

THE KEHILLA

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Learn to Lead Services

Do you wish you knew the service a little better? If you had more knowledge and more confidence would you lead a service or part of a service? I am planning to teach a participatory class on how to lead services. If you are interested, please contact me and let me know when is the best time for you to meet. The class will be held each time I'm in town and will have as many sessions as people need to build the necessary skills. Leading services is not just for rabbis – anyone can do it. Come learn how.

Rabbi Arinna Moon

Is This Your Mitzvah?

A few years ago, a friend of mine and her husband were on their way to an event and listening to the radio in the car. On the news was a story about a non-profit organization which had been robbed of the toys they were giving away to their needy clients. My friend turned to her husband and said, "Michael, that's our mitzvah!" They drove to the store, bought the toys the agency needed and delivered them that afternoon. While most of us are happy to donate to an organization and let them spend the money as they see fit, sometimes if we know about a specific need it touches us in a special way and we feel inspired to do what we can to help. You now have the opportunity to sponsor an event or underwrite the cost of a particular item for the synagogue. Each month you'll find a wish list in the Kehilla of items the synagogue needs. Please consider donating something you see there. One of these just might be your mitzvah.

Rabbi Arinna Moon



Mishloah Manot

Purim is right around the corner. This year we will have a congregation-sponsored opportunity to fulfill one of the four commandments for observing Purim – that of sending gifts to our friends. The congregation will be providing gift baskets which can be purchased. The first one is \$25; each subsequent basket is \$3. Baskets will be hand delivered. Send one to all your friends. More details will follow in the February Kehilla. In the meantime, start making your list.

How to Reach the Rabbi

In January I will be in town from Wednesday the 14th through Sunday the 18th. I will be in the office most of the day on Thursday and Friday. I'm also available to meet with you over a meal or coffee. You can reach me on my cell phone (307) 630-1926 anytime, whether I'm in town or not, or you can email me at

ravleahshira@gmail.com.



Arinna's Arena

Dear Congregants,

Our Hanukkah party was such a joyous event! All those glowing lights, the lovely music, the tasty food made for a beautiful community celebration. The holiday of Hanukkah is more than fun though. It inspires us to think about rededication – not only the historical rededication of the ancient Temple,

but the ways in which we recommit ourselves to our values and the relationships that are important to us.

The Talmud teaches us that as Jews, we are responsible for one another. While there are multiple meanings in that statement, I'd like to focus on one in particular. As we enter our new fiscal year, we need to consider rededicating ourselves to the financial support of the synagogue. After all, Mt. Sinai is the only Jewish institution in Cheyenne. It provides a place to worship, a place to study and a place to gather as a community. When you have a *simcha*, like a bar mitzvah or a wedding, the Mt. Sinai congregation will be there to celebrate with you. And when you die, Mt. Sinai will bury you and mourn with your family. Mt. Sinai is not just a membership organization; it is our congregational home. The synagogue provides continuity from one generation to the next. Just as the founding families established this institution for us to enjoy today, so too are we responsible for seeing to it that the next generation will also be able to participate in organized Jewish life in Cheyenne.

Deut. 16:16 instructs us that we are not to appear before the Eternal empty-handed, but each with our own gift, according to the blessing that God has bestowed upon us. What this means is that everyone who partakes of what the synagogue has to offer is responsible for helping to maintain it financially. Those who have more can fulfill a mitzvah by helping to carry those who have less. But no one is exempt.

Giving *tzedakah* is one of our most important Jewish values. Why not give your dollars to the institution that sustains Jewish life in Cheyenne? Mt. Sinai is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization. Your donation may be tax-deductible. Here are some ideas for giving to consider. 1) Increase your pledge. The synagogue can best create a realistic budget when we know what to expect financially. 2) Give donations to events you attend. The dinners, movies and parties all cost money to put on. 3) Save your loose change and give it to the synagogue. It adds up. 4) Underwrite a specific project or need. 5) Make a lasting contribution by buying a stained glass window and increasing the synagogue's endowment fund. 6) Remember the synagogue in your will – leave a legacy for future generations.

May the warm glow of the Hanukkah lights shine in our hearts as we rededicate ourselves to our spiritual home.

Rabbi Arinna Moon

Sermons and Teachings

The Rabbi's sermons and selected teachings are available on the website on the Rabbi's page. Go to www.mtsinaicheyenne.org.



B'nai B'rith Cheyenne Lodge #883

On Wednesday, December 24, 2008, members of Mt. Sinai Congregation and B'nai B'rith Lodge #883 brightened Xmas eve for the firemen of Station #1 by providing turkey dinner with all the trimmings. This is the eighth year this dinner was prepared. Donna Pepper started this mitzvah the year after 9/11 to show our appreciation for the work done by the firemen. Ever since then, the Cheyenne Lodge has provided funding for feeding two hungry shifts of firemen. A big "atta boy and girl" goes to Ilana and Doreen Glotzer, Georgia Young, Donna Pepper, Stephanie and Michael Erlich, Phyllis Bloomberg, Lester and Agnes Weinstein, Ruth Langley, Helen Zigmond, Lea Gancz, Bob Donin, Lila Gallensky, Joe Golden, Bonnie Scotto, Roz Baker, Dorothy Feldman, and Susan Abraham. The firemen were very appreciative of the Jewish community. Thanks to everyone involved.

Up coming events:

Sunday, Jan. 11 12:00 Sisterhood meeting
Sunday, Jan. 11 1:30 Dance class with Bea Montross
Wednesday, Jan. 14 7:00 Membership meeting
Thursday, Jan. 15 6:00 Board retreat
Friday, Jan. 16th 5:30 Dinner before services
Saturday, Jan. 17th 3:00 Study with the Rabbi
Saturday, Jan. 17th 7:00 Havdalah and movie
Sunday, Jan. 18th 10:00 Intro to Judaism class
Sunday, Jan. 18th 1:30 Dance class with Bea Montross
Wednesday, Jan. 21st Board meeting
Sunday, Jan. 25th 1:30 Dance class with Bea Montross



A SWEET THANK YOU....

To everyone who helped with our See's Candy Sale and Gift Shop Open House. Once again we have been supported by so many of you, who helped in so many ways.

Thank you to everyone who pre-sold the candy, assembled the orders, and came in cold and snow to help out at the sale. We also appreciate your candy orders and your enthusiasm.

Final numbers are not in yet, but I know this year's sale was again a success. Even in hard economic times, See's Candy is a winner!

CHANUKAH PARTY

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our Chanukah party so much fun. We had a great turnout, lots of activities for all ages, and wonderful food. If you haven't yet checked out the pictures on our website, please do so (<http://mtsinaicheyenne.org>). A special thanks to our able kitchen crew. Bonnie Scotto did an amazing job in coordinating everything, even coming up with new latke recipes in addition to the traditional potato latkes. To get all those latkes ready to serve on time is no mean feat! Bonnie was ably assisted by Dorothy Feldman, Agnes Weinstein, Carol Fischer, Susan Abraham (who celebrated her birthday working in Mt. Sinai's kitchen!), Barb Cannon, and many others.

I always enjoy the lighting of the menorahs – so many different designs, each one special and beautiful. This year our celebration was enhanced by having our Rabbi leading the prayers and the singing.

Thanks also to Dave Lerner and Donna Pepper for their hilarious skit, Carol Fischer for her Chanukah cookies for the children to decorate, and Georgia Young for all the Chanukah goodies in the Gift Shop. A special thanks to Bea Montross, who came up with the idea of having our Jewish and Israeli Dance Group perform and then invite everyone to dance with us – what fun that was!

Finally, thank you to Donna Pepper, my intrepid coordinator for the party. This year we hunted high and low for the decorations, which were hiding in plain sight!

Phyllis Bloomberg



Recent Donors

Rosalyn Baker - in memory of her husband, Dick Baker
Steve Borin & Carol Fischer - pledge donation
Marlene Brubaker - in memory of father, Abe Rosenberg
Dennis & Andi Coelho - pledge donation
Drs. Michael & Stephanie Erlich - pledge donation
David Friedberg - dues donation
Gary Friedman - in memory of Sam Friedman
Howard & Lila Gallensky - cemetery donation
Neil & Allison Gallensky - in honor of Lila & Howard Gallensky's 50th anniversary
Neil & Allison Gallensky- in memory of parents her, Murry & Dorothy Shapiro
Neil & Allison Gallensky - pledge donation
Neil & Allison Gallensky - aliyah donation
Zoltan Gancz - dues donation
Zoltan Gancz - in memory of Israel Gancz
Donald & Helen Gerstein - aliyah donation
Donald & Helen Gerstein - pledge donation
Robert & Doreen Glotzer - pledge donation
Joe & Priscilla Golden - pledge donation
Dr. Leslie Ann Klein - in memory of father, Bernie Klein
Leonard Lapkin - pledge donation
Marvin & Shirley Leff - in memory of father, Edward Leff
Rich & Sally Nolan - pledge donation & Sisterhood donation
Norma Graber Pepper - in memory of mother, Ida Pasternack
Harlan Ribnik - pledge donation
Harry Shapiro - dues donation
Irv & Diana Shelby of San Diego, CA - Rabbi Discretionary Fund
Dennis & Pamela Smith -in memory of his parents, Harry & Adele Smith
Dennis & Pamela Smith - cemetery donation
Sandra Vinnik - unspecific donation
Lester & Agnes Weinstein - pledge donation
Agnes Weinstein - in memory of her daughter, Libby Weinstein
Marv & Dorothy Wolf - pledge donation
Dr. Sam & Joy Young - pledge donation
Susan Zinn - in memory of Ruth & Jack Shuman

Donations made in memory of Joe Gardner from:

Julie Anon
Steve Borin & Carol Fischer
Dan & Sue Dyer
Don & Helen Gerstein
Dennis & Pamela Smith

An apology to Anna Slutzky for listing her mother as Frances Novick. Her mother's name was Rosalie Novick.



January Birthdays

Agnes Weinstein
Mark Feldman
Jacob Means
Donna Pepper
David Young

Shalom,

How is everyone doing? I hope all is well there. Sally and I are doing ok - staying very busy, but doing fine. Teaching continues to go well and is still very rewarding. We would like to make a donation in honor of all the members of Mt. Sinai that helped make Mt. Sinai the friendliest synagogue. I'm sure you will put it to good use.

Thanks for everything!

Rich Nolan

I would like to make the following donation to Mt. Sinai Congregation:

My name _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

anniversary • birth • graduation • appreciation • birthday • marriage • bar or bat mitzvah

The contribution amount _____

Make checks payable to Mt. Sinai Congregation and mail to P.O. Box 1012, Cheyenne, WY 82003

The following is a list of funds to which contributions can be made. Please circle your choice.

B'nai B'rith • Gift Shop • Library • Yiddish Food Festival • Rabbi Fund • Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Endowment Fund • Trust Fund • Building Fund • Cemetery Fund • Uri Neil Window Fund

Other _____

Please send acknowledgment to _____

To donate to Sisterhood, Hadassah, or Jewish Women International contact Lila Gallensky.

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The Synagogue Board Meeting

The third Wednesday of the month

Mt. Sinai Synagogue

Located at 2610 Pioneer Avenue


307-634-3052

On the web at: www.mtsinaicheyenne.org

e-mail: info@mtsinaicheyenne.org

Website Provided by:

David Lerner and Wyoming Network



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