



The Shofar

Temple Sinai



Temple Sinai begins 31st year with the Incoming Board of Trustees:

President, Emily Deakins
Vice-President Ritual, Betsy Hoover
Vice-President Education, Pam Shaffer
Vice-President, Administrative, Debbie Rothermel
Vice-President, Long Range Planning, Maria Korn-Michael
Secretary, David Whipple
Treasurer, Ian Crawford
Asst. Treasurer, Iris Rochman
Financial Secretary, Diane Adler
Building/Security, Bruce Greenberg
Membership, Spencer Marmelstein
Adult Education, Diane Statham
Social Action, Open
Fundraising, Suzanne Crawford
External Communications, Ed Stelman
Member at Large, David Simon
Leadership Development, Roger Rochman
Immediate Past President, Karen Westall

Joining them will be the presidents of Brotherhood,
Sisterhood, and TeSTY.

If you would like to join a committee, please contact
the appropriate trustee above.

Don't want to serve on a committee, but have an interest
that may be beneficial to the Temple, please contact our
Volunteer Coordinator, Robin Converse.

May 2009
13875 Brimhurst
Houston, TX 77077
(281) 496-5950
www.temple-sinai.org

Friday Night Service Schedule
Kabbalat Shabbat Singing
7:15 PM
Shabbat Service 7:30 PM

May Events

*Jazz Shabbat in honor of Carol and
Stu Levin, 7:15pm, Friday, May 8*

*Sandy Rushworth Adult Bat Mitzvah,
10:30am, Saturday, May 9*

*Greta Guajardo Bat Mitzvah,
7:15 pm Friday, May 15, and
10:30 am Saturday, May 16.*

*End of School Year Program,
12:00 noon, Sunday, May 17.*

*Sarah Waronoff Bat Mitzvah,
7:15 pm Friday, May 22, and
10:30 am Saturday, May 23*

*Confirmation and Shavuot Service,
7:00pm, Thursday, May 28*

*Sisterhood Shabbat Service,
7:30pm, Friday, May 29*

*Mah Jongg Tournament,
9:00am, Sunday, May 31*

*Read the sections below for more
details.*

Rabbi's Message – Barry Diamond



Thanks to the Levins and All That Jazz

When we walk through the halls of Temple Sinai on a Wednesday evening or Sunday morning, one can easily think Shabbat has begun. The reason is simple. On those days, Carol Levin is training our children to participate in our Shabbat worship services, the same way she has done for 29 years. However, after nearly three decades, Carol is retiring from the Bar and Bat Mitzvah program. If we walk the halls of Temple, looking at the Confirmation pictures, recalling in our mind's eye every child who now feels closer to Judaism and to Jewish prayer, we find that every one of them has been nurtured, coaxed, prodded and encouraged by Carol. Her work elevates and honors the Levin name at Temple, but she is not alone.

Stu Levin has been an unfailing supporter of Temple Sinai for many years. Like Carol, Stu has served Temple as a Hebrew teacher. In addition, Stu often has served behind the scenes providing legal advice and services to the congregation. Stu and Carol have also left a lasting benefaction to the Temple through the creation of the Todd Levin Endowment fund. Named after their son who was tragically killed by a drunk driver, Stu and Carol turned this tragedy into an opportunity for the ongoing support of Temple Sinai.

Carol and Stu have been tireless volunteers which is why the congregation is honoring them with the Benefactors Award. Their work on behalf of Temple continues to lift our spirits by teaching us to lift our voices in prayer and song. That is why we are celebrating their award and Carol's retirement with a wonderful Jazz Shabbat service.

The Jazz Shabbat was created by Jewish jazz musician and composer Mark Bloom (www.markbloom.com) who creates jazz settings to the music of our traditional Shabbat service. Through the subtle and inventive use of tone and tempo, Mark is able to layer on a new musical texture onto the melodies we are all familiar with.

We hope you will make special plans to join us in prayer on May 8 for the celebration of Shabbat and of Stu and Carol Levin.



President's Message – Emily Deakins

It is a real honor to take on the role of president for this great congregation...to be in a position to lead the board at this important time in the history of Temple Sinai. The coming year will be a special one as we mark our 30th anniversary, say farewell and thanks to Rabbi Diamond, and welcome our new Rabbi, Annie Belford, and her family – husband Ari Vernon and their two sons, Lev and Eiden - to our home.

Before all else, I want to thank Karen Westall for her dedication as president for the last two years (not to mention her previous stint as president!). Among other things, she led us through a change in rabbinic leaders, worked to strengthen our financial controls, instituted the mid-year meeting for greater communication with the congregation, and expanded our focus on leadership development for the board and the congregation. I will always value her calm voice of reason and I look forward to her continued wise counsel (legal and otherwise!!) in the coming years.

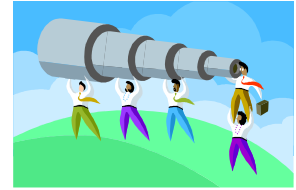
As I look towards the next year, I hope to build on Karen's work and to support our community as best as I am able. Some of the key areas for focus will be maintaining strong communication, planning and aligning our varied activities for greatest effect and encouraging all of our congregants to get more involved and engaged in the life of the Temple.

During the last 15 months I was privileged to be involved in the SinaiVision work and privy to the comments shared in the parlor meetings, where we captured thoughts from over 40% of our congregants. I continue to be moved when reading the comments about our collective sense of Community - the feelings of warmth, openness, caring – the thoughts of family, of belonging and welcoming others.

In the coming year, I hope we each have a chance to reflect on these thoughts - on what Temple Sinai means to us, individually and collectively – and to actively be a part of fulfilling our vision for the future. I look forward to working with the new board and with all of you to make this next year a cherished one.

B'Shalom,

SinaiVision/Long Range Planning - Emily Deakins



Mark your calendar for two Committee Planning Days – scheduled for our temple committees to work alongside each other, discuss priorities for the 2009-2010 year and begin to develop action plans. Committees will meet on one of the two dates:

- Sunday May 10, 3-5:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 12, 7-9 p.m.

If you are already a member of a committee, stay tuned for more information from your chair. This is a great opportunity for all to get more involved in an area of temple life of interest to you. For more information contact Robin Converse.

Religious School News - Rina Mesarwi and Pam Shaffer



It seems that each school year goes faster than the one before it. We are proud of many things happening in the Religious School and always keep in mind that there is room for improvement for the following year. With Rabbi Diamond 's support and guidance we started Open Dor Shabbat, had adult classes with discussions based on " Love and Logic" principles and celebrated holidays with great fun. We are going to miss Rabbi Diamond, and want to thank him for all the new ideas he brought to our attention. On May 17th, the last day of school, your children and you will have the opportunity to say good-bye to Rabbi Diamond while enjoying great food sponsored by the Religious School.

A few of our teachers will not be returning to teach next year for personal reasons. Thank you to Mindy Mueller, Denise Friefeld, Betsy Hoover and Carol Levin for great years of teaching, we will miss all of you.

Ms. Carol Levin who has been teaching at Temple Sinai for 29 years will be putting her effort in another passion of her family--MADD. So many students shined during their Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebrations thanks to Carol. Carol, with her dedication and commitment to Jewish education and the success of our students, created a great program for all. We thank her for all the years she taught our children. Beginning next year, Rabbi Annie Belford will take on the responsibilities of the B'nai Mitzvah class with the help of Fiona Schicker.

On May 1st our Post Confirmation Class will celebrate eleven graduates. This is the largest class of graduates we have ever had and we are very proud of them for keeping their Jewish education a priority in their lives. All temple members are invited to celebrate these students' achievements.

The month of May ends with Shavuot and a Confirmation ceremony on May 28..

As we did in previous years, we will send school's registration forms soon. Please be advised to send them back as soon as possible so you may enjoy the Early Bird rate.

Thank you so much to everyone who voted for Harwell Asturias Labs. At the summit at NASA Ames Research Center, which took place April 2-4, Daniel Asturias and Isaac Harwell made their presentation, along with the other finalist teams from across the country. They presented to a group of judges, some of whom were looking at the technical/scientific part of the project, and others who were judging the business viability of their plan. Daniel and Isaac won first place in the Renewable Energy Category. What's more, after the competition, three different judges came to them and told them that the decision had been unanimous. The next step is to continue the research on their project, which will harvest electrical energy converted from the thermal energy that escapes from the earth under the ocean at the deep sea vents. Their website at the Conrad Foundation will continue to be active (http://www.conradawards.org/harwell_asturias_labs and they must now recruit funds for this effort. They will also seek to patent their invention. We are so proud of them!

We will see you for great celebrations in May.

Sisterhood – Joan Rich

Sisterhood Shabbat and the Installation of our new board will be held on Friday May 29. Everyone is invited as we all wish the new board a good and productive year. Oneg following will be sponsored by the Sisterhood.



On May 17, the last day of religious school, we will have the winning ticket drawing for the Moody Gardens gift card. Last chance to get your name in the drawing. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.

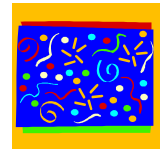
A happy and healthy summer break to all our members!

Senior Sisters – Estelle Weissburg

Senior Sisters will meet at 12:00 noon in the Temple library on May 13. Estelle Weissburg is our hostess and will bring dessert and beverages. We will share ideas on how to stretch your dollar today....what you learned years ago and recently. Call Estelle for more information. We will meet again on September 9.

Invitations

If you have a Special Simcha coming up, we have the latest books available. In addition to our wedding books, Bar and Bat Mitzvah books, and "Save the Date" books, we now have new books which include wedding and baby showers, baby announcements, and parties. Call Marla Lantz, the Sisterhood Invitations Sales Representative.



Brotherhood – Marc Boin

- A team from the Brotherhood competed in the annual TeSTY Bowl on March 28. Despite a valiant effort, the macho men were defeated in double overtime by the Sisterhood team. The final blow regarded a question about the ingredients of a food item – a subject about which our guys are admittedly weak. Our team plans to seek vengeance at next year's competition by reclaiming our title. Great effort on the part of Irv Berger, Michael Burg, Roger Rochman, and Harvey Rich!
- We hosted our quarterly Blood Drive on April 5. Once again, we held the drive in Classrooms 10 and 11 in order to make for a more pleasant donating experience. 20 units of blood were collected, greatly surpassing our typical numbers. Hearty Mazel Tovs go out to all that contributed.
- In addition, we had a guest speaker from the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center during our Brotherhood meeting on April 5. She educated us on the entire process of blood donation, the credit that our members derive from the process, and gave us ideas on how to boost attendance in the future. On April 11, about 30 of our congregants were treated to the epicurean extravaganza known as the Matzo Brie Breakfast. The culinary team of Roger Rochman, Bob Horowitz, David Frishman, and Marc Boin fed a variety of flavors of Matzo Brie to everyone attending Shabbat services that morning. As usual, the food was unique, filling, and quite delicious. No one, including members of the Houston Fire Department, left hungry that day. Much praise goes out to each of our participants.
- In conjunction with the Social Action Committee, we worked on another Habitat For Humanity build in the Umland Park subdivision, near the intersection of Beltway 8 and Hwy 288. Many thanks to the Houston Bar Association for all of their coordination.
- Application forms for the two Brotherhood GFC scholarships were distributed to all of the children enrolled in our Religious School. Quite a few applications were submitted this year, several of which were highly competitive. A team of Brotherhood members carefully reviewed each of the papers, and deliberated as to the most deserving entries. It is our honor to award \$250 each to Rachel Aaronson and Shaye Mueller. Mazel Tov to each of these fine students! Here's hoping everyone has a wonderful time at Greene!
- The Education Committee sponsored a drive to donate Passover baskets to Jewish patients at MD Anderson hospital this year. Our members unanimously elected to donate \$150 to this very worthy cause. It was indeed an honor to help.



- *Fiddler on the Roof* tickets have all been ordered for the May 31st show, and will be distributed soon. A total of 48 of our congregants will be attending this sold-out performance. Contact Marc Boin for more information. [Plans are already underway for us to attend the Broadway performance of *Young Frankenstein* in 2010. Stay tuned for more details.]
- David Whipple has drawn up tentative plans for the construction of *Tallit*, *Kippot*, and *Siddur* bookcases at the entrances to the Sanctuary. Coordination with the Interior Committee is in the works. We are hoping to donate an attractive and meaningful addition to our Temple.
- Plans are being finalized for our annual Astros games. Mark your calendars now! The Brotherhood Men's Night Out will be held on Thursday evening, May 7, against the Chicago Cubs, Make plans now to attend! .

It's time for Temple Sinai's annual day at the Astros game sponsored by Brotherhood.

This year we will be attending the Astros – Pirates game on Sunday, June 7, at Minute Maid Park.

Game time is 1:00 PM and tickets are \$15 each.

*As usual, our seats are in the upper deck right behind home plate,
a great seat to watch the game at a reasonable price.*

This is always a well attended event so bring the whole family and invite your friends also.

*Please RSVP to Cindy in the Temple office by Friday May 22,
and make your check to Temple Sinai Brotherhood.*

We look forward to you joining us as we show the world how to take care of the Pirates.

Membership – Spencer Marmelstein

I am proud to welcome our newest member: Nathan Cheng

ברוכים הבאים

I want to thank everyone in the membership committee for everything we accomplished this year. I look forward to working with all of you in the up coming year.

The membership committee is always seeking new members or ideas to make us successful. Feel free to e-mail Spencer.

Youth Group

Over the weekend of April 17-19, TeSTY attended Spring Kallah at Greene Family Camp. This was a very special weekend because our very own Jackie Schicker was elected to the NFTY-TOR regional board as Religious and Cultural Vice President for the 2009-2010 year. This will be her second term on the board.



On May 9, our annual Laser Tag event will take place for all 7-9th graders, details to come via email.

TeSTY's pie in the face event will occur May 17 at the End of Religious School Event. Make sure you fill the jar of one of the following lucky contestants: Andrew Rochman (TeSTY Adviser), Melissa Rich (TeSTY President), Joan Rich (Sisterhood President), Marc Boin (Brotherhood President), and Rina Mesarwi (Educational Director).

Dining Havurah

Many thanks to Marni Greenberg for organizing the April Havurah at Los Cucos. There were 19 of us there and we had a great time. The next dinner is Saturday, May 30th. The place is yet to be decided. Check the Temple Weekly Update for more information soon.

Fundraising – Suzanne Crawford



Mah-Jongg Madness, May 31st

All levels of Mah-Jongg players, from beginner to advanced, should register for the Mah-Jongg Tournament to be held Sunday, May 31st here at Temple Sinai. The fun begins at 9 am for sign-in and game play beginning at 9:30 am. Your \$30.00 registration includes lunch, game and door prizes.

Register by May 22nd by sending form and check to Temple Sinai, Attention Mah-Jongg Tournament.

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

I will bring a Mah-Jongg set Yes No

I can bring a Table Yes No

I will be East and keep score Yes No

Beginning Player Advanced Player



If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Crump 281-496-5950 or Suzanne Crawford. All proceeds benefit Temple Sinai.

"Justice, justice shall you pursue"

We gratefully acknowledge these generous gifts.

Shalom From Sinai

In honor of my daughter, Emily Hamlin Deakins, incoming president, by Helen R. Hamlin
In honor of our daughter, Emily's Bat Mitzvah, from Suzanne & Ian Crawford
Mazel Tov to Sandy Rushworth on becoming a Bat Mitzvah, from Linda & Marvin Katz
Mazel Tov to the Levin family on the arrival of Addison Reiss Levin, from Linda & Marvin Katz
In honor of Carol & Stu Levin receiving the Benefactor Award, from Linda & Marvin Katz
To thank Karen Westall for service as President from the Deakins family

Todd Levin Endowment Fund

In honor of Carol & Stuart Levin for being named Benefactor of the year
In honor of Emily Deakins being named President
In honor of Karen Westall in appreciation of what she has done as President for the past two years

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In honor of Rabbi Anne Belford for becoming our Rabbi

Donation for Bima Rail Installation

Special thanks to Arthur & Mary-Gene Caplan, Bruce and Marni Greenberg, Maria Korn-Michael, the Ken & Betty Berger Foundation, Frank & Adrienne Weber, Lee Ann Grossberg, Thea Goldin, Neil Nepo, Emily and John Deakins, Vera Crawford, Jill Gentsch, Ruth and Ed Stevelman, Margot Sechler, Robin and David Converse, Debbie and David Simon, and Karen and Tommy Westall; from Ian Crawford.

HONORABLE "MENSCH"EN'S

In this space we will recognize the "mensches" who have performed some mitzvah for the synagogue or one of its members during the past month. If we inadvertently missed you or another "mensch", let us know!

Thank you to all our teachers for their dedication to Jewish education and their love of teaching our children.

Thank you to the teachers who will take a break from teaching. We wish them the very best.

Thank you to Fiona Schicker, Linda Farber and the Geshet students for putting together beautiful Passover bags for MD Anderson patients and a very special thanks to Fiona, Jackie, and Sean Schicker who delivered all 40 bags to Jewish Family Service. Thank you to Marc Boin and Brotherhood and Joan Rich and Sisterhood for supporting this important project.

Thank you to everyone who helped with Open Dor Shabbat and to Mae Shaffer and Breanna Word who helped to set up for Oneg.

Thank you to Pam Shaffer, Carol Levin and Robin Converse who engaged our students in Charoset tasting on Passover.

Thanks to Norm Berlat for his coordination on the Blood Drive and the speaker.

Thanks to Michael Burg for his coordination for the Habitat for Humanity Build

Thanks to Rina Mesarwi for her coordination of the MD Anderson Passover Project

Thanks to Roger Rochman for all of his coordination of the Astros games for the Brotherhood

Thanks to Janet Clark and Cindy Crump for all of their hard work in developing *The Shofar* each month.

A special "thank you" all the Oneg volunteers who make the Friday night service so special for the B'nai Mitzvah parents.

Another huge "thank you" to all the cooks, helpers, and set up and clean up volunteers who make our 2nd Night Seder such a special event.

The list is too long to mention everyone in this space, but thanks to everyone who helped to make "Let It Shine!" a great success!

Thanks to all the Brotherhood members that participated in the Matzo Brei Breakfast, and made it such a huge success this year. A special thanks go to the four cooks, Marc Boin, Bob Horowitz, David Frishman, and Roger Rochman.

A Mazel Tov and a warm Thank You goes out to each of the participants in this year's Habitat For Humanity project. They included Tommy Westall, Chad & Linda Farber, Ian & Suzanne Crawford, Howard Gerber, David Frishman, David Whipple, and Marc & Josh Boin. A ton of sweat and hard work went into the project, and it is all deeply appreciated!

Thank you to the following people for sponsoring Shabbat Onegs:

Cindy & Jeff Stevenson in honor of Garrett's Bar Mitzvah

Paul & Maida Asofsky in memory of Abe Asofsky

Margot Sechler in honor of her father, Gil Sichel's birthday

AnnDee & Paul Wood in honor of Marisa's Bat Mitzvah

Christy Esmahan & Jose De Souza in honor of Adriano's Bar Mitzvah

Richard, Michael & Adam Rosenberg in memory of Della's birthday

Note: If you would like to host an Oneg Shabbat, please call Cindy in the Temple Office.



Temple Sinai – May 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	1 Board Rep: Diane Adler Board Installation 7:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Singing (Sanctuary) 7:30 PM Post Confirmation Graduation Service	2 Gesher Lock-In
3 9:00 AM Religious School (Rooms 1-9) 9:00 AM Ktantanim Class 10:30 AM Adult Hebrew I (Room 7) 10:45 AM (Re) Introduction To Judaism (Room 8)	4	5	6 6:45 PM Hebrew & Confirmation (Sanctuary, Rooms 1, 2, 4 and 7) 6:45 PM Post Confirmation	7	8 Board Rep: Spencer Marmelstein Jazz Shabbat & Carol Levin Celebration 7:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Singing 7:30 PM Shabbat Services (Sanctuary)	9 Sandy Rushworth Bat Mitzvah - (Sanctuary) Board Rep: Diane Statham 10:30 AM Shabbat Morning Services (Sanctuary)
10 9:00 AM Religious School (Rooms 1-9) 10:30 AM Adult Hebrew I (Room 7) 10:45 AM (Re) Introduction To Judaism (Room 8) 3:00 PM Committee Planning Meeting	11	12 Lag B'Omer 7:00 PM Committee Planning Meeting (Rm. 10-11)	13 12:00 PM Senior Sisters (Library) 6:45 PM Hebrew & Confirmation	14	15 Greta Guajardo Bat Mitzvah (Sanctuary) Board Rep: Betsy Hoover 2:00 PM Caring Committee Meeting 7:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Singing 7:30 PM Shabbat Services	16 Board Rep: Ian Crawford 10:30 AM Greta Guajardo Bat Mitzvah (Sanctuary)
17 9:00 AM Religious School (Rooms 1-9) 9:00 AM Ktantanim Class 10:30 AM Adult Hebrew I (Room 7) 10:45 AM (Re) Introduction To Judaism (Room 8) 12:00 PM RS End Of Year Program	18	19 7:30 PM Board Meeting (Room 10-11)	20	21	22 Sarah Waronoff Bat Mitzvah (Sanctuary) Board Rep: Ian Crawford 7:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Singing 7:30 PM Shabbat Services	23 Board Rep: Pam Shaffer 10:30 AM Sarah Waronoff Bat Mitzvah (Sanctuary)
24	25 Memorial Day (Office Closed)	26	27	28 7:00 PM Confirmation Service (Sanctuary)	29 Shavuot (Office Closed) Sisterhood Shabbat 7:30 PM Shabbat Services	30 7:00 PM Dining Havurah
31 9:00 AM Mah Jongg Tournament (Room 10-11)	1	2	3	4	5	6

