



February 2026 Tablet



Tu Bishvat begins at sundown on Sunday, Feb. 1 and ends at sundown on Monday, Feb. 2. This New Year for Trees is rooted in the Torah's command not to eat fruit from a new tree for three years (Leviticus 19:23).

To observe this commandment faithfully, ancient rabbis set Tu B'Shevat to mark the "birthday" for all trees. Tu B'Shevat became a holiday after a Jewish teacher in the early 1890s took his students on a tree-planting excursion in Israel. At that time, the Land wasn't called Israel but was part of the Ottoman Empire. The practice of planting trees on this date caught on and became an annual tradition among many groups, as it remains today. Tu Bishvat is an opportunity to raise awareness about and to care for the

environment through the teaching of Jewish sources celebrating nature. It is also a day to focus on the environmental sensitivity of the Jewish tradition by planting trees wherever Jews may live.

Links for Our Services and Classes:

Friday Nights On Zoom

Admin is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Kabbalat Shabat

Time: 7:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Fri

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87690076724?pwd=hIKJWdXvxRjkusB3FNnUik0o604bVt.1>

Meeting ID: 876 9007 6724

Passcode: 9UKTGX

Saturday Morning Torah study

Admin is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Saturday Torah Study

Time: 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Sat

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89585548554?pwd=kYrRHlxRerHQ9MY9BWs2PdymUSrdN7.1>

Meeting ID: 895 8554 8554

Passcode: 865091

Monday to Thursday Evening Classes – Same link for all nights

Admin is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Congregation Sinai Evening Classes

Time: 7:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

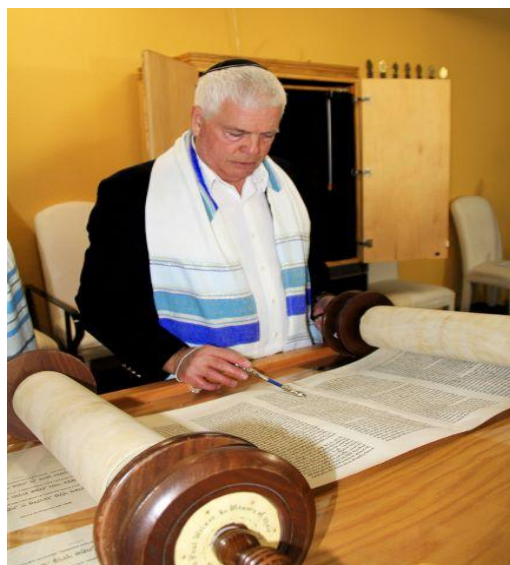
Every week on Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu,

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81066316451?pwd=A21Mh3ohf04fpoG8F1GCMwYOXCrgiC.1>

Meeting ID: 810 6631 6451

Passcode: 474625



From the Bimah, Joe Goldovitz

CS newsletter February 2026

The secular year 2026 is here corresponding to the Jewish year 5786. How many of us thought a few decades ago that we would actually see these dates

in our lifetime? I guess many of us just never thought that far ahead. Israel is more or less peaceful and Israelis we speak to are cautiously hopeful. Things could be more peaceful in our own country, but we are also cautiously hopeful. The USA celebrates 250 years since we declared independence this year. Two years from now Israel will celebrate 80 years since declaring statehood. Both nations have faced many trials and challenges over the years. A recurring theme in our Jewish prayer services is that we ask God to bless us with peace. Sometimes that request seems evasive, yet we continue to ask for peace with each service. We pray Shalom Rav, Sim Shalom and Oseh Shalom. An important element in Tikkun Olam is the idea that we all deserve to live in peace and safety. We will continue to petition God, and we will try to do our part to further that goal. I can think of no better desire for us as Jews and as Americans than for everyone everywhere to have this blessing. May this year be the year that brings this to fruition.

May the God of our ancestors grant us this blessing.

Joe & Robin



Pray for the peace of Jerusalem
Shaal Shalom Yerushalayim, Psalm 122:6

At the Temple





"Pray as if everything depends on God. Act as if everything depends on you." From Mishkan T'filah

President Lou Chern



President's Message February 2026

Hi Everyone!

January began with the Sisterhood New Year Cruise. It was great spending time with many of our congregation family. We hope that more of you will join us next year, as Bev already has the cruise booked.

We had a Bar Mitzvah for Randy Hunt, who had just recently completed the conversion process.
Congratulations Randy!

We had our first "Hybrid" service. Joe wasn't feeling well enough to drive, so he conducted the service from home, with his Zoom screen projected on the TV. Everyone enjoyed the service.

As mentioned above, Bev had surgery on her foot on January 21st and will be non-weight bearing for 8-12 weeks. She thanks everyone for your concern and tributes.

Ava Mckean read from the Torah on January 23rd and led several prayers. She was wonderful, as always.

We are preparing for two big events. The congregation will have our annual Seder on the second night of Passover, Thursday April 2nd at Kings Ridge. Please see the flyer for information. The Sisterhood will have their Fashion Show two weeks later. Please see their flyer for information.

Have a great February!

Lou

Joke –

A woman goes to her rabbi with a serious problem.

Her two female parrots have picked up a bad habit.

Any time she has visitors, the two parrots embarrass her by saying, in unison, "Hi! We're hookers. Want to have some fun?"

To her surprise, the rabbi breaks into a smile, explaining that he has two male parrots which he has trained to pray and who've become very observant, spending much of the day praying in their cage.

He's confident that if the woman brings her two parrots over to his house, his two parrots will exert such a positive influence that her birds will turn into model parrots.

The next day the woman drives over to the rabbi's house and brings her two parrots into his home. As she looks around, she notices a large cage with two parrots, each wearing a little kippah and tiny tallis and each holding a miniature prayer book while they rock back and forth in prayer.

Sure enough, as soon as she places her female parrots in the cage, they shout out to their male counterparts: "Hi! We're hookers. Want to have some fun?"

One of the rabbi's parrots immediately turns to the other, squawking: "Moishe, put the book down. Our prayers have been answered!"



“God appears far, but there is none closer...God is high above the universe, but a person can enter a synagogue...and pray in a whisper- and God hears that prayer.” Mishkan T’filah

Men’s Club President Pierre Haskelson



The first Sunday of the month is usually our Men’s Club meeting at the Rainbow Restaurant at 10 am. But, due to the cold weather forecast for February 1st, **our February meeting will be the second Sunday, February 8th at 10:00 am. See you then!**

Congregation Sinai’s Men’s Club is sponsoring a fundraiser. Send Rick your favorite pictures and the quantities you would like. They are \$5.00 each. The following subjects are great: your children,

grandchildren, pets, your graduate, car, just about any subject. You can pay by Zelle, PayPal or cash. For more information call Rick Vincent at 609-351-4200. Leave a message and he will call you back.

Examples can be seen below.



Rick also can take any picture and put them in a 4x6, 5x7, or 8x10. 20% of the price you pay goes to the synagogue. Here is an example of a picture that Rick took which he can make into a button or put in a frame for you.



Don't forget to pick up donation letters at the back of the synagogue which you can give to your doctors, hairdressers, or anywhere you do business. Your participation will be a great help to the synagogue to generate funds.

New Fundraiser: If you or someone you know needs a new roof from January 1st through March 31st, Big Sky Roofing will donate \$200 to Congregation Sinai!

Happy is he who performs a good deed: for he may tip the scales for himself and the world." ~~ Talmud, Kiddushin



Joyce Cohen for Ritual



I'm still buzzing from the incredible service we shared just a little while back! Our amazing Hebrew School students absolutely shone. They took the lead on several prayers. They were terrific!

It really showcased all the fantastic work of our dedicated educators.

These are the moments that truly make our community feel like one big, loving family.



Save the Date! March 7th is the next craft fair brought to you by Shalom Y'all!

We are seeking talented vendors to make this fair our best yet. If you know any creative individuals or artisans who might be interested in showcasing their handmade goods, please encourage them to reach

out to Bev Chern at bchern923@gmail.com for more information on vendor opportunities and registration.

Come and support our community, discover unique treasures, and enjoy a wonderful day!



Our Sisterhood President Bev Chern

Since February 2 is Groundhog Day, let's hope spring is right around the corner! For me, however, every day feels like Groundhog Day right now—resting, sleeping, and eating. I'll be non-weight bearing for about another 11 weeks... and I'm really hoping that doesn't turn into weight gaining. Many thanks to you all for keeping Karen Miller busy with tributes for me. I thank everyone for their calls, texts and FaceBook messages. It is greatly appreciated and they really cheered me up.

You still have time to get your teams together for our first Game Day of 2026 on February 19. Please don't forget to contact Ava McKean (amckean15@gmail.com) by February 10 with your food order and payment.

We will have TooJay's Boxed lunches for \$25. Choices are roast beef, turkey, or corned beef on either

challah, rye, seedless rye, or wheat bread. Pick up your game day packets at the meeting or contact Ava at amckean15@gmail.com.

Money for lunch as well as food selection needs to be received by February 10th.

Nadine Bernstein is looking for 3 or 5 people to play Hand and Foot; it needs to be an even number. Ruth Borsky is looking for some friends to play Scrabble.



Please save these important dates:

- March 19 – Our annual Community Outreach Program. Please mark your calendars. This year's theme is

Shabbat, and it's shaping up to be a wonderful program. We will be inviting several churches to join us and would love a good turnout. Details to follow.

I hope you'll plan to join us.

- April 16 – Our biggest fundraising event of the year, the Fashion Show. It will be at 1:30 pm. We are selling tickets. The tickets are \$25 and it will be held at the Heritage Hills Clubhouse Ballroom. I hope you can join us. This year we will have a dessert buffet, and our fashions will be provided from Fashion Labels by Maxine. Please let Ava know if you want tickets or if you think you can sell a whole table of 10. We need more members to sign up for baskets and also need donations from physicians, attorneys, hair stylists, manicurists, restaurants, and anyone else! We need EVERYONE'S help to make this successful.

Please bring wine bottles to the meeting with labels removed. Arline Silverstein is doing our decorations for the fashion show.

Thanks and more details will be coming soon.

Thank you to everyone who sponsored an Oneg in January—your support is truly appreciated.

With the cold weather upon us, please let us not forget about the children living in the woods. Hoodies, sweatshirts, and toiletries would be greatly appreciated.

As always, the Neighborhood Center of South Lake is in need of non-perishable food items to help hungry families in our community. If each of us brings in just one item, think of the difference we can make. If 50 people bring one item, that's 50 families helped—together, we truly can make an impact for those less

fortunate than ourselves.

Many of you have expressed interest in a Margaritaville at Sea cruise. Be on the lookout for a flyer announcing a 5-day cruise on the Islander, round trip from Tampa, departing May 9, with stops in Cozumel and Progreso, Mexico.

If you book with a deposit by February 5, you'll receive a \$25 onboard stateroom credit. Of course, bookings will still be accepted after that date as well.

Thank you all for your continued support. Together, we are making a difference.

Warmly,

Beverly

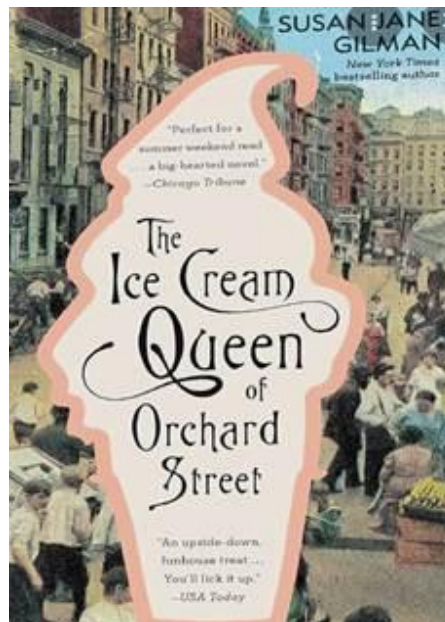
 30% off in store only 1233 W Broad St	 Free sticky toffee pudding WPO adult entrée 110 W Hwy 50	 10% off food 1625 E Hwy 50	 Free sm stack WPO entrée 2435 S Hwy 27	 10% off excludes promo items 1913 S Hwy 27
 BOGO Concrete Mixer 1431 Johns Lake Rd	 10% off 2255 US 27	 6 free knots WPO lg pizza take out only 7965 State Rd 50	 10% off 2080 E Hwy 50	 FOUNDED BY FIREMEN Free lg drink WPO med or lg sub 1500 Oakley Seaver Dr
 15% off 2465 S Hwy 27	 Free reg Howie Bread with \$15 purchase 1640 E Hwy 50	 15% off 2450 E Hwy 50	 Free beverage WPO entrée 2420E Hwy 50	 10% off 2591 US Hwy 27

These cards are a great deal. They have unlimited use at all the restaurants listed on them and they don't expire until 12/31/2026. Just use them a few times, and you recoup the \$20 cost of the card. Please help Sisterhood by purchasing a few cards for you and to give away as gifts. Thank you in advance for your support.



“Every word of one’s prayer should be like a rose that is picked from a bush. One gathers rose upon rose until a bouquet is formed and can be offered to God as a beautiful blessing.” Nachman of Bratzlav

Pageturners



Hello Pageturners!

Our next meeting:

The book selection is:

*THE ICE CREAM QUEEN
OF ORCHARD STREET*

By Susan Jane Gilman

(Due to cancellation of January meeting)

Where - Congregation Sinai

Groveland, FL

When - Thursday, February 12, 2026 @ 2PM

The 2nd Thursday of every month

ZOOM LINK

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85684399398?pwd=yT7VbVXncT18Zs1abcRWk9gw4idrfs.1>

*Looking forward to another
great discussion.*

Susan Chern

215-300-2462

srchern0106@gmail.com



Happy February Birthday to...

Harold Lovitz

February 4

Alberto Behar

February 6

Marv Cohen

February 18

Stuart Milchman

February 18

Stephanie Morgenstern

February 22

Lynne Vincent

February 23

Ralph Block

February 25





Happy February Anniversary to...

Jenn and Scott Wright

February 3

David and Susan Mandell

February 22

Jeff Warren

February 25



Yahrzeits Hebrew Dates

Following are the names for Feb. 1-28 observances:

Yahrzeit Name

Sophie Bloomfield

Mildred Kaufman

Simon Cohen

Doris Hornstein

Benjamin Donow

Birdie Levy

Ruth Baker

Michael Daniel Muller

Judah Gispan

Lillian Gapin

Jean Bresciani

Esther Kovel

Leila Kartzmer

Anita Resnick

Benjamin Miller

Ed Seitz

Observed By

Darlene and Larry Hornstein

Janet and Phil Bloom

Ava and David McKean

Darlene and Larry Hornstein

Richard Donow

Gwen Levy

Ruth H. Baker

Sheila Muller

Alan Gispan

Roberta Gapin

Robin and Joe Goldovitz

Founding member

Janet and Phil Bloom

Janet and Phil Bloom

Karen Miller

Memorial board

February Yahrzeits English Dates

Yahrzeit Name

Remembered By

Date Remembered

Dale Blass

Lew Blass

February 6

Rosaline Tepper

Basha Schlazer

February 6

Daisy Weill

Rosalyn and Pierre Haskelson

February 20

Harry Katz

Roslyn Goldwich

February 20





January Yahrzeit Contributions

Donor

Karen and Joel Mandel

Judy Pape

Ann & Michael Sail

Basha Schlazer

Tobie & Russell Koskie

Gwen Levy

Ilene & Andrew Feldman

Loved One

Dorothy Mandel

Ron Pape

Hilde Sail

Eva Granger

Florence Bain

Shainty Rank

Helen Skrobacky

Samuel Levy

Dorothy Feldman

Natalie Schoenfeld



Tributes

For anyone who would like to send a Tribute, please let Karen Miller know at karen4701@aol.com and she will be happy to send a card for you. You can pay online, and it is a very reasonable \$6.50!

Happy Birthday

To

Wendy Payne

From

Karen and Joel Mandel

Sue and John Levy

Regina and Alberto Behar

Wendy and Alan Payne

Karen Miller

Rick and Lynne Vincent

Vicki Dingee

Regina and Alberto Behar

Sue and John Levy

Karen Miller

Ruth Borsky

Karen Mandel

Sue and John Levy

Regina and Alberto Behar

Wendy Payne

Karen Miller

Lynne and Rick Vincent

Roz Haskelson

Sue and John Levy

Karen Miller

Ruth Borsky

Lynne and Rick Vincent

Alberto and Regina Behar

Carole Lovitz

Rick and Lynne Vincent

Mort Hess

Regina and Alberto Behar

Anniversary

Scott and Helen Miller

Sue and John Levy

Karen Miller

Gail and Roger Steinberg

Ruth Borsky

Ava and David McKean

Get Well Soon

Bev Chern

Wendy and Alan Payne

Ava and David McKean

Rocky and Forest Coleman

Michele and Pete Sobel

Susan Chern

Sisterhood

Vicki and Don Dingee

Karen Miller

Carole and Jordan Pritzker

Lynne and Rick Vincent

Sue and John Levy

Marsha and Lee Norden

Barbara and Evan Cronson

Joan Mager

Marv Cohen

Ava and David McKean

Sue and John Levy

Karen and Joel Mandel

Lynne and Rick Vincent

Susan Schwartz

Pete and Michele Sobel

Sisterhood

Thinking of you

Gwen Levy

Sue and John Levy

Lynne and Rick Vincent

Joan Mager

Congratulations

Randy Hunt

Roslyn Goldwich

Karen and Joel Mandel

Ava and David McKean

Rocky and Forest Coleman

Gwen Levy

Miscellaneous

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please send an email to josulevy@icloud.com.

Also, if you do not see your loved one's name for Yahrzeits or contributions, please let us know-Wendy Payne and Marsha Norden have the lists for Yahrzeits. Lew Blass has the list for contributions. You can always email me (Sue Levy) and I will put the information in the Tablet.

If you know of anyone in the hospital, please let the Sunshine Committee know and we will get a card from the congregation out to them. For Sunshine, you can contact Sue Levy at josulevy@icloud.com.

For recipes, comments or any other information for the Tablet, please send the information by the 20th of each month to Sue Levy at josulevy@icloud.com.

February

2026

Subtitle

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Religious School, 10 am 12:00 Meeting for Israel Trip	2 Adult Hebrew Classes-7pm Tu B'Shevat	3	4 " A Letter in the Scroll " Study, 7pm	5	6 Healing Service, 6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat, 7pm	7 Torah Class at Temple, 10am-Yitro, Ex 18:21-20:23
8 Religious School, 10 am Men's Club Meeting at the Rainbow Restaurant, 10 am	9 Adult Hebrew Classes-7pm	10	11 Sisterhood Board meeting, 10 am " A Letter in the Scroll " Study, 7pm	12 CS Board Meeting, 7pm	13 Kabbalat Shabbat, 7pm	14 <i>Mishpatim</i> , Ex. 21:1-24:18
15 No School	16 Adult Hebrew Classes-7pm President's Day	17	18 " A Letter in the Scroll " Study, 7pm	19 Game Day Sisterhood, 12pm	20 Kabbalat Shabbat, 7pm Carole Pritzker's Bat Mitzvah.	21 Torah Class Online, 10 am <i>Terumah</i> , Ex. 25:1-27:19 Carol Pritzker's Bat Mitzvah
22 Religious School, 10 am	23 Adult Hebrew Classes-7pm	24	25 " A Letter in the Scroll " Study, 7pm	26	27 Kabbalat Shabbat, 7pm	28 Torah Class Online, 10 am <i>Tetzaveh</i> , Ex. 27:20-30:10

Please support the following sponsors of the CS Men's Club Golf Tournament!



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2400 Hooks St, Clermont, FL 34711 Call Us: (352) 432-5790

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Dr. Floyd is from Mississippi and attended the University of Southern Mississippi where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in Exercise Science. Following completion of his undergraduate degree, he attended Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine and graduated with a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) degree.

Don't live in pain! There are several causes for podiatric issues. Please contact us today so we can identify the cause of your problem and the solution. We want you to be walking, running, jumping, and living the lifestyle you want to!

Contact us today to learn more about podiatry or any conditions you may be experiencing. We'd be happy to speak with you and discuss your care.



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We're happy to visit you for a no-cost, on-site consultation. Big Sky Roofing is a full service licensed and insured roofing company with a wide range of experience proudly serving all of Florida and based out of Central Florida. We can help you with all phases of new construction, remodeling and service. Our excellent reputation and long list of satisfied clients attest to our superior craftsmanship, attention to detail, clear communication, honesty and integrity. Our constant commitment to excellent customer service allows us to work with you to ensure you have a strong, lasting roof.

- **Reminder: If you or someone you know needs a new roof from January 1st through March 31st, Big Sky Roofing will donate \$200 to Congregation Sinai!**

Dental Designs



Dr. Hector Cabrera

Welcome to **Dental Designs**! I've always thought that healthcare should be personal. Your doctor should know your name, your concerns and your goals. Have a relationship with you. It's such a simple, yet powerful idea. Now, we've brought that idea to life. We are not your traditional dental practice. That is by design.

Stop by and hang out with us for a while. We can't wait to meet you

PHONE (352) 697-7086 ADDRESS 1500 Oakley Seaver Dr. #6,
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that healthcare should be personal.



Our Own Bev Chern at Sunshine Travel

Sunshine Travel, where smiles and dreams begin. Book your travel with me and see the world! Depending on my client's needs and wants, I sell All-Inclusives, Cruises, Incentive Travel, Destination Weddings, Honeymoons, Divorce Getaways, Golf and Spa, Reunions, Family theme park vacations and more. I offer personalized service and love what I am doing.

Phone: 215-219-5400

Email: Bev@sunshinetravels.net

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Please join us on the 8-day Avalon Waterways River Cruise on the Danube from April 26th to May 5th with an additional 2-day land package in Prague. Call Bev for current prices. See next page for details.



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\$5,528.00 CAT A | \$5,578.00 CAT P
\$6,778.00 CAT S

*Prices are based on Double Occupancy and include all taxes & port charges, pre-paid gratuities and \$1000 discounted special group rate.
 *Travel insurance, extra nights, airport transfers and airfare are additional. Please inquire.
 *Deposit amount is \$250 Per Person, non-refundable. Final Payment due on Dec 5, 2025.

Cruise along the peaceful Danube River through Hungary, Slovakia, Austria, and Germany—stopping at some of Central Europe’s most splendid capitals and charming towns along the way. Begin in Budapest, where guided sightseeing acquaints you with the highlights of the vibrant capital of Hungary. See Heroes’ Square, and all the famous sights that make this city come to life! Set sail on the Danube, take pictures of the impressive views of the Parliament Building as you leave Budapest, and head for Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia. Here, enjoy a guided walk through the delightful Old Town and visit the Gothic St. Martin’s Cathedral. Vienna, Austria, makes an immediate impression with its lavish Hofburg Imperial Palace and neo-renaissance Vienna Opera House. Enjoy the magnificent views as your river cruise takes you through the picturesque wine region of the Wachau Valley. Visit the impressive Benedictine Abbey of Melk and enjoy a tasting of some of the renowned local wines. In Linz, walk around the Hauptplatz, Austria’s largest medieval square, which forms the center of the city. Take a guided walk around Passau, Germany, known for its maze of narrow cobblestone streets and St. Stephen’s Cathedral—a masterpiece of baroque architecture. Enjoy guided sightseeing in Regensburg, before heading to beautiful Prague, capital of the Czech Republic. Here, you’ll be amazed at St. Vitus Cathedral and Old Town’s Astronomical Clock, a unique and intricate piece of art unlike anything else in the world.



Bev Chern
SUNSHINE TRAVEL
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sunshinetraveltoday@comcast.net



Thank you for reading Congregation Sinai’s February Tablet! And many thanks to Rick Vincent for the pictures, Karen Mandel and Marsha Norden for proofreading and to all who contributed!