



Mailing Address:

4327 Highway 27, Box 315
Clermont, FL 34711

Physical Address:

1200 W. Broad Street
Groveland, FL 34736

Phone: 352-243-5353

info@congregation-sinai.org
www.congregation-sinai.org

Joseph Goldovitz
Spiritual Leader

January 2021

What's Happening?



Mazel Tov Joe and Robin

On Your Engagement

We wish you many years of happiness

Join us at Emi Lou's for Spirit Night on January 12

Join us at Akina for Spirit Night on January 19 11-8 PM

From the Bimah

2021! It seems unreal, as if in a sci-fi book or movie. 2020 has had its issues, Covid and all of the peripheral problems including seclusion for many and financial troubles for others. Sadly, many have succumbed to the illness. Many of us are unhappy with the lack of ability to gather regularly for worship. Orthodox rabbis, have in different places, given dispensation for people to say Kaddish in the absence of a minyan. Is everyone a potential carrier? How long must this odd manner of existence continue? I don't know that anyone can answer these questions, but there is some light at the end of the tunnel. A vaccine is now being rendered and within a few months most people will be able to get it. Medical experts claim this will alter things substantially in our favor. We certainly hope for good results.

Changing subjects, a friend of mine who is a rabbi said to me something to the effect that there have been many times in history when Jewish people could not gather freely to worship. That said we have always emerged stronger when the storm passed. May it be that when this covid storm passes, the Jewish community will be stronger than ever and may we be even more dedicated to our synagogue and our kehilah.

Happy 2021, **Joe**



Celebrate Your Birthday, Your Anniversary or any Special Occasion with a Virtual Oneg Shabbat

No muss, no fuss, no Dishes, No Cleanup

Would you like to share a special occasion in your family with your Congregation Sinai family? Sponsor a virtual Oneg Shabbat. No set up, no clean up, no shopping. You may also honor your friends by selecting special readings for the evening. Contact Bev Chern for more



information. Bchern923@gmail.com or 267-808-5558

Prez Jack Say



2020 goodbye! Hindsight is 2020 and let us keep it there and look forward to the New Year. Our spiritual home is anxious for us to return in safety and to observe our traditions in person and together.

We will remain closed, however, at least until the effects of the Holiday Season are over after which we will reevaluate.

On the plus side we were able to conduct services every Shabbat (online) despite the loss of our beloved Lynn and the pandemic. Torah Study continued every Saturday morning, Sunday school and Adult Ed are back in full swing. Thank you, Joe, for your strength and leadership though this personally difficult time.

Our usual fund-raising efforts suffered due to the pandemic, however, the generosity of many members and some innovative programs from our Sisterhood should carry us through the end of the year. I want to remind those who have yet to meet their dues obligation to please do so as soon as possible. Every dollar is needed.

We are starting to make plans for Purim (Feb 25) and Passover 2nd Seder (Mar 28th). What we can realistically do will depend on the progress made in stemming the pandemic. Optimistically I believe we can conduct our High Holiday services in our Sanctuary.

So keep your spirits up and stay safe,

An Old Story

A synagogue has a mouse problem. The custodian tries traps, bait, a cat, everything. Nothing works. Finally, he goes to the rabbi and explains the problem. "I have the solution," the rabbi says. "Well, what is it?" says the custodian. "It's a foolproof plan," the rabbi says, smiling. "I'll give them all Bar Mitzvahs — we'll never see them again!"

Happy New Year to all from **Sandy** and me.

Prez **Jack**



Book Club First Thursday 1:00 PM

January - The Exile - Christine Baker Kline. presenter **Roz Haskelson**

February - My Own Words - Ruth Bader Ginsburg with Mary Harnett and Wendy Williams. -
Presenter **Ruth Borsky**

March Book of Lost Names - Kristen Harmel - presenter - **Michele Sobel**

April. to be determined

May 58 Summers - Elin Hilderbrand. - Presenter - **Karen Miller**

Any Questions Call **Roz** 352 241-6664 Stay well



Our Sisterhood Speaks

Happy New Year Sisters! Let's all pray this new year brings some normalcy back into our lives. The Sisterhood Board is very grateful for your support in our activities these past few months. We did well in the November game day hosted in your homes or thanks if you made a donation instead. Your participation in Belk's Charity Days was phenomenal. The winners of the ZOOM December Chanukah Bingo Party were **Gwen Levy, Deb Schumacher, Judy Pape, and Michele Sobel**. Thanks to

everyone who attended. Our January 21st meeting will feature **Joe Goldovitz** as our speaker. Please remember mask holders are still available. Contact Mimi Miller. The deadline to place mahjong card orders is the first week of January. Faith Neighborhood is most appreciative of all our donations and continues to need our help. And last but not least is our ShopWithScrip program. We need more people to enroll! **Bev Chern** would be glad to help you enroll! Stay safe! **Ava**



Men's Club

Hi Everyone!

This month, we have a Men's Club Meeting virtually via GoToMeeting on Sunday, January 3rd at 9:30 AM. Even if you are not currently a member, feel free to join us. Contact me at LChern@comcast.net and I will forward the link to the meeting.

We have a new restaurant for a Share Day on Tuesday, January 12th, 11 AM – 8 PM. Ellie Lou's Brew and BBQ is on Citrus Tower Blvd, just off Rte 50 next to the CVS. They have both indoor and outdoor seating, or you can call for takeout. We will be receiving a percentage of the entire day's sales, so you do not need to bring the flyer with you. Please give it a try! **Bev** and I love their food and service.

The following week, we have a Share Day at Akina's. That's Tuesday, January 19th. You may either dine-in or takeout, but if you would like to dine in, please call the restaurant for a reservation. 352-243-8988

As we all want to generate funds for the congregation, please think about other places to visit for a Share Night. We will be contacting Bagel Brothers and Ruby Tuesday based on member suggestions. If you have a favorite place, please let me know! Have a great holiday season and STAY SAFE!

Lou Chern 610-247-6358

Uahrzeits



On Memory of

Ethel Marzolf Lawrason

By Connie and Paul Lawrason

Max Geller

By Sandra and Karl Geller

Bernard Lowitz

By Dicki Dingee

Hilde Sail

Eva A. Granger

By Ann and Michael Sail

George Bernhardt

Ruth Miller

By Karen and Stu Miller

Samuel Bloom

Sylvia Nipon

Sidney Cohen

By Janet and Phil Bloom

Spencer Koslan

By Marlene Koslan

Natalie Schoenfeld

By Andrew and Olene Feldman

Marvin Shapiro

Jonathan Garetz

By Debra and Mike Schumacher

Arthur Cagan

Barbara Cagan

By Steven and Rosalind Silpe

Leo Weiss

Richard Gopin

By Roberta Gopin

Drene Sherman

Rueben Sherman

Gail Epstein

By Ellen Rosen

An 8-year-old girl went to her grandfather, who was working in the garden and asked him, "Grampa, what is couple sex?"

The grandfather was surprised that she would ask such a question, but decided that if she's old enough to know to ask the question, then she's old enough to get a straight answer. Steeling himself to leave nothing out, he proceeded to tell her all about human reproduction and the joys and responsibilities of intercourse.

When he finished explaining, the little girl was looking at him with her mouth hanging open, eyes wide in amazement.

Seeing the look on her face, the grandfather asked her, "Why did you ask this question, honey?"

The little girl replied, "Grandma says that dinner will be ready in just a couple secs."

Children's Sunday School



Sunday School continues online. We meet on Sunday at 11 am for an hour of prayers, stories, and lessons about our upcoming holidays. On a different schedule, our teachers are giving individual instruction in Hebrew with our students. Thank you to our volunteer teachers, Gena Lederhandler and Karen Miller, who devote their time to our children along with Mr. Joe.

Adult Education meets every Tuesday at 10 am online with Mr. Joe. Beginning January 5th, we will begin a new series entitled "IN DEPTH" where we will discuss the life of one person, biblical or current, in depth. If you want to discuss your favorite, please contact either Joe or Gwen. We are beginning with Elijah.

On Monday evening we are offering Basic Hebrew at 7:00 PM

On Wednesday evening we offer Torah Trope at 7:00PM. Hebrew reading skills are a prerequisite.

For more information or to register, contact Joe Goldovitz (goldovitz@comcast.net) or Gwen Levy (gwenlevy3606@gmail.com)

First time I heard about paraprosdokians, I liked them. Paraprosdokians are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected and is frequently humorous. (Sir Winston Churchill loved them)

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you ...but it's still on my list.
3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak
- 4 If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
5. We never really grow up -- we only learn how to act in public.
6. War does not determine who is right, only who is left.
7. Knowledge, is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
8. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
9. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
10. In filling out an application where it says, "In case of an emergency, notify " I answered "a doctor.
11. Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.
12. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice
13. I used to be indecisive, but now I'm not so sure
14. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
15. Going to church doesn't make you Christian, any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
16. You're never too old to learn something stupid
17. I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find someone older than me. Thank you, **Bob** and **Mimi**



Fun & Fashionable Face Mask Holders!
New Congregation Sinai Sisterhood Fundraiser

CONGREGATION SINAI

Today, face masks have become an absolute necessity to protect ourselves, friends, families and co-workers. The challenge is to remember them and to always keep them handy. The local Congregation Sinai Sisterhood is selling a much-needed product for our times to help answer this new daily challenge.

With a large array of fun and fashionable lanyards and necklaces, you can easily hook them up to your face masks. These lanyards and necklaces will keep your face masks around your neck when you take them off while eating, driving in your car and in-between every off-on use. Face mask necklaces and lanyard cords have become extremely popular convenience for children, college students and all adults. Instead of hooking a face mask to hang from one of your ears or stuffing it in your pocket, a necklace or lanyard simply allows your mask to rest around your neck. Then when you need it, you can easily slip it on! The fancy face mask necklaces are made from the Tagua nut found in Ecuador.

These reasonably priced unisex mask neck holders come in a variety of colors and designs, so you can quickly change them to match your mood or wardrobe. Red, Royal Blue, Multi-Color and Black Onyx Combo Face Mask Necklace Holders are only \$10 each. The Ivory, Turquoise, Charcoal and Multi-Color Face Mask Lanyard Cords are only \$5 each. Shipping and handling are \$5. All proceeds will go to the Congregation Sinai Sisterhood. Checks can be made payable to: 'Congregation Sinai Sisterhood' and mailed to: 4327 South Highway 27, PO Box 315, Clermont, FL 34711. Please mark the envelope "Sisterhood" For orders and special requests, contact Mimi Miller via email at: MaskHolders@aol.com.



Congregation Sinai! Congregation Sinai helps our community celebrate all Jewish holidays with special events and virtual services. Congregation Sinai has been serving the Jewish Community and all local South Lake residents with charitable community support activities here in Central Florida for the past 17 years. Many services and annual holiday events are open and free to the entire community. Joe Goldovitz provides distinctively unique spiritual leadership. This organization serves as a house of prayer, assembly and study in which the spectrum of Jewish expression is cultivated, protected and nurtured. They provide educational programs for children and adults, bible study groups, bar/bat mitzvah study programs and group tours to Israel. They strive to educate adults and children in Judaism's rich heritage with contemporary significance, while sharing Jewish culture, rituals, traditions and values.



Celebrate Jewish Holidays & Traditions! For more information about Congregation Sinai events, holiday services, membership, educational programs, Friday night Shabbat services and their special events; call: 352-243-5353. Email info@congregation-sinai.org and visit their website at: www.congregation-sinai.org. Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/2022346804470513.

Affordable annual memberships are available. Congregation Sinai is located at: 1200 West Broad Street, Groveland, FL 34736. The mail address is: 4327 South Highway 27, PO Box 315, Clermont, FL 34711.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

January

7 Basha Schlaezer

12 Dicki Dingee

15 Carole Lovitz

16 Phyllis Klafter

20 Walter Friedman

23 Karen Mandel

26 Mort Hess

Happy Anniversary

2 Scott and Helen Miller

8 Roger and Gail Steinberg

30 Walter and Bunnie Friedman



Bagels and Bible

The following Sidras will be studied in the month of January

- 1). Vayechi - Gen.47:28 -- 50:26
- 2). Shemot - Ex.1:1 -- 6:1
- 3). Va era - Ex.6:2 -- 9:35
- 4). Bo - Ex.10:1 -- 13:16
- 5). Beshalach - Ex.13:17 -- 17:16

- 1). Vayechi, meaning, "and he lived" (Jacob, in Egypt). With the death of Jacob, the Book of Genesis comes to an end.
- 2). Shemot, meaning, "names"(of Jacob's sons). We begin the Bk. of Exodus, a new Pharaoh comes to power who knew not Joseph. Moses is born and we begin our Exodus from Egypt story.
- 3). Vaera, meaning, and I appeared, (to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob). We read about the names of God, and the hardening of Pharaoh's heart.
- 4). Bo, meaning go (to Pharaoh). Moses & Aaron continue to plead with Pharaoh to let the Israelites go free. Gold and the spoils of Egypt plus the ritual of Passover are discussed.
- 5). Beshalach, meaning "when we set forth", and refers to Pharaoh's decision to let the Israelites go free.

Please join us each Sat @10AM as we learn more about our history and traditions as we fill in the outline of these Torah sidras. P.P. **Pete**

FINAL CALL MAHJONG CARDS ORDER

Ladies, it's time to order your 2021 Mah Jongg cards. This is an IMPORTANT fundraising project for Congregation Sinai Sisterhood. PLEASE get orders NOW from players that you know before someone else does! Each card order must include a completed form. Note price increase.

Orders can be mailed to: Marsha Norden, 21348 Royal Troon Dr.
Leesburg FL 34748

2021 MAH JONGG CARD ORDER FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE: _____

Large Print: \$10 [] Standard Print: \$9 [] Check #:

Please make check out to: CONGREGATION SINAI SISTERHOOD
and write "Mah Jongg" in the left corner.

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING CARDS IS January 9, 2021

Thank you for Hosting Virtual Onegs

Susan and John Levy

Michele and Pete Sobel

Ellen Lieberman

Karen and Stu Miller

Barbara and Evan Cronson

Rocky Coleman

Vicki Dingee

Janet and Phil Bloom

Tributes

**The cost for each card (tribute) is \$6.50.
Please fill out a tribute form, your check and
write Tributes on the bottom left side of the
envelope.**



**This is a wonderful way to support our Temple. They can be sent to:
Congregation Sinai 2225 Merry Road Tavares, Florida 32778**

**Your greeting card will be sent and listed in our monthly tablet.
Tributes received after the 19th of the month will appear in our next
issue.**

Sappy Birthday

Michele Sobel

Mimi and Bob Miller

Gwen Levy

Phil and Janet Bloom

Ruth Borsky

Tobie Koskie

Mimi and Bob Miller

Gwen Levy

Phil and Janet Bloom

Steve Silpe

Gwen Levy

Phil and Janet Bloom

Rocky Coleman

Gwen Levy

Phil and Janet Bloom

Dalene Hornstein

Gwen Levy

Sandy Gartner

Gwen Levy

Phil and Janet Bloom

John Levy

Gwen Levy

Evan Cronson

Gwen Levy

Phil and Janet Bloom

Judith Hague

Gwen Levy

Ellie Hess

Gwen Levy

Alan Morgenstern

Gwen Levy

Alan Spickler

Gwen Levy

Happy Anniversary**Stephanie and Alan
Morgenstern**

Gwen Levy

Ruth Borsky

**Mazel Tov Grandpa Larry
Oskin on the Birth of Your
Grandson**

Ava and David Mckean

Ruth Borsky

**Thank You Sisterhood for
Your Kind Thoughts**

Ellen Lieberman

**Get Well/ Speedy
Recover/ Thinking of You****Ilene Feldman**

Phil and Janet Bloom

Sisterhood

Joan and Bob Mager

**In Memory of Sheila
Whitman**The Penzer and Greenfield
Families

Walter and Bunnie Friedman

Ellen Lieberman

Sisterhood

Ava and David McKean

Joan and Bob Mager

Bunnie and Walter Friedman

Tobie Koskie

Sisterhood

**In Memory of Lynn
Goldovitz**

Milton Rosenthal

David Rosenthal

Al Schlazer

Phil and Janet Bloom

**Feeling good about the info below, I thought you might be interested
– Feel free to join me in kvelling ...**

Mikael Dolsten, Chief Scientific Officer at Pfizer, is Jewish. He grew up in Halmstad, Sweden, the son of a Jewish father with prewar roots in Sweden and a Jewish mother who escaped Austria in the early days of WWII. He visited Israel several times as a youngster and did a year of his doctoral work at the Weizmann Institute. There he learned cutting edge immunology which led him to pharmaceutical science. Dolsten has referred in interviews to rising anti-Semitism in Sweden.

Pfizer CEO Albert Borla is a Sephardic Jew from Thessalonika, Greece, a city whose Jewish population was almost completely wiped out during WWII. The Borla family's history in Thessalonika goes back 5 centuries, and Borla visits his remaining family members there yearly. He now lives in New York City.

The Chief Medical Officer for Moderna, a Cambridge, Mass.- based company, is an Israeli immigrant named Tal Zaks. Previously, he served as head of Global Oncology at Sanofi Pharmaceuticals. Zaks received his M.D. and PhD. degrees at Ben Gurion University and conducted post-doc research at the NIH.

The scientist responsible, with a colleague, for the pioneering breakthroughs that allowed the development of an mRNA vaccine (the novel approach used by Moderna and Pfizer for dealing with COVID-19) is University of Pennsylvania's Drew Weissman. A Professor of Medicine at Penn, he received his BA and MA degrees at Brandeis and MD/Microbiology and PhD at Boston U. Weissman once worked with a fellowship at the NIH under Dr. Fauci.

Final related notes: President-Elect Joe Biden this week named his new head for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"): Dr. Rochelle Walensky, Professor Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Chief of Infectious Diseases at Massachusetts General Hospital. She works as a physician at a Jewish camp for a week each summer. Also in the clan is Jeff Zients, who will be Biden's overseer for the entire federal coronavirus response. Zients led the successful effort to fix the government's [Health.gov](https://www.health.gov) website when it became damaged during the launch of the Affordable Care Act.

Dear Congregation Sinai members,

I am going to initiate a new program to help keep us as safe as possible from the COVID-19 virus pandemic. Tracking and tracing the spread of the virus is a bedrock of the public health response to disease outbreaks.

Our local and state health agencies have become so overwhelmed in tracking, tracing, and warning people who test positive for the Coronavirus, that it has become impossible for them to do their jobs effectively. They have asked us to begin self-tracing and tracking and to warn our own people.

Following the advice of the health dept., we have decided to begin a “self tracking, tracing, and warning system” for our congregation. Basically, this means we are going to warn our congregants that they may be at risk for the virus and should get tested and/or self-quarantine.

This can only be effective if **YOU** cooperate and follow a couple of simple instructions.

- 1) If you or your spouse or any family member or friend tests positive for the COVID-19 virus -- call me as soon as possible.
- 2) If you think or know that you came in contact with someone with the virus --- call me as soon as possible.

MY PHONE # -- (HOME) 352-989-4900, (CELL) 305-710-2828

If no answer, leave a message. I will get back to you asap.

Let me know of any contacts you had, or might have had, with any of our congregants, or friends of people of our congregants. I will then call and warn anyone who may be at risk for contamination and warn them to get tested and self quarantine. Thus testing and self quarantine will be done quicker and possibly reduce the spread of the virus. Remember, people can become contagious a few days before showing symptoms to this virus.

Testing, tracking/tracing and warning is a “time is of the essence” affair. The sooner self quarantine and testing begins, the better off we can handle potential outbreaks among our congregants. The quicker you contact me the sooner I can warn our congregants.

So far, our protocols have kept us healthy. This new program is just another tool to add to our protocols that are already in place. It will only be effective with your help. Call me even if you are in doubt.

Happy healthy and a safe new year, P.P. **Pete.**

Chair of Safety and Security Committee

PETER B. SOBEL, D.D.S. RET.

CONGREGATION
SINAI
 MEN'S CLUB



We'll Rub You The Right Way!



Congregation Sinai's Men's Club Presents:

Ellie Lou's Spirit Day!

Tuesday, January 26, 2021 -- 11 AM to 8 PM

1391 Citrus Tower Boulevard, Clermont, FL 34711 ~ 352-243-8988
 Located Near Highway 50, Behind CVS ~ Interior & Outdoor Seating, Plus Takeout Available!

See Website For Menu: www.ellielous.com



**10% Of Their Entire Day's Sales Will Be Donated Back
 To Benefit Our Congregation Sinai Children's Programs!**

Celebrate All Holidays! For more information about our upcoming Congregation Sinai special events, fundraisers, membership and Friday night Shabbat services; contact: Congregation Sinai at 352-243-5353. Located at 1200 West Broad Street, Groveland, FL 34736. Email info@congregation-sinai.org & visit: www.congregation-sinai.org. Facebook: Affordable annual memberships are available. www.facebook.com/groups/2022346804470513. The mail address is: 4327 South Highway 27, PO Box 315, Clermont, FL 34711.

JANUARY 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|------------------------|---|--|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| | | | | | 7:30 pm Creative Shabbat Service | 10 am Shabbat Service 10:30 am Bagels & Bible |
| | | | | | New Yeas Day | |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 9:30am Men's Club 11 am Religious School (virtual) | 7pm Adult Hebrew Class | 10 am Adult Education | 7pm Torah Trope | 1pm Book Club | 7:30 pm Shabbat Service | 10 am Shabbat Service 10:30 am Bagels & Bible |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 11 am Religious School (virtual) | 7pm Adult Hebrew Class | 10 am Adult Education 11-8pm Emmi Lou Spirit Night | 10am Sisterhood Board Meeting 7pm Torah Trope | 7pm Temple Board Meeting | 7:30 pm Creative Shabbat Service | 10 am Shabbat Service 10:30 am Bagels & Bible |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| No Religious School | 7pm Adult Hebrew Class | 10 am Adult Education 11-8 pm Men's Club Akina's Share Night | 7pm Torah Trope | 12 pm Sisterhood Gen'l Mtg | 7:30 pm Shabbat Service | 10 am Shabbat Service 10:30 am Bagels & Bible |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 11 am Religious School (virtual) | 7pm Adult Hebrew Class | 10 am Adult Education | | | 7:30 pm Shabbat Service | |
| | | | | Tu B'Shvat | | |
| 31 | | | | | | |
| 11 am Religious School (virtual) | | | | | | |