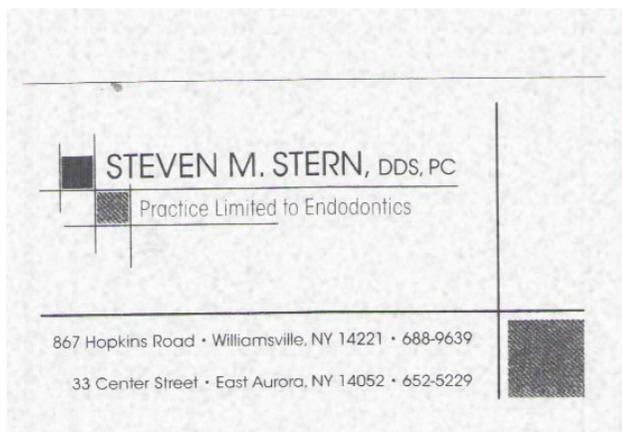
by Leslie Jaszczak

The temple library has just acquired *Naomi and her Daughters*, a new novel by National Book Award winner Walter Wangerin.

In his powerful and original retelling of the story in the Book of Ruth, Wangerin gives Naomi — portrayed in the biblical story mainly as an unsympathetic woman scarred by tragedy and grief — a back story and a character that explains and justifies Ruth's devotion to her. The character of Boaz, who marries Ruth in the end, is also given motivation and a past.

Moving back and forth over some thirty years or more, Wangerin never loses control of his narrative. He paints a portrait of an entire society, effortlessly weaving in other biblical stories and poetry from the Psalms and the Song of Songs, particularly through the chants and musings of Naomi, who is portrayed as a *hakamah* — a wise woman, healer and storyteller — in her native village of Bethlehem.

Naomi and her Daughters is sure to deepen any reader's appreciation of the book of Ruth and the world in which it is set.



Welcome New Members

Dorothy & Kenneth Brooks
Stacey & Matthew Brooks

Joe Davis

Christine Deitz

Linda & Mark Foley

Daniel & Tina Ferber

Seth & Yvette Galley

David Grayck

David Kaplan

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Chai Club Drawing!!!

Each of you should have received "Chai Club" tickets in the mail. This is a great way to get people from outside our community involved in fundraising.

If each member of the congregation asks their neighbors, friends, and co-workers to buy a ticket, we will make this fundraiser a success. The money raised from selling these tickets will help us close the budget gap. Please do your part and sell as many tickets as possible. If you can, please buy a ticket; you could win \$540! If you need more tickets, please call the office at 834-0708.

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YOUTH GROUP FUND

In Memory of

MARK SUCHMAN by Barbara Schulefand

The Temple Sinai community would like to wish
Esther Bates a speedy recovery.

Condolences

Marge & Seymour Suchman on the loss of
their son, Mark Suchman.

Ann Boness on the loss of her sister,
Frances Sabbath

FROM THE DIALOGUE EDITOR

BY Michael Rosenberg

Please have any contributions for the Dialogue to me by the 10th of the month for the following months Dialogue. This will give me the proper amount of time to make changes and to have it proofread. I would like to thank Esther Bates and Jan Sandberg for their tireless hours of proofreading. We are always looking for some interesting articles, recipes, or photos to be placed in the Dialogue. Please email your additions to drosenberg@roadrunner.com. Please make sure they are in the .doc or docx format. Photos should include an explanation and list of people in the photo. Please remember to email me with your name if you are a true environmentalist and would prefer to view the Dialogue on the Temple's website, www.templeinaibuffalo.org. Include the wording electronic dialogue in the subject box.



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Upcoming Events(Check out the online calendar for all events)

🕍 *Please Note: No Shabbat evening services at Temple Sinai Friday Nov 12 or Nov 26* 🕍

Board of Trustees Meeting Tues Nov 2 at 7:30 pm

Family Fun Morning Temple Beth Tzedek, Fridays thru Nov 19 at 10am

Tot Shabbat Friday Nov 5 at 6 pm

Family Shabbat Service Friday Nov 5 at 7pm

No potluck dinner this month

Rummage Sale Sunday Nov 7 at 9am (bring your gently used items to temple by November 6; set-up to take place Saturday Nov 6 at 6pm)

Thanksgiving Food Drive begins Sunday Nov 7

TikkunOlam Meeting Thursday Nov 11 at 5:30 pm at Golden Duck Restaurant

Gesher Shabbat Temple Beth Tzedek, Friday Nov 12 at 7pm (no service at Sinai)

Ruach Meeting Sunday Nov 14 at 10am

Book Club Wednesday Nov 17 at 1:30pm

Learner's Minyan Friday Nov 19 at 6:30 pm

Shabbat Service Friday Nov 26 at 7:30pm at Temple Beth Am

Chanukah Seder Friday December 3 at 6pm

Weekly Schedule of Services

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

Tot Shabbat on first Friday of month 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)

TEMPLE SINAI STAFF & OFFICERS

Alex Lazarus-Klein, Rabbi
rabbialex@templesinaibuffalo.org

Rena Gattozzi, Temple Office Manager
renae@templesinaibuffalo.org

Karen Houser, Temple Secretary
templesinai@juno.com

Jill Hamilton, President
psydocmom@yahoo.com

Marina Finkelstein, Vice President
mfinkl@aol.com

Michael Rosenberg, Vice President,
Membership Chair, Dialogue Editor
drrosenberg@roadrunner.com

Sid Weiss, Treasurer
sweiss@bwzucpa.com

Kathy Gordon, Recording Secretary
kgbrhg@verizon.net

Amy O'Donnell, TikkunOlam Chair
odnn825@aol.com

Sandy Seide, Fundraising Chair
sgs16@hotmail.com

TEMPLE SINAI
50 Alberta Drive
Amherst, NY 14226
www.TempleSinaiBuffalo.org
Phone (716) 834-0708
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