

# The Sinai Messenger

## Temple Sinai

713 Hodges St. Lake Charles, LA 70601  
<http://templesinai.info> / T: 337-439-2866

January, 2018  
February, 2018

Tevet/Shevat 5778  
Shevat/Adar 5778



## WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

### JANUARY 2018      TEVET/SHEVAT 5778

#### Friday, January 5, 2018

6 PM

TORAH: **Sh'mot** Ex. 1:1-6:1

HAFTARAH: Isa. 27:6-28:13; 29:22-23

#### Friday, January 12, 2018

6PM

TORAH: **Va-eira** Ex. 6:2-9:35

HAFTARAH: Eze. 28:25-29:21

#### Friday, January 19, 2018

6 PM

TORAH: **Bo** Ex. 10:1-13:16

HAFTARAH: Jer. 46:13-28

#### Friday, January 26, 2018

6 PM

TORAH: **B'shalach** Ex. 13:17-17:16

HAFTARAH: Jud. 4:4-5:31 *Shirah*

Tu B'Shevat  
Jan 30 – 31

### FEBRUARY 2018      SHEVAT/ADAR 5778

#### Friday, February 2, 2018

6 PM

TORAH: **Yitro** Ex. 18:1-20:23

HAFTARAH: Isa. 6:1-7:6; 9:5-6

#### Friday, February 9, 2018

6 PM

TORAH: **Mishpatim** Ex. 21:1-24:18

HAFTARAH: II Kings 12:5-16 *Sh'kalim*

#### Friday, February 16, 2018

6 PM

TORAH: **T'rumah** Ex. 25:1-27:19

HAFTARAH: I Kings 5:26-6:13

#### Friday, February 23, 2018

6 PM

TORAH: **T'zaveh** Ex. 27:20-30:10

HAFTARAH: Esther 7:1-10; 8:15-17  
or I Sam. 15:2-34 *Zachor*

Purim  
Feb 28 – Mar 1

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## SERVICE LEADERS

January 5 – George Bodin  
January 12 – Rabbi Weinstein  
January 19 – Sarah Hodnett  
January 26 – Rabbi Weinstein

February 2 – Charlie St. Dizier  
February 9 – Rabbi Weinstein  
February 16 – George Bodin  
February 23 – Rabbi Weinstein

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## JEWISH TRIVIA!

It's all in the numbers!

**Question:** What is the meaning of 304,805 in Jewish life?

**Answer:** A Torah Scroll contains 304,805 letters!

**Question:** What does "39" signify in Jewish life?

**Answer:** The total number of books in the Hebrew Bible!



## Talk to the President...

If any member of Temple Sinai in good standing has questions, comments, or concerns that you would like me to address, or if it is something that a committee should take under consideration, please send them to me in writing by letter or by email. Good or bad, your thoughtful insight will be greatly appreciated.

George Bodin  
3510 Cross Street  
Lake Charles LA 70607

Email:  
gbodin@suddenlink.net

## Special Events...

### Nosh & Drash Dates:

January 6, 2018  
February 17, 2018  
March 3, 2018

10:00am Morning Service  
10:45am the Nosh  
11:00am the Drash

Rouge Jewish Film:  
January 10-14, 2018 Baton  
Festival <http://briff.com/>

Tevet 14, 5778 is the Hebrew date of January 1, 2018!

Of course most of us will welcome the first day of 2018 with our particular preferred celebration and partying. At the same time I believe it's important to keep in mind our very special Jewish calendar. After all, thinking Jewishly, if 14 Tevet is already here, the Hebrew month of Shevat must be fast approaching! And with Shevat's arrival, we anticipate its fifteenth day: Tu B'Shevat, the Fifteenth of Shevat and ANOTHER NEW YEAR, the New Year of the Trees!

## Rabbi Weinstein's Schedule:

January 12, 2018  
January 26, 2018  
February 9, 2018  
February 23, 2018

Here at Temple Sinai we will celebrate Tu B'Shevat with a special Tu B'Shevat Seder the evening of Friday, January 26, almost exactly on the 15th of Shevat. And again, thinking Jewishly about our Jewish calendar, with Tu B'Shevat's arrival, we already begin to get ready for 14 Adar: PURIM! And even as we celebrate the joy of Purim, the assignments for Passover Seder will be distributed, because 14 Nissan, Erev Pesach, will be quickly approaching. With Passover's arrival and our beautiful Seder celebration, the Counting of the Omer begins the Seven Weeks to Shavuot! Oops, I need to be sure we remember Lag B'Omer, the Thirty-third Day of the Counting of the Omer, a very special day described elsewhere in this bulletin.

I hope you have a copy of the most beautiful Hebrew Calendar prepared by Charlene and Tim and Chris Blevins! These special calendars have the most beautiful photographs of each of our major holidays and festivals! The Blevins lovingly donated these calendars to our Temple and they surely have a very special place in our homes! We keep an ample supply on the table as you enter our Sanctuary.

From the earliest days of my youth, thanks to the influence of my mom and dad and brother Of Blessed Memory, knowing the Jewish date was always important in our family. I've always been especially delighted to have learned that September 11, 1942, my birthday, was actually 29 Ellul, the last day of the Jewish year 5702, and Erev Yuntif 5703, the eve of Rosh HaShanah!

This is where I make a confession of my having overlooked until this writing a very important fact about the day of my birth: I was born on Erev Shabbes, for September 11, 1942, was Friday!! Now every birthday celebration with which G-d shall bless me will become all the more special! You might enjoy discovering the Jewish date of your birth, and you could well be surprised that it's actually close to or on a Jewish holiday or festival,

or especially on Shabbes. To assist in this endeavor, my favorite printed book on our Jewish Calendar with corresponding secular dates is The Comprehensive Hebrew Calendar: Revised, Expanded Edition 5660-5860, 1900-2100, by Arthur Spier, Feldheim Publishers, Jerusalem/ New York, 1986. Of course if you're comfortable in our new (new, still to me ) digital world, the best site I have found is [Hebcal.com](http://Hebcal.com).

Linda and I will welcome 2018 in our home and plan to watch the festivities around the country on TV. And surely we will be thinking of our cherished daughters and all our family, together with each and every one of you in our beloved Temple Sinai, hoping and praying for health, healing and joy for us all in 2018, and certainly the Continuation of 5778!

So in the spirit of our Jewish calendar,  
May we all have a most wonderful and joyous celebration **14 Tevet, 5778!!**

*Rabbi Barry Weinstein*

## A NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY...

After the loss of my flash drive during the latest flooding, I was able to recover quite a bit of my Temple business. It has become apparent, however, that my recovered yahrzeit files were not the ones with my latest corrections. Please send me the yahrzeits you'd like remembered on our Shabbat evenings in order for me to make the necessary corrections. I apologize profusely, and I assure you that I now have a backup system (thanks to Dan Boitnot) so that this will not happen again.

Thank you for your understanding,  
Sandy Desadier  
[sdesadier@gmail.com](mailto:sdesadier@gmail.com)  
10048 Gulf Hwy  
Lake Charles, LA 70607



# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

Wow! We've had a lot of wonderful things take place at Temple Sinai!

## **During Chanukah, Temple Sinai was buzzing with activity.**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Grade from Our Lady Queen of Heaven visited Temple Sinai and heard a really great talk given by Bruce Katz. The kids were attentive and interactive and loved the whole morning. It was wonderful to see such interest.

Many thanks to Bruce for inviting me to be a part of it.



## **And later that same evening...**

Our Chanukah Service was so very special and deeply meaningful with the lighting of the temple menorah and a baby naming...

Welcome Almos Mezey



## **The Next Morning for Torah Study...**

Charlene Blevins brought the most beautiful challah for us to share!

I look forward to many more gatherings at Temple Sinai and hope that the new secular year starts well for everyone!



*George Bodin*



# *Thank you from Rabbi Weinstein...*

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Good Shabbes and Happy Chanukah again to each of you!

I write to thank each of you AND each other person who worked so hard for our most wonderful Chanukah Celebration last evening!! Please help me thank everyone who helped by sharing this message as I fear omitting someone!!

I can only imagine all the time and effort and arranging and energy y'all had to expend to make everything so perfect in every way. The Social Hall was decorated beautifully and the entire Latkes and Meal were so perfectly delicious.

What an absolutely magnificent Chanukah - Shabbes Evening y'all made possible for our precious Temple Sinai. You each made our Chanukah Candles shine so very, very brightly and y'all provided our extraordinary children with Chanukah - Shabbes memories that will endure through their entire lives.

With continuing deepest appreciation in which Linda joins, and our love for each and every one of you,

*Barry*



# COURTYARD NEWS...

The courtyard is still under "construction". Susan Arnold is presently working on the stained glass mosaic that will fill the window opening in the north wall. We also still need to proceed with a partial "covering" (for lack of a better word). Please remember that the engraved pavers are an ongoing fundraiser for the renovations of the courtyard. Each paver (brick) cost \$100. It is a beautiful way to honor/memorialize a loved one or event and in the process help our continued efforts to enhance and beautify Temple Sinai. Please contact Sandy Desadier, [sdesadier@gmail.com](mailto:sdesadier@gmail.com), for order forms or pick one up in the social hall. Pavers will be engraved when we have a minimum of 10 orders total.

## *With Our Deepest Sympathy...*

Belated heartfelt condolences go out to Morele Rosenfeld, Karen & Harry Kleinman, David & Karen Kleinman and their children on the death of their beloved husband, father, and grandfather, Lewis Rosenfeld. Lewis passed away on October 27, 2017. His memory will be a blessing to all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Heartfelt condolences go out to Sallie Dondis, Nathan and Carrie Dondis, Elizabeth Dondis, Joel and Grechen Dondis, Jack, Andrew, and Hailey Dondis on the death of their beloved son, brother, and uncle, David Dondis. David passed away on December 17, 2017. His memory will be a blessing to all who knew him.

Heartfelt condolences go out to Nathan and Carrie Dondis on the death of their beloved mother, Shirley Bonin. Shirley passed away on December 17, 2017. Her memory will be a blessing to all who knew her.

## *Temple Birthdays & Anniversaries:*

### *January Birthdays:*

3	Joel Dondis
4	Elba Rivera
6	Sandy Desadier
16	Robert Levy
21	David Holtzman
25	Hayes Michel
25	Jeff Hankin
27	Barbara DiBartolo
28	Calvin Billings
31	Ellen Steirman
31	Spencer Thorn

### *February Birthdays:*

8	Bruce Katz
10	Rose Katz
12	Jennifer Goldman Pollack
18	Shirley Riff Billings
22	Ron Desadier
22	Julissa Rivera
23	Susan Chosen Reichstein
25	Alexis May
25	Mark Holtzman
26	Sarah Hodnett
27	Sallie Dondis

### *January Anniversaries:*

3	Barbara & Tony DiBartolo
19	Carol & Charlie St. Dizier

### *February Anniversaries:*

(none)

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## Temple Contributions

### **Funds:**

#### Sisterhood:

Decorating Fund  
General Fund  
Meal of Consolation

#### Send Checks to:

Ellen Raley  
4270 Indigo Place  
Lake Charles, LA 70605

#### Temple:

Adult Education Fund  
Camp Fund (Stu Greenberg Fund)  
Cemetery Fund  
Courtyard Fund  
General Fund  
Music Fund  
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund  
Tree of Life Fund

Temple Sinai  
713 Hodges St.  
Lake Charles, LA 70601

## Contributors

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print, clip and submit this form with your contribution to  
avoid any confusion during the acknowledging process.)



### **January 5, 2018**

Minnie Pearl Levy  
Roy Prater  
Jacob Winner  
Isaac Reinauer  
Vergie Comeaux  
Kenneth Hartman  
Rebecca Reinauer  
Esther Goldman  
Sara Rebecca Wolf Klaus

### **January 12, 2018**

Bertha Greenwood Runte  
Dora Thibodeaux  
Irving Bachrack  
Adele Hohenemaser -  
Greenberg

### **January 19, 2018**

Theo Frank  
Florence Eisen Rosenthal  
Ray C. Fredrick  
Beck Rikess  
Robert Stopnik  
G.B. Walker  
Louis Reinauer

### **January 26, 2018**

Irma Hoffman Smith  
Deborah Levy  
Henry Packman  
Eugene Earl Toerner  
Sidney Hoffman  
Fannie Sorkow  
Blanche Michel  
Julia Gross  
Nanette Hess  
Lena Messer



## *We are grateful for these contributions:*

### **General Fund:**

From: Tim & Charlene Blevins

From: Jan & Marc Reisman

In Honor of: Jody Davidson's Recovery

### **Tree of Life Fund:**

From: Laney Rosen & Nathan Sukiennek

In Memory of: Lou Rosenfeld

From: Carrie & Nathan Dondis

In Memory of: Leona Avner

In Memory of: Lois Cowen

In Memory of: Bertha Stoner

In Memory of: Betsy Ecker

In Memory of: Lynne Holtzman

In Memory of: Billie Schoolskey

From: Maurice & Anita Fields Gold

### **Courtyard Fund:**

From: Mr. & Mrs. James Taussig, II

In Memory of: Si Davidson

From: Brenda & Michael Goldman

In Memory of: Lou Rosenfeld

In Honor of: Jody Davidson's Complete Recovery

From: Carrie & Nathan Dondis

In Memory of: Simon Davidson

In Memory of: Cathy Greenberg Milgrom

In Memory of: Shirley Bonin

In Memory of: David Dondis

In Honor of: Diane McCarthy's Retirement

From: Tim & Charlene Blevins

### **Library Fund:**

From: Tim & Charlene Blevins

## *Temple Yahrzeits:*

(Week Ending)

### **February 2, 2018**

Robert F. Michel

Jack Labovitch

Lucy Manoff

Leha Bohn Gordon

Samuel Milstein

Marx Weill

Fannie Hart

Freda Marcus

Isidora Reinauer

Rose Margulis

Irvin S. Stein

### **February 9, 2018**

Coleman Greenwood

Hinda Stopnik

Harry Bressler

Irving Sorkow

Ann Luce

Mrs. Julius Goldsmith

Clara Spector

Robert Kennelly

### **February 16, 2018**

Jacob Gorin

Arthur Weiss

Florence "Titter" Wise

Sid Atlas

Joseph Fry

Alfred William Mayer

David Reims

Cecile Mandelbaum

Murray Seidenberg

Mary Gilbert

Francine Messer

Julius Goldsmith

Angus Jennings

**High Holiday Honors:**

From: George Bodin

**Camp Fund:**

From: Barbara & Tony DiBartolo

In Memory of: Bertha Stoner

**Sisterhood Fund:**

From: Helen Rosen

In Memory of: Loved ones during  
the High Holidays

From: Calvin & Shirley Riff Billings

In Memory of: Laura Myrick

In Memory of: Elaine Weiss

In Memory of: Lewis Rosenfeld

**Sisterhood Fund:**

From: Rochelle K Miesel

In Memory of: Ida Gollis Lipsey

In Memory of: Lottie Riff

In Honor of: Shirley & Calvin Billings' Anniversary

In Honor of: Linda Castoriano's Birthday

In Honor of: Brenda & Michael Goldman's  
Anniversary

## Six Jewish Resolutions for the Secular New Year

BY KATE BIGAM KAPUT , 12/27/2017



The start of the secular New Year is commonly a time for making resolutions for individual betterment in the year to come. Why not incorporate some Judaism into your new year's resolutions? Here, we've compiled six Jewish resolutions and how ReformJudaism.org can help you accomplish them in the year to come. Happy New Year!

**ReformJudaism.org**  
Jewish Life in Your Life

1. Become a more observant Reform Jew.
2. Make a commitment to social justice.
3. Study Torah more often.
4. Strengthen - or start! - your relationship with Israel.
5. Focus on health and wellness.
6. Experiment with Jewish cooking.

Read the whole article here: <https://reformjudaism.org/blog/2017/12/27/six-jewish-resolutions-secular-new-year>

# EXPANDING YOUR JEWISH VOCABULARY!



## LAG BA'OMER

(The following is adapted from the article about LAG BA'OMER in The Jewish Home : A Guide For Jewish Living by Rabbi Daniel B. Syme, Union of American Hebrew Congregations Press, New York, 1988.)

LAG BA'OMER is the Thirty-third day of the Counting of the Omer! It receives its name from the Hebrew equivalent of Thirty-three": Lamed, whose Hebrew equivalent is Thirty, and Gimel, whose Hebrew equivalent is Three! "Lag Ba'Omer" is just another way of saying "The Thirty-Third Day of the Counting of the Omer!"

The "Omer" refers to the ancient Hebrew measure of grain. Leviticus (23: 15-16) commands: "And from the day on which you bring the offering... You shall count off seven weeks..." This led to the practice of Counting the Omer every day for seven weeks, from the second day of Passover till the beginning of Shavuot, seven weeks from the second day of Pesach. The Counting of the Omer, stretching from b Passover to Shavuot, which marks the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai, became a very special period of time for Jewish mystics.

In Jewish mystical thought these seven weeks became a time of joining the Jewish People's physical Redemption (Passover) to their Spiritual Redemption (Shavuot). The ritual for Counting of the Omer includes a special blessing and a prescribed formula for the counting of each of the forty-nine days. Psalm 67 and a special prayer are recited, with this Psalm including exactly forty-nine words!

By the first centuries of the Common Era (C. E.), Counting of the Omer had become an established Practice. Rabbi Akiba, renown Talmudic scholar (50-137 C. E.) maintained a school with thousands of students. A plague struck the school for an unknown reason, exactly when Sefirat Ha'Omer began. This Plague continued for over four weeks, taking the lives of thousands .of Rabbi Akiba's students. Miraculously, on the Thirty-Third Day of the Omer, the Plague ended.

To memorialize the deaths of the students, and to celebrate the saving of the community from further suffering, the Counting of the Omer became a period of mourning, EXCEPT for one day: LAG BA'OMER, the Thirty-Third Day. Lag Ba'omer is not mentioned in the Torah and only hinted at in the Talmud. Thus, it has no formal Ritual, but various customs developed around Lag Ba'Omer which people have found meaningful over the centuries. Traditionally, weddings are not permitted during Sefirat Ha'omer, nor is cutting of hair. An exception is made on Lag Ba'omer, when many weddings take place. In traditional Jewish life and when customarily three year old children have their first haircuts!

Of interest to those of us living in South Louisiana, Midnight bonfires have become a custom In Israel! According to Josephus, the Jewish historian, it was on the Thirty-Third Day of the Counting of the Omer in 66 C.E. that the revolt against Rome began. Lag Ba'Omer bonfires commemorate the bonfires kindled nearly 2,000 years ago to celebrate the successful Jewish resistance to oppression.

As noted on the Jewish Calendars prepared for us by the Blevins, Lag Ba'Omer 2018 falls on May 3.



**WHEN IS Tu B'Shevat?** In 2018, Tu B'Shevat will occur Jan 30 – 31

**WHAT IS Tu B'Shevat?** Briefly...

Tu B'Shevat or the *New Year of the Trees* is Jewish Arbor Day. The holiday is observed on the 15th (tu) of the Hebrew month of Shevat. This is just at the beginning of spring in Israel, when the winter rains subside, and the pink and white blossoms of the almond trees begin to bud. Scholars believe that originally Tu B'Shevat was an agricultural festival. In the 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, Kabbalists created a ritual for Tu B'Shevat that is like our Passover seder. Almonds and other fruits and nuts native to the Land of Israel - barley, dates, figs, grapes, pomegranates, olives, and wheat - are commonly eaten during the this seder.

Today, many Jews hold a modern version of the Tu B'Shevat seder each year. The holiday also has become a tree-planting festival in Israel, in which Israelis and Jews around the world plant trees in honor or in memory of loved ones and friends. Much of the credit for the great joy and spirit of the holiday is a direct result of the important work of the Jewish National Fund.

**EVEN THE TREES GET A NEW YEAR OF THEIR OWN!** Just a bit more...

Interestingly, Tu B'Shevat is not mentioned in the Torah. Like Hanukkah, Tu B'Shevat is a post-biblical festival, instituted by the Rabbis. But it does have biblical roots. As it is with many Jewish observances, a critical historical event served as a catalyst. After the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 C.E. and the exile that followed, many Jews felt a need to bind themselves symbolically to their former homeland. Tu B'Shevat served in part to fill that spiritual need. As it was no longer possible to bring tithes to the Temple, Jews used this time each year to eat a variety of fruits and nuts that could be obtained from Palestine. The practice, a sort of physical association with the land, continued for many centuries. As mentioned earlier, the sixteenth and seventeenth century kabbalists of Palestine elaborated on the exilic customs, creating a ritual seder for Tu B'Shevat. On Erev Tu B'Shevat, they would gather in their homes for a fifteen-course meal, each course being one of the foods associated with the land. Between courses, they would read from an anthology called **P'ri Eitz Hadar** (Citrus Fruit), a compilation of passages on trees drawn from the Bible, the Talmud, and the mystical Zohar.

**ReformJudaism.org**  
Jewish Life in Your Life

# PURIM

**WHEN IS Purim?** In 2018, Purim will occur Feb 28 – Mar 1

In the Book of Esther, we read that Purim is a time for "feasting and merrymaking," as well as for "sending gifts to one another and presents to the poor" (Esther 9:22). In addition to reading the M'gillah (Book of Esther), celebrants dress in costumes, have festive parties, perform "Purimspiels," send baskets of food (mishloach manot) to friends, and give gifts to the poor (matanot l'evyonim).

As part of the carnival-like atmosphere of Purim, many children and adults wear costumes. Some attribute this tradition to the fact that Esther initially "masked" her Jewish identity. Now a vibrant and widely practiced custom, some choose to dress as characters from the Purim story, while others select Jewish heroes from throughout history.



In Israel, the celebrations are especially extravagant and exciting. People of all ages take to the streets, rejoicing with parades, parties, costumes, and carnivals. The parade through the streets of Tel Aviv is known to be especially wild.

Traditionally, the Book of Esther is read at both evening and morning services on Purim—both in North America and in Israel. Many customs are associated with the reading. Haman, the enemy of the Jews in this story, is associated with all those who have tried to destroy the Jewish people throughout history. Therefore, we make loud noises—verbally or with noisemakers—at every mention of Haman's name to drown it out. Derived from the Polish word meaning "rattle," a grogger is the noisemaker used to drown out the name of Haman during the reading of the Megillah. Beginning in the 13th century, Jews throughout Europe sounded the grogger as a part of their Purim celebrations.

A Purimspiel (pronounced shpeel) is a humorous skit presented on Purim. Most parody the story of the Book of Esther, but it also is common for participants to take the opportunity to poke some gentle fun at themselves and their idiosyncrasies. Some congregations run an adults-only event for Purim, too.

Mishloach manot are gifts of food that friends (and prospective new friends!) exchange on Purim. Often presented in baskets, most mishloach manot include hamantaschen, the



traditional three-sided pastry eaten on Purim, but may also include a wide variety of foods and treats. These gifts are frequently referred to by their Yiddish name, shalachmanos.

Jewish families make mishloach manot baskets at home and distribute them to friends. Many families also make hamantaschen to include in these baskets and to enjoy at home. Check out these creative ideas for making your own.

Matanot l'evyonim (gifts to the poor) are gifts given at this season to those in need so that they, too, can celebrate Purim with a special meal. Many families have committed to participating in this important social justice aspect of the holiday.

**ReformJudaism.org**  
.Jewish Life in Your Life

**Kroger Reward Program**

If you have not already renewed your Kroger's reward card, please go to

<https://www.kroger.com/account/update>,

log in, and renew your card with:

Organization Name:

Temple Sinai

Organization Number: 83175

as the recipient of your Kroger rewards.

**Do you have something you'd like to see in the next bulletin? Email bulletin entries to Tevya O'Quain ([tevyaoquain@gmail.com](mailto:tevyaoquain@gmail.com)) by February 14, 2018, to be published in the March/April bulletin.**