

The Shofar



Temple Sinai is dedicated to enhancing Jewish life by providing religious, educational, and social programs that reflect the values, customs, and traditions of the Reform Movement. We are a warm, friendly and vibrant community where friendship and caring are combined with religious faith, ritual observance, social interaction, and education for children and adults.

You've heard of Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah, but what is a Mitzvah Day?

For those of us who were Temple Sinai members last year, it was a glorious achievement in *Tikkun Olam*, repairing the world. For those of you new to Temple Sinai, it will be an experience you will not soon forget. For more information on this Sunday, January 29 event, see both the Community section and Rabbi Annie's column in the Ritual section.

Open Dor Shabbat Dinner and Service Honoring New Members

Please see the Ritual section for more about this Friday, January 20 event.

Did You Know That . . .

Some members of the Temple Board of Trustees will be stepping down at the end of April. Have you ever thought of stepping up to become a board member to help Temple Sinai on its future path? If so, Emily Deakins would like to hear from you. Learn more in the Community section.

January 2012
13875 Brimhurst
Houston, TX 77077
(281) 496-5950

www.temple-sinai.org

Temple Sinai is a member of the Union of Reform Judaism, www.urj.org.

Friday Night Service Schedule
Shabbat Service 7:30 PM

January Special Events

Bar Mitzvah of Jose Cervera
7:30pm, Friday, January 6
10:30am, Saturday, January 7

Sunday, January 8
10:30am Brotherhood Guest Speaker Dwight Silverman
1:00pm Sisterhood Paid Member Event

Bat Mitzvah of Jordan Farber
7:30pm, Friday, January 13
10:30am, Saturday, January 14

9:15am, Sunday, January 15
Adult Ed presents the Jews of Greece and Turkey

Friday, January 20, Open Dor Shabbat
6:00pm Tot Shabbat
6:30pm Brotherhood hosts Spaghetti Dinner
7:30pm, Service honoring New Members

6:00pm, Saturday, January 21, Dining Havurah

7:30pm, Friday, January 27, NCJW Service

Sunday, January 29, Mitzvah Day

**CHECK WEEKLY UPDATES
FOR ANY CHANGES**

Staff E-mail
[Rabbi Annie-rabbi@temple-sinai.org](mailto:RabbiAnnie-rabbi@temple-sinai.org)
[Rina Mesarwi-eddirect@temple-sinai.org](mailto:RinaMesarwi-eddirect@temple-sinai.org)
[Cindy Crump-admin@temple-sinai.org](mailto:CindyCrump-admin@temple-sinai.org)

Temple President, Roger Rochman
rrochmants@gmail.com



Temple Sinai is dedicated to enhancing Jewish life by providing religious programs...

Rabbi's Message – Anne Belford

If you think “Mitzvah” means good deed, you are sadly mistaken! Mitzvah actually means “commandment.” Good deed would usually be translated as “g’milut chasadim” (act of loving kindness) or maybe even “tikkun olam” (repair of the world). A mitzvah might be what we consider a good deed, like visiting the sick or giving financial support to a person or organization in need. But a mitzvah is also lighting Shabbat candles, or fasting on Yom Kippur.

There are 613 mitzvot/commandments in the Torah—and yes, people have gone through and counted each one! Some of these mitzvot are no longer applicable to our lives, such as the details of offering sacrifices at the ancient Temple. There are other areas of modern life where no commandments were written in the Torah—such as the “mitzvot” pertaining to Facebook or driving or even electricity! Yet, rabbis have been busy for centuries trying to apply ancient rules on ever-changing current realities, so while the Torah may not have a mitzvah for electricity use, rest assured the rabbis filled in that gap! The number of mitzvot that one *could* follow is, I believe, innumerable. You could fill your entire day, from the first moment you open your eyes to the moment you close them at night, with performing mitzvot. True—this could be burdensome. But it could also be incredibly exciting! How many ways can you connect to God in one day? Mitzvot makes that number sky-high!



Now you know that “mitzvah” does not mean good deed; now you understand that mitzvot could fill our lives at every moment. Still, Temple Sinai will soon be hosting our *Second Annual Mitzvah Day* on January 29. Last year, at our first ever Mitzvah Day, we had over 125 participants contributing in seven different areas. We baked hundreds of cookies for veterans, made countless cards for residents in nursing homes, and made the Temple sparkle and shine. This year, our goal is to involve even more people, in reaching even further out to the community. There will be activities that support the congregation, that contribute to the West Houston and Katy community, and that touch the lives of people in need. Through each activity, we will be working together—allowing our “good deeds” to not only make a positive impact on others but also on ourselves. At the end of the day, there is an incredible feeling of partnership and accomplishment. There are major problems facing our world, and while we may not find the cure for them all, we can make our contributions in meaningful, lasting ways. That is what Mitzvah Day is all about.

True, it may be more appropriate to call it “*G’milut Chasadim Day*,” but that just doesn’t have the same ring! So join us for Mitzvah Day—and make your life and the world a better place!

More about Mizvah Day can be found in the Community Section.

BIBLE & BAGELS

This has been an enlightening and meaningful if not surprising series led by our own Rabbi Annie; when attending you may discover how Tefillin or phylacteries touch the acupuncture pressure points to enhance ones intellectual capacities OR some very up to date ideas on child rearing from the Torah? Or are they? Come and find out what all the excitement is about and join in the discussion on the second Saturday morning of each month.

Bible & Bagels resumes Saturday, February 11, at 9:30am followed Shabbat morning services.

MAZEL TOV TO THE FAMILIES OF JOSE CERVERA AND JORDAN FARBER ON THEIR RESPECTIVE BAR / BAT MITZVAH!

HOW TWEET IT IS!



Follow Rabbi Annie on Twitter. You can sign up for a Twitter account at www.twitter.com . It is FREE. Then follow Rabbi Annie at www.twitter.com/RabbiAnnie. She will share fun and inspirational messages with us. If you have any questions or have any problems with signing up, please contact Margot Sechler.

ASK THE RABBI



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR ISSUES FOR RABBI ANNIE,
PLEASE SEND TO
ASKTHERABBI@TEMPLE-SINAI.ORG

AND WE WILL HIGHLIGHT THEM IN *THE SHOFAR*.

The Ritual committee and Rabbi Annie are working hard to make your spiritual experience at Temple Sinai a meaningful one. We appreciate those of you who contributed to the music fund or sponsored an oneg and we hope you will continue to do so. Please consider bringing some food to share with others when attending regular Shabbat services. We are always thankful for the extra support.

Open Dor Shabbat

Friday, January 20

6:00pm TOT SHABBAT SERVICES

This service is for our youngest worshippers and their families, led by Rabbi Annie with Josh Levine on guitar. It is musical, filled with stories, and fun for the whole family!

6:30pm BROTHERHOOD'S SPAGHETTI SHABBAT DINNER

Join us for our wonderful spaghetti dinner, made by our amazing Temple Sinai Brotherhood! The menu includes spaghetti, rolls, salad, and drinks. Everyone is invited! New members and guests eat free of charge! Otherwise, for children 12 and under, the cost is only \$3; for adults 13 and older, the cost is \$5.

7:30pm SHABBAT SERVICES~NEW MEMBER SHABBAT

Our weekly beautiful, musical, and inspiring services, led by Rabbi Annie will Josh Levine on guitar, followed by a delicious dessert Oneg! New Temple Sinai members will receive a special blessing.

Please call Rabbi Annie or Rina Mesarwi at (281) 496-5950 with any questions.



Temple Sinai is dedicated to enhancing Jewish life by providing educational programs...



Religious School

How wonderful it was to see so many students who are getting ready for their Bar or Bat Mitzvah as we had seen on December 3 when we gathered for a Shabbaton! Rabbi Annie, Fiona Schicker, and Rina Mesarwi conducted an informative Shabbaton for students and parents. Everyone was engaged in hands-on activities which enhanced the understanding of Bar/bat Mitzvah. Information of timeline, requirements, ritual guidelines, financial issues and other details were given to all. Everyone enjoyed sharing lunch together while sharing.

On Friday, December 9th, the fifth grade students and parents shared a Shabbat dinner together at Temple and participated reciting a prayer during the service. Ms. Fiona explained the Shabbat rituals to all and provided all with answers to some questions.

Rina Mesarwi & Melissa Lacombe



Front Row L to R: Naveen Krishnan, Jaya Krishnan, McKayla Bryson
Back Row L to R: Education Director Rina Mesarwi,
5th grade teacher Ms. Fiona Schicker

January Schedule:

1: No School – New Year

4: Hebrew, and Confirmation classes in session

8: 3 Year Olds and all other classes in session

8: 6th grade students participate in Tallit Workshop. Parents are invited. 9:00-10:30

11: Hebrew, Confirmation and Post Confirmation classes in session

15: All Classes in session

18: Hebrew and Confirmation classes in session

20: Open Dor Shabbat

22: All Classes in session

22: Teachers In Service 12:30- 2:30

25: Hebrew, Confirmation and Post Confirmation classes in session

29: All classes participate in Mitzvah Day

Jewish Federation investing in Temple Sinai, Beth Israel, Beth Yeshurun and Emanu El schools

The Jewish Federation is partnering with PELIE, *Partnership for Effective Learning and Innovative Education*, to provide funding for our synagogue/congregational school to participate in the first cohort of Houston schools using the JSASIP, the *Jewish School Assessment School Improvement Process*. The JSASIP is an effective comprehensive tool used in Jewish communities across North America to assess their schools' effectiveness and assist in developing an improvement plan. This tool creates a snapshot of the synagogue/school culture, makes the invisible visible, describes best practices in synagogue schools, and provides a shared vocabulary about synagogue school practices for community stakeholders.

The JSASIP is part of the Jewish Federation's **CSI Houston**, *Congregational School Initiative*, which has been in place for the past two years and has focused on professional development and lay leadership development at Temple Sinai and other congregations. The Jewish Federation is providing funding for two assessors to be trained to administer the JSASIP tool in our congregation and school. They will send out online surveys, arrange site visits, and conduct individual interviews in order to collect data from clergy, lay leadership, parents, teachers, and

students. Our congregation's leadership will receive a report that addresses areas including leadership, instruction, professional development, curriculum, families and parents, co-curricular programs, school culture, facilities, human resources and practices and procedures.

The JSASIP will provide a clear, standardized view of our institution's educational strengths and needs. The synagogue community will be strengthened and energized to explore educational priorities, reach consensus, target specific areas for improvement, and work together towards achieving common goals.

Training and assessments will take place in late winter/early spring, 2012. Temple Sinai joins Houston's Big 3 synagogues, Congregation Beth Israel, Congregation Beth Yeshurun, and Congregation Emanu El in participating in this first cohort.

For more information about the JSASIP and other programs of the Jewish Federation's Bureau of Jewish Education, contact Elaine Kellerman at EKellerman@houstonjewish.org or (713) 729-7000, ext. 310.

Temple Sinai Mitzvah Day

Sunday, January 29

ADULT EDUCATION

JEWES AROUND THE WORLD

Please join your fellow congregants on **Sunday, January 15, at 9:15 a.m.** for a show and tell about **the JEWS OF GREECE/TURKEY**. **Linda** and **Marvin Katz** have put together a program for us. You will find the stories of these Jewish communities fascinating. Appropriate refreshments will be provided.

Be sure to put **services on Friday, February 10, and Saturday, February 11, on your calendar**. Adult Education in conjunction with the Ritual Committee will present a **LEARNER'S SHABBAT** on those dates. Details will be provided in the next edition of *The Shofar* and upcoming weekly E-newsletters.

Please contact Diane Statham at admin@temple-sinai.org or (281) 496-5950 with any questions.

The Library Corner

By Betty Sichel

When Emily Deakins gave me *The Arrogant Years* by Lucette Lagnado, I was ambivalent about the book. Lagnado's *The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit* was one of the first books I reviewed for the Library Corner. In this earlier book, Lagnado tells the story of her family's life in Egypt, their immigration to Paris and then, to Brooklyn, New York. Her father, Leon, is the protagonist of this tale. He is the romantic in the white sharkskin suit, the bon vivant in Cairo, the man who adored good food, gambling, spending evenings with friends, and frequenting all of the best places in Cairo. With his forced migration in Egypt, Leon became a shadow, unrecognizable from his former self.

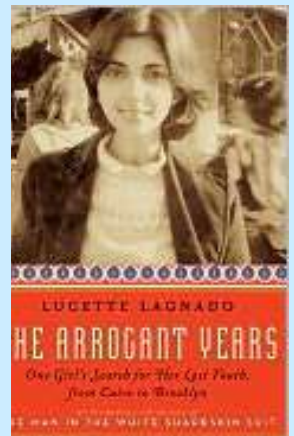
Now, this new book, according to reviews, went back over the same scenario from Egypt to Paris to New York. I was annoyed and apprehensive to read this new volume. Who wants to read the same story? Even Tolstoy did not give us another *War and Peace!*

But when I began reading *The Arrogant Years*, I realized that this was a different story, yes, and a very different book. This is the story of Edith, Lucette's mother. Though it begins in Egypt, mainly Cairo, and then Brooklyn, New York, we see these locales and the family's life and travails

from a very different perspective--Edith's struggles raising Lucette and then the struggles of Lucette (Lou Lou). Edith's young life in Cairo is framed by the Jews who reached the highest echelons of society. Then with the government of Nasser, the rich cultural life of the Jews and their stay in Egypt ends.

Edith's new life in Brooklyn is a very different world: the religious life of the Jews of the Levant, the social upheaval of the 1960's, a new and different school system, the NY City health system, and much more. One can see how different this new world is as compared with the world Edith left in Cairo.

Read *The Arrogant Years* by Lucette Lagnado and understand the lives and pain of the near eastern Jews who were uprooted from their communities that existed for centuries, from their rich lives, and how their lives were transformed in their new world





Temple Sinai is dedicated to enhancing Jewish life by providing social programs...



Sisterhood

Don't forget to fill out your leaf form so you can be a part of our Chuppah project. The form follows. We will be having another session cutting out the leaves and getting the quilt ready on Sunday, January 15, at 10:30am. Make sure you fill out your form as shown on the page following the Temple Gala information below.

And if you haven't taken the time to join Sisterhood yet, now is the time, come join all the fun this year. Membership forms are available in the Gift Shop and the front office.

Our Sisterhood Paid Member Event 1-3pm, Sunday, January 8

We will have Chef Ellen Schwartz teach us how to accessorize our cooking. Just as you accessorize your wardrobe with layers, she will show us how to do this with our cooking and teach us new recipes. Besides teaching cooking classes, Chef Ellen appears on Channel 26 cooking segments. Check out her website www.chefellen.weebly.com. Please RSVP to sinaisisters@aol.com and make sure that you are a member of Sisterhood to attend this wonderful program.

Remember that without you we are one Sister short!

Please refer any questions to sinaisisters@aol.com.

SENIOR SISTERS will meet Wednesday, January 11, at noon in Temple Sinai's library. **Iris Gardener** will be hostess and provide dessert. She has chosen "birthdays" as the topic for discussion.

Temple Gala

Save the Date: Saturday, March 24, 2012

We need your help. When dining at your favorite restaurants and shopping at your favorite stores, please ask for a tax deductible donation for our silent auction. We need a wide range of items to appeal to all, and every donation is greatly appreciated. Don't forget to look around the house for possibilities. Following is a donor sheet for the contributor. Thank you to the gala committee who is already working hard on another fabulous event!

Questions may be referred to AnnDee Wood, 2012 Gala Chair.

**TEMPLE SINAI
13875 Brimhurst
Houston, Texas 77077
(281) 496-5950**

TEMPLE SINAI 2012 - CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION FORM

Name of Business: _____

Contact Person/Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Description of Charitable Contribution (there are no restrictions or special instructions applicable to your contribution unless specifically stated):

Estimated Fair Market Value of Charitable Contribution \$ _____

Contributor's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please send your donation to Cindy Crump, Temple Sinai, 13875 Brimhurst, Houston, TX 77077. If we should pick-up your donation, please call or email Cindy at (281) 496-5950.

Temple Sinai, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, has not provided you with any goods or services in exchange for this contribution. Please retain this document for your records. It is an important record necessary for any available tax deduction for this contribution.

PLEASE RETURN A COPY OF THIS FORM WITH YOUR DONATION TO ENSURE THAT YOU RECEIVE PROPER ACKNOWLEDGMENT AT THE SILENT AUCTION.

No refunds will be given on any contribution.

Thank you for your support!



A Tree Grows in Sinai

Each family will be able to add their name to a leaf that will become part of the tree of life. There is no charge for the leaf, but you must fill out our "leaf form" to participate.

Family name: _____

What you want written on your leaf

Remember the leaf is small so take that into account.

Email this form to sinaisisters@aol.com or bring it to Temple and leave it on the desk in the office.



Join Temple Sinai Havurah for dinner at **YAO Restaurant & Bar**

Located at:

9755 Westheimer at Gessner

When:

Saturday, January 21, at 6:00 PM

R.S.V.P. to:

Marni Greenberg at admin@temple-sinai.org

or (281) 496-5950 by

Wednesday, January 18

As usual,

- Dress is business casual
- Each party will get their own bill
- Gratuity is expected
- Seating is first come-first served



We are a warm, friendly and vibrant community...

President's Message – Roger Rochman



January is upon us and that evokes in our minds a new beginning, everything starting anew. Although for us as Jews that new beginning actually occurred at Rosh

Hashanah, nevertheless we do live in a secular society so for us this is a second new beginning.

We all lead very hectic, fast paced lives during the week so it is important to take time, slow down, and just unwind and relax. It is like G-d envisioned life today when he commanded us to rest on the seventh day. If you are like me, my life during the week is why I look forward to Shabbat.

I find that my rush-rush week, and that includes rushing to get to Temple on Friday evenings, suddenly stops

when Shabbat services begin. I can honestly say that I can feel the tension and

stress built up over a whole week literally drain out of my body as the Friday night service progresses, and by the end of services I feel totally relaxed. Attending Shabbat services really does enable me to slow down.

So as the new secular year begins I suggest you try attending Friday night services if you don't already. If you are like me, you will find that Rabbi Annie's spiritual and meaningful service goes a long way toward helping the inner peace of Shabbat envelop you.



The 2011-2012 Board of Trustees

President, **Roger Rochman**
VP Administration: **Marc Boin**
VP Education: **Barbara Shepard**
VP Long Range Planning: **Maria Korn-Michael**
VP Ritual: **Fiona Schicker**
Secretary: **David Whipple**
Treasurer: **Ian Crawford**
Assistant Treasurer: **Lee Markiewicz**
Financial Secretary: **Diane Adler**

Adult Education Chair: **Diane Statham**
Building & Security Chair: **Bruce Greenberg**
Membership Chair: **Robin Converse**
Member-at Large: **David Simon**
Member-at-Large: **Gail Brownfield**
Social Acton Chair: **David Schwam**
Fundraising Chair: **Mike Seltzer**

Communications Chair: **Margot Sechler**
Leadership Development: **Karen Westall**
Immediate Past President: **Emily Deakins**
Brotherhood President: **Terry Triestman**
Sisterhood President: **Diane Adler**

Questions for any board member may be sent to admin@temple-sinai.org with his or her title in the subject line.

Have you ever thought about becoming a board member? Congregational Immediate Past President Emily Deakins is the chair of the nominating committee this year for the Board of Trustees election. Her committee will represent a cross-section of the congregation. A listing of board positions is shown above, although not all will have a vacancy for the coming year. If you would like to be considered for one of the positions on the board, please contact Emily. Descriptions of the roles are available to anyone interested.

Temple Sinai Staff

Rabbi **Anne Belford**

Education Director **Rina Mesarwi**

Administrator **Cindy Crump**

Save the date: Friday, January 20, all new members from June 2011- Dec 2011 will be honored as part of our Shabbat celebration.

See the Ritual section for more details about this event.

If you are interested in joining the Membership Committee, please contact Robin Converse, Membership Trustee.



Mitzvah Day 2012

Temple Sinai's Second Annual Mitzvah Day!

Sunday, January 29



What is Mitzvah Day?

Mitzvah Day is Temple Sinai's day of community volunteerism. Imagine dozens of congregants joined together to do something good... Envision the feelings of everyone involved—the volunteers and the recipients—as we build new bridges of connection and understanding.... THAT is Mitzvah Day!

Sounds great! Who gets to participate? Are there age limits?

Last year, more than 100 congregants participated in specially organized projects that benefited our community. While some projects may have minimum age requirements, most are open to everyone – including our youngest members.

Wow! I can't wait to start! How do I sign up?

The Social Action Committee is currently identifying potential projects for Mitzvah Day. More information will be available in the coming weeks. Please watch for updates in the Weekly Email.

Mitzvah Day 2012

Please join us for Temple Sinai's

Second Annual Mitzvah Day!

Sunday, January 29th, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

What is Mitzvah Day?

Mitzvah Day is a day of community volunteerism. Imagine dozens of people joined together to do something good... Picture groups working in unity to feed the hungry, support our soldiers, and honor the aged... Envision the feelings of everyone involved—the volunteers and the recipients—as we build new bridges of connection and understanding.... THAT is Mitzvah Day!

Sounds great! Who gets to participate? Are there age limits?

The **entire congregation** is invited and encouraged to sign up for one of our amazing projects, benefitting both the Temple community and the community at large. The program list and descriptions below indicate if there are any age limits for the particular project, but many of them are open to children and adults of any age. **Please note there is NO Sunday School on January 29th. However, we do expect every student AND their family to sign up for a project!**

Wow! I can't wait to start! How will it work?

We will join together in the Sanctuary at 8:30 a.m. on January 29th for a brief welcome and rally. Then, every volunteer will join their Project Team Leader, who will give them the instructions for the day. If a project takes place off-site, the project participants will caravan there together. Every project begins around 9 a.m., but will finish at a different time. The details are on the project list.

I'm ready to go! How do I sign up?

Simply complete the attached registration form, and either mail it in to Temple, or e-mail your information to Cindy in the office (admin@temple-sinai.org) **by January 23rd**. Be sure to make a first, second, and third choice, as some projects have space and age limitations. You may not get your first choice, but you will get an incredible experience no matter what you do. Projects are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, so be sure to respond as quickly as possible. Your team leader or a member of the staff will let you know what project you will be working on.

If you have any other questions, contact Rabbi Annie [(281) 496-5950] or Social Action Chair David Schwam [admin@temple-sinai.org].

#	Project Name	Project Description	Agencies & Team Leader	Ages & Times	Location	Max. #
1	Brighten Sinai	A pre-Spring cleaning of Temple Sinai	Temple Sinai Leader: Brotherhood	All ages 9-12	Temple Sinai	Any
2	A Walk In the Park	Beautify Terry Hershey Park	Harris County Parks Department Leader: Religious School, Education Committee	All Ages 9:30- 11:30	Terry Hershey Park (North Parking Lot on Memorial Dr.)	Any
3	Feed the Hungry	Volunteer at area food pantry sorting food and beautifying garden.	Katy Christian Ministries Food Pantry Leader: Christy Esmahan	10+ 9-11	KCM Food Pantry	20
4	Brookwood, Part 1	Make cards and Tu Bishvat bags for residents of this community for adults with disabilities	Brookwood Leaders: Karen Kessler and the Ritual Committee	All ages 9-10:30	Temple Sinai	Any
5	Brookwood, Part 2	Travel to Brookwood to participate in their Sunday worship, which Temple Sinai members will lead for Tu Bishvat!	Brookwood Leaders: Karen Kessler and the Ritual Committee	All ages 1:30PM- 3:30 PM	Brookwood Communtiy, Brookshire	Any
6	Support Our Troops!	Write letters & cards to Jewish men and women serving in our armed forces!	Jewish Chaplain's Council Leader: TBD	All ages 9-10:30	Temple Sinai	Any

*Please also support the Confirmation class "Blessing Bag" project!
Bring travel-sized deodorant, Kleenex, chapstick, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and hand sanitizers, so we can share these small "blessings" with homeless men and women of Houston! Thank you!*

Registration Information

Name(s) of Participants (please include children's ages):

Project Request: 1st Choice: _____ 2nd Choice: _____ 3rd Choice: _____

Contact Information (Phone # and E-mail): _____



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 from Sisterhood

- To **Pam Lowry** and **Joan Rich** for arranging our very successful Hanukkah Bazaar and Gift Shop Sale. Hope everyone got all their shopping done.
- To everyone that helped out and baked and cooked at our great Hanukkah celebration. We hope that everyone got their box of candles and lotsa, lotsa latkes.

Thank you from Rina Mesarwi, Educational Director

- To **Rabbi Annie** and **Fiona Schicker** for all they did to provide a great Shabbaton for our students
- To **Fiona Schicker** for celebrating Shabbat with our students and their families.

Thank you from the Adult Education Committee

- To **Karen Kessler, Becky Walker, and Joan Adler** for their assistance with the Adult Education luncheon on December 10
- To **Rabbi Annie** for presenting the program on the Jews of India and to **Al** and **Andrea Sklar** and **Bruce** and **Marni Greenberg** in making possible the program on discussing Temple Sinai's trip to Israel.

Thank you from the Ritual Committee

To **Rabbi Annie, Andrea Sklar, Rina Mesarwi, Brian Hertz, and Andrew Rochman** for all they did to provide a great TeSTY Shabbat service December 9. Not only did the students lead services under the very competent direction of Andrea as the Ritual VP of TeSTY, but they also included the 5th grade class in the experience. It is always so gratifying to see our young members step up and take the reins..

We gratefully acknowledge these generous gifts

Shalom from Sinai

- From **Diane Statham** in honor of Kaitlin Hauser's Bat Mitzvah
- From **Becky & Greg Walker** in honor of Becky's outstanding recovery from surgery
- From the **Schicker Family** in honor of Andrea Sklar's incredible job writing, leading and doing the divar for the TeSTY Shabbat service on December 9.

Music Program

From **Becky & Greg Walker** in honor of Becky's outstanding recovery from surgery

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

From **Lee Ann Grossberg & Margaret Stone** in honor of Rabbi Annie officiating at their *auf ruf* and house blessing

Thank you to the following people for sponsoring Shabbat Onegs:

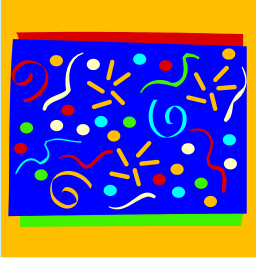
David & Karen Kessler

If you would like to host an Oneg Shabbat in honor of a special occasion or in memory of a loved one, please call Cindy in the Temple office.

Your donations are key for us to continue to provide the experience you have come to expect from Temple Sinai. Whether large or small, each donation is important and appreciated, and will be acknowledged in The Shofar. Thank you for your consideration.

Temple Sinai Scrip Program

Buy gift cards for your favorite retailers at Temple Sinai. You pay nothing more and Temple Sinai reaps the reward. Contact the office or Iris Rochman for more information. For a complete list of merchants, go to www.glscrip.com.



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.

**JANUARY 2012
CALENDAR**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 NO Religious School	2 Office Closed - Observance of New Year's Day	3	4 Hebrew & Confirmation 5:30 PM Adult Hebrew III 6:30 PM Adult Hebrew I & II	5	6 Board Rep: Emily Deakins Jose Cervera Bar Mitzvah 7:30 PM Shabbat Services (Sanctuary)	7 Board Rep: Gail Brownfeld 10:30 AM Jose Cervera Bar Mitzvah (Temple Sinai)
8 Tallit Workshop - 6th Grade Religious School 9:45AM Gala Committee Meeting 10:30 AM Brotherhood Meeting & Speaker Dwight Silverman (Library) 10:45 AM Education Committee Meeting 1:00 PM Sisterhood Paid Member Event (Room 10/11)	9	10	11 Post Confirmation Hebrew & Confirmation 12:00 PM Senior Sisters (Library) 5:30 PM Adult Hebrew III 6:30 PM Adult Hebrew I & II	12	13 Jordan Farber Bat Mitzvah Board Rep: Lee Markiewicz First Methodist Church of Katy Confirmation Class 7:30 PM Shabbat Services (Sanctuary)	14 Board Rep: Diane Statham 10:30 AM Jordan Farber Bat Mitzvah
15 Religious School 9:15 AM Adult Education: Jews of Greece & Turkey 12:30 PM Ritual Committee Meeting (Room 10/11) 12:30 PM Sisterhood Board Meeting (Library)	16 Office Closed - Observance Martin Luther Day	17 6:30 PM Executive Board Meeting 7:30 PM Board Meeting	18 Hebrew & Confirmation 5:30 PM Adult Hebrew III 6:30 PM Adult Hebrew I & II	19	20 Open Dor / New Member Shabbat Board Rep: Ian Crawford Sponsored Oneg 6:00 PM Tot Shabbat 6:30 PM Congregational Spaghetti Dinner 7:30 PM Shabbat Services (Sanctuary)	21 6:00 PM Dining Havurah (Yao Restaurant & Bar)
22 Religious School 12:30 PM Teacher Workshop	23	24	25 Post Confirmation Hebrew & Confirmation 5:30 PM Adult Hebrew III 6:30 PM Adult Hebrew I & II	26	27 NCJW Service Board Rep: Maria Korn- Michael 7:30 PM Shabbat Services (Sanctuary)	28
29 Mitzvah Day Religious School With Families	30	31	1	2	3	4