

THE KEHILLA

VOLUME 5

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MARCH 2009

ADAR 5769

Stained Glass Windows

Exciting news to share. According to Watkins Stained Glass, they have begun the drawings for five windows to be installed in the Community Hall. The Pasternack family approved the art work for Rachel, Sarah, Rebecca and Esther. The Weinstein family has approved the artwork for Hannah. These windows will occupy numbers 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 of the eleven windows. Please let us know if you have any interest in the five remaining windows.

The window in honor of Cantor Uri Neil will be the first in the Tree of Life grouping to be installed in the small chapel. To date we have collected donations that will cover about half of the cost. Please consider a donation this year towards Uri's window.

Contact Rosalyn Baker at 630-5466.

Yiddish Food Festival

Our first meeting was a success. A menu was designed that will build on our most popular and profitable items. The time line is on schedule. We will have the same Klezmer band and more dancing and other entertainment. Call me with your ideas and remember to put the date on your calendar, May 17th, 2009. Rosalyn Baker 630-5466

Hebrew for Adults

Would you like to be able to read and understand the prayers in the *siddur* (prayerbook)? Would you like to know what it really says in the Torah? Any translation you read is an interpretation. By learning Hebrew you can read and understand for yourself. This class will teach you the alef-bet, the basics of Hebrew grammar and how to read the prayers. No prior knowledge is necessary; this course is for beginners. It will be held every Thursday evening at 7:00 beginning March 5 and will be team taught by the Rabbi and Jeff Weinstein. Additionally, taking the course meets one of the requirements of conversion. Free to members; \$50 per quarter for non-members. Please call the synagogue to sign up.

Thanks, Rabbi

Board Reviews Survey Results

On February 18, 2009, the Board reviewed the surveys used to evaluate the effectiveness of the Congregation, Board, and Rabbi. The Board would like to thank everyone who took the time to give input.

There have been many changes at Mount Sinai over the last eight months. The biggest has been the hiring of Rabbi Moon and having a rabbinical presence in Cheyenne after almost 20 years. There are inherent difficulties in this transition. The disruption of our traditions is an issue any new religious leader would experience. The Board realizes that we can not please all the people all the time and hopes our efforts reflect the desire of the majority of our community.

The survey results illustrate this situation. Thirty-two surveys were reviewed, a response rate of 35%, which is above the 25% average rate of return for this type of survey. Approximately nineteen were positive, eight were negative, and five were neutral. These results were approximate, but three independent evaluations of survey results were not significantly different.

There were some common themes in the constructive criticism. Respondents indicated a need for shorter services, more community outreach, and recruitment of new members. Those participating in the educational and social programs enjoyed them. Another common thread was the need for a full time Rabbi.

In light of the survey requests, and a unanimous vote by the Board, we are now negotiating a new contract with Rabbi Moon. The Board appreciates the congregation's patience and support during this past year.

Purim Baskets

We are looking forward to delivering many Purim baskets to our members and other Jewish families in the Cheyenne area. The baskets are chock full of delicious kosher goodies and our new Mt. Sinai mugs are sure to be collectors' items. Our thanks to everyone who has participated in this project. Our special thanks to Rabbi Moon, who got the ball rolling!





ARINNA'S ARENA

Dear Congregants,

As I write this column, it is Rosh Hodesh Adar. The month of Adar is associated with happiness. In the Purim story, the evil Haman cast lots to decide when to kill the Jews and the lot (pur) fell on the month of Adar. Therefore the rabbis stated, "With

the start of the month of Adar we greatly increase joy."

There are four mitzvot associated with this holiday. The first one is to hear the megillah – the story of Queen Esther and her Uncle Mordechai and how they saved the Jewish people from destruction. The story is a farce and the numerous plot devices point to the whimsical nature of the tale. God is not mentioned at all in this text, perhaps because it would be irreverent to mention God in such a comic setting. The levity of the book gives the holiday its joyous character and the threat to the Jews is never taken seriously. You can observe this mitzvah by coming to the synagogue and hearing the story read. Dress up as your favorite character and get into the spirit. Noise makers will be provided to drown out the name of Haman.

The second mitzvah we observe is having a festive meal on the afternoon of Purim. We're going to get a head start by having goodies after the megillah reading, however you and your friends and family are encouraged to get together the next day and celebrate with food. The third mitzvah is mishloah manot, sending gifts of food to friends. This year we have inaugurated the Purim Basket Project in which congregants can buy lovely gift baskets made by Mt. Sinai members that are delivered directly to the homes of other Jewish community members. Be on the lookout for yours between March 5th and March 10th, weather permitting.

The fourth and final mitzvah is giving money to the poor. Of course this is a commandment we should observe throughout the year, but it gives us special pleasure to be able to help out others in need during this holiday. It also helps others to be able to enjoy the festival as well.

Purim is a time to let loose and feel good; an opportunity to masquerade as someone other than yourself. After all of the persecutions that Jews have faced throughout history, this holiday affirms the bright moments of victory and helps us to balance the hard times with genuine joy. Purim is celebrated on the 14th of Adar which this year falls on March 10th. And since holidays always begin the evening before, we will be celebrating Purim on the evening of March 9th. Come join in the fun of this topsy-turvy holiday and let's rejoice together as a community. And may the month of Adar be especially happy for you and your family.

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.

How to Reach the Rabbi. The Rabbi will be in town March 5 – 10 and March 26 – 29. She can be reached any time on her cell phone: (307) 630-1926 or by email: ravleahshira@gmail.com.

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

Join us for:

Megillah Reading
Monday March 9th 7:00 p.m.

Shabbat Across America
Friday, March 20th 6:00 p.m.

Bea's Folk Dancing class Sun. 1:30

Friday Shabbat Service 7:00 p.m.

Saturday Shabbat Service 9:00 a.m.

Saturday study group 3:30 p.m.

The Sisterhood Meeting
The second Sunday of the month.

The Synagogue Board Meeting
The third Wednesday of the month.

Adult Hebrew Class
Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

Matzah Fund

Cheyenne Lodge # 883 B'nai B'rith is collecting for the annual Matza Fund. Jewish communities throughout the world traditionally collect funds to support the poor and needy. Leaders of the communities were put in charge of collecting funds to meet these needs. Our community, with G-D's help and yours, will continue this Mitzvah. The money collected here is distributed to over 40 charities in the U.S. and Israel. Please help with this worthy endeavor and make your donation before Pesach. Make out your check to the Matzah Fund and send it to Jeff or Lester Weinstein.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Sincerely,
Lester Weinstein



Mah Jongg players wanted!

Have you been looking for friends to play with? Have you always wanted to learn? Are you just curious? The Mt. Sinai Sisterhood Mah Jongg group has started up again. Come join us on Sundays from 3:00 to 4:30 PM.. For more information please contact Phyllis at Sisterhood@mtsinaicheyenne.org.

Day of Giving

With the approval of the Mt. Sinai Board of Directors, Joe Golden applied for and was voted in as a member of the Day of giving Board of Directors. While Mt. Sinai Congregation has had limited involvement in the past, it is hoped that there will be more in this and coming years. - Note: jeff, this means you will lose another pint of blood.

For information about the Day of Giving, contact Joe Golden at 634-1215.

Shabbat Across America/Canada
Friday, March 20, 2009, 6:00 p.m.

Mt. Sinai Congregation has applied to become part of the 2009 Shabbat Across America/Canada sponsored by the National Jewish Outreach Program. As part of this activity, a dinner will be included to allow us to share a Friday night Shabbat experience – where friends, families, neighbors and newcomers can sit together and share the warmth of Shabbat.

We will be joining with over a half a million Jews, in about 2,000 locations, to make this a unique Shabbat experience. It is up to each of you to invite your friends, your neighbors and especially to invite anyone you know who has a Jewish background.

Donations will be accepted, not even reluctantly.

For further information, contact Joe Golden 634-1215.

Y = Yahrzeits begin at sundown on the day before

March 2009

* = Honoree's name on Memorial Board [Tab/Col/Row]

5 Adar 5769 - 6 Nisan 5769

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Y.*Fannie Esther Leff Y.*Selma W. Steinberg 5 Adar	2 Y.*Nathan Kopald [6/1/17] Y.*Dr. William S. Klein 6 Adar	3 Y.*Samuel G. Caminsky [1/2/5] 7 Adar	4 Y.*Mattie Davis 8 Adar	5 Y.Elaine Veta 9 Adar	6 Y.*Phillip Quiat Y.*Melvin Menkin [2/2/19] Y.Ira Moshe Pepper Y.*Morton I. Herman Y.*Isadore Alia Bolten 10 Adar	7 Y.*Irene Hite Y.Jacob Hite Y.Lorraine Zeigler Glotzer 11 Adar
8 Y.Barbara Golden Y.*Alice Coleman [6/1/4] Y.Richard Georgio 12 Adar	9 Y.*I. M. Caminsky 13 Adar	10 Y.*Dora Wolf [2/2/8] 14 Adar	11 Y.*Bertha Fox Y.*Rabbi Morris S. Susman 15 Adar	12 Y.Clarence Rosenblum Y.*Sam Menkin [2/2/17] 16 Adar	13 Y.*Faye Marchick Friedman [5/3/14] Y.Emily Baskin 17 Adar	14 Y.*Jack Pasternack [6/2/5] Y.*Leo Mandel [3/4/19] 18 Adar
15 19 Adar	16 20 Adar	17 Y.*Mata Snyder Y.*Jack Wax 21 Adar	18 Y.*Thelma S. Merlin Y.Hillel Waldman 22 Adar	19 Y.Mary Stark Y.*Abe Goldstein Y.*Rae Veta Ross 23 Adar	20 24 Adar	21 Y.Harriet C. Einstein Shulan 25 Adar
22 Y.*Marvin Schwartz [2/3/15] Y.*Solomon H. Snyder [4/1/3] Y.*Herman Kaufman [2/2/13] 26 Adar	23 Y.*Anne Bobb [1/1/20] Y.*Bernice Goldstein [3/1/11] Y.*Morris Weinstein [5/1/10] 27 Adar	24 Y.*Lena Rosenberg [6/1/5] 28 Adar	25 Y.*Rhoda Heslep [4/3/9] Y.*Rachel Itzkovitch [3/4/5] Y.*Louis Levitt [3/4/14] 29 Adar	26 1 Nisan	27 Y.*Pearl Veta Licata [1/4/16] Y.Sally Doris Wynn 2 Nisan	28 Y.*Sam Ghelber [2/1/6] 3 Nisan
29 Y.*Sadie Wolinsky [2/4/16] 4 Nisan	30 Y.*Samuel Bernard Dobrow [1/3/7] Y.Warren Dale Anderson 5 Nisan	31 6 Nisan				

Wish List Is this your mitzvah? Please consider a donation for one or more of the following items.

Teacher's texts for Adult Hebrew \$40 • Friday night congregational dinner \$75 • Case of wine for Kiddush \$50
Toner cartridge for the printer \$90 • Toner cartridge for the copier \$150 • Color laser printer \$400

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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Mt. Sinai
Congregation
P.O. Box 1012
Cheyenne, WY 82003