

January 2019

Mt. Sinai Congregation

910 W. Randolph Street, Wausau, WI 54401

Website: www.mtsinaiwisconsin.org T: 715-675-2560



January Service Schedule

Sat., Jan. 5	10am	Shabbat Service & Torah Portion Discussion
Fri., Jan. 11	7:30pm	Community Shabbat
Sat., Jan. 19	10am	Shabbat Service & Torah Portion Discussion
Sat., Jan. 26	10am	Shabbat Service & Torah Portion Discussion

SHABBAT SERVICE & TORAH PORTION DISCUSSION

A Shabbat Service and Torah Portion Discussion will be held on Saturday, January 5, at 10am. Kiddish is a Potluck so please bring dish to pass.

MT. SINAI COMMUNITY SHABBAT

On Friday, January 11th, we will be hosting adults and students from churches throughout our region. Please join us as we model a Shabbat service for our guests. Services will begin at 7:30pm and be followed by an oneg.

If you have friends, neighbors, or a child's teacher who have expressed an interest in attending services by all means invite them to join you.

SHABBAT SERVICE & TORAH PORTION DISCUSSION

A Shabbat Service and Torah Portion Discussion will be held on Saturday, January 19, at 10am.

SHABBAT SERVICE & TORAH PORTION DISCUSSION

A Shabbat Service and Torah Portion Discussion will be held on Saturday, January 26, at 10am.

Upcoming Events

January 9

Lunch Bunch at 12pm

Book Club at 1pm

Board Meeting at 7pm

January 11

Community Shabbat at 7:30pm

January 13

Challah Bake at 10am

Contact Information

Rabbi – Edward Boraz
rabbiboraz@gmail.com

Secretary – Kellie Messman
kelliem@mtsinaiwisconsin.org

Office Hours:
Mon, Wed, Fri
9am to 2pm

Rabbi's Message
One of Happiness and Joy for All
January 1, 2019

There are beautiful passages in the Book of Prophets that speak of living in lands other than Israel; perhaps the most well-known is that of Ezekiel. Recognized as a prophet of the first exile (586 B.C.E.), his work has several themes that speak to us today. One is resolution that wherever we may live, God can be found. In his time, when a country fell, it was attributed to either an abandonment of its “god” or worst, a defeat of its deity by an opposing one that guided the victorious army. Though the land of Israel is central to the biblical narrative, it was never altogether clear what would happen once our ancestors would be displaced from it. Ezekiel makes clear that God would always be there. (There are challenges to this theology as well).

Another theme is one of a great messianic vision. One day, God would bring all our people together and resettle them in the land of Israel. Some may see this reflected in the Zionism of today, while others await the fulfillment of Ezekiel’s dry-bones prophecy (Chapter 37), in which as the end of days approach, God will gather up the generations of our people, wherever situated, and restore them to Israel.

Finally, Ezekiel reflects on the historical moment. What are we (those living in Babylonia) to do in the meantime? The Prophet encouraged our ancestors to build a life, to marry, establish communities, engage in commerce, have children, and live a life devoted to Torah and mitzvot.

This latter message speaks most clearly to us. Regardless of where we are in relation to its politics, our bonds and love of Israel remain strong. Yet, for most of us, it will not be a place where we will one day live. We wish only for Israel to one day experience true security, peace, and prosperity as if it is our country, our homeland, though we will not physically dwell there. Instead, our lives are here in the United States where we have built something quite extraordinary, whether in Wausau, Chicago, or New York. We have created a vibrant Jewish life within a larger culture which we are both part of and distinct from. We have not assimilated to an extent where we have lost our n’shamah (our Jewish soul). At the same time, we are devoted to our country, to America.

This brings us to New Year’s Day. Most are not aware that in Judaism, there are four New Years in the course of a single year. There is Rosh Hashanah, followed by Tu Bishvat (the New Year of trees), a New Year for the counting of the years of kings that begins in Nisan (the month where we celebrate Passover), and finally, the year for tithing that occurs before Rosh Hashanah. Each signifies something special – whether a time for introspection, a time to celebrate nature, a time to appreciate our freedom and a government based on rule of law, and a sense of commitment to the Divine (tithing) thirty days before Rosh Hashanah.

The New Year of January 1 is a New Year that all of us will also celebrate. It is a time for spiritual renewal as well. We’ll spend time with our family and friends, wish only good things for one another in the year ahead, and make our traditional resolutions somewhat akin to our own Rosh Hashanah. It is a time for joy and happiness for just as Ezekiel had envisioned, for we too (like our ancestors in Babylonia during the 5th century B.C.E.) are a small, yet significant part, of a greater whole where we are devoted to building a good life for ourselves, with perhaps one additional feature. We are committed to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all peoples. Judaism has grown from the ancient days of the Temple from being a particular people and faith to one that also embraces a mitzvah that we be devoted to the health, welfare, and happiness of others less fortunate. A humanity that extends beyond our own concerns to one of where we are also devoted to the fulfillment and dreams of all peoples.

Ezekiel was silent on this aspect of the humanitarianism of our faith. This is something that has happened as a result of both Diasporas over a long period of time. We care, not only about our own condition, but those who also part of a greater whole and it is in that context that our faith articulates a vision that will one day will be shared by each human-being on this earth.

Have a wonderful, joyous, and happy New Year.

Todah Rabbah

- To: *Everyone who brought something to the Special Shabbat Service on November 10th.*
- To: *Marian Greenburg and Richard Tierney for hosting the Marshfield Brunch Potluck and Service at their home on November 17th.*
- To: *Donna Stapleton and Debbie Ginsburg, for hosting Kiddish on December 1st.*
- To: *Linda and David Bluestein, Rachel Tate and Joyce Louis, for hosting Oneg on December 7th.*
- To: *The Ritual Committee, for hosting Oneg on December 8th.*
- To: *Mel Golden and Ed and Faye Miller, for hosting Kiddish on December 15th.*

DONATIONS:

YOUTH CAMPERSHIP FUND:

- Douglas Hosler, in memory of Bellamy Hamilton, who was dedicated to music.

COHODAS BUILDING FUND:

- Syd and Lois Cohen

ENDOWMENT FUND:

- Teresa Silberman, in memory of Myron Silberman.

Religious School News:

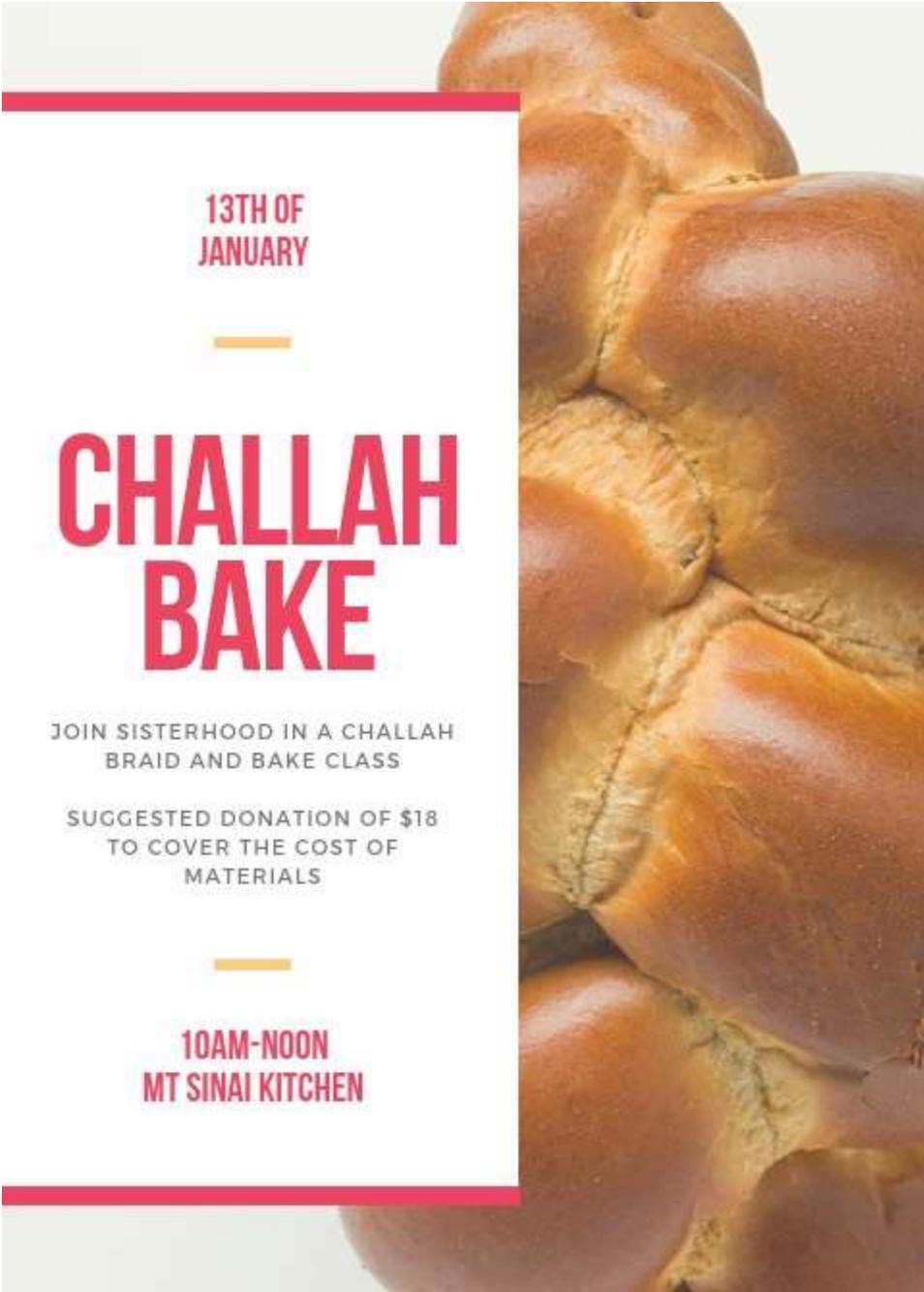
Classes 10am – 12pm

- 1/6 12th Session
- 1/13 13th Session
- 1/20 NO SCHOOL
- 1/27 14th Session



MT. SINAI SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood Upcoming Events for January:

A flyer for a 'Challah Bake' event. The flyer is white with red and yellow accents. It features a large, close-up photograph of golden-brown braided challah bread on the right side. The text is centered on the white background. At the top, it says '13TH OF JANUARY' in red. Below that is a yellow horizontal line. The main title 'CHALLAH BAKE' is in large, bold, red letters. Underneath, it says 'JOIN SISTERHOOD IN A CHALLAH BRAID AND BAKE CLASS' in black. Then, 'SUGGESTED DONATION OF \$18 TO COVER THE COST OF MATERIALS' in black. Another yellow horizontal line is below that. At the bottom, it says '10AM-NOON MT SINAI KITCHEN' in red. The flyer is framed by a red border at the top and bottom.

**13TH OF
JANUARY**

**CHALLAH
BAKE**

JOIN SISTERHOOD IN A CHALLAH
BRAID AND BAKE CLASS

SUGGESTED DONATION OF \$18
TO COVER THE COST OF
MATERIALS

**10AM-NOON
MT SINAI KITCHEN**

Mt. Sinai Sisterhood Program - We will be partnering with the United Way to help our community!

At our last Sisterhood meeting, it was decided that our Sisterhood wanted to do more to help our community. We had come to the conclusion that we wanted to help out the young people in our area that needed assistance. It was suggested that we contact the United Way to find out how best our 'help' could be best utilized. The United Way has its 'finger' on the pulse of the community and is constantly in touch with all the various agencies and social services that help those that need it.

On 12/13, Jessie Musicant and Mary Rajek met with Sarah Tifft. Sarah is the Director of the Affinity Groups within the United Way. It was very much a learning situation and one that we want to pass along to our entire Sisterhood, the entire Congregation and our community. The first step was to set up a date for Sarah Tifft to speak at Mt. Sinai and to have her elaborate as what is currently needed for our local youth. **Sarah will be coming to Mt. Sinai on Saturday, March 2nd @ 12:30 PM.** She will explain to all how we can help. She will be bringing updated lists of all that is currently needed. Please, note that these lists change 3 or 4 times throughout the year and Sarah will send that info. to me and I will list it in our next bulletin.

At the United Way, there is a room called "REBECCA'S CLOSET." Rebecca's Closet provides new and gently used clothing for children sizes infant to sizes 16/18. There are seasonable items available, as well. Rebecca's Closet is **not** open to the general public. A family with children in need would be referred to the closet by social services and/or by one of the local agencies that helps those in need. Human Service professionals are then able to utilize these services. It is done based on their knowledge of the family situation. There is no income restriction or other qualification procedure.

I asked Sarah what we could do right now, until our March program is held.

Currently, the IMMEDIATE need to Rebecca's Closet is the following:

Winter Boots Waterproof hats Waterproof mittens Snow pants

Mt. Sinai will have a box in the entry way, just as we do now with personal items. If anyone has access to any of these items and would like to donate them, please, place the items in that box. One of us from Sisterhood will bring the needed items to the United Way.

Additionally, please note that more volunteers to help organize Rebecca's closet are needed. If anyone has an interest, please, contact Jessie and I will give you the information.

Cash donation are always accepted and would be made out to the {United Way - Rebecca's Closet}. Further suggestions would be to use your Kohl's cash (if you are not using it) to purchase something that can be used.

Please, note, as well, that there is a Career Closet for those in need. Again, it would be accessed through Social Services.

It was suggested that we focus on the youth as that is the greatest need. But, if anyone has work clothes to donate, we will very happily pass them along.

I will keep you updated as I learn more. I should have, for the January bulletin an updated list of what would be further needed for Rebecca's Closet.

Our community has always been so wonderful to Mt. Sinai. It was such a wonder to see those present at our candlelight vigil the day after the temple shooting. We are blessed to be a member of this community and now it's our turn to give back.

How wonderful it will be for us all to be involved in **Tikkun Olam.** Of course, we can't 'REPAIR THE WORLD' but we can 'repair' a little piece of it.

Please, do pass the date of this program along to your friends and neighbors, word of mouth is always extremely helpful. We will be opening up the program to the community. The United Way will list the program on its web site. Also, we hope to do some advertising about this program.

I think that's about it for now. Please, feel free to contact me if you have any further ideas or thoughts on this.

My very best,

Jessie Musicant



THANK YOU!

WISHING YOU A YEAR FULL OF
LIGHT, HEALTH, AND HAPPINESS!

THE MT. SINAI GIFT SHOP

Did you know?

1. That Family Treasures Consignment (2720 Stewart Ave, Wausau 715-675-1925) will donate a percentage of the proceeds that are placed on consignment to Mt. Sinai as long as you designate it toward that account.
2. That Rabbi Boraz is on the radio AM 1230 twice a month. Watch the Blast for his schedule in the calendar section. Also, we think you might want to get the app Simple Radio so you can listen to it on your smart phone.

TORAH PORTIONS

1/5	Vaera	Ex. 6:2 – 9:35
1/12	Bo	Ex. 10:1 – 13:16
1/19	Beshalach	Ex. 13:17 – 17:16
1/26	Yitro	Ex. 18:1 – 20:23

Tree of Life



A “**Tree of Life**” has been established in the Mt. Sinai synagogue so that we may honor simchas (joy occasions) in our lives.

Although the “**Tree of Life**” is not intended to replace the present yahrzeit plaques that are presently in our building, leaves on the tree may now be purchased to honor weddings, births, anniversaries, bar/bat mitzvah, birthdays, graduations, etc.

- Up to three lines
- 22 characters per line (includes spaces)
- A \$100 minimum donation for each leaf (which includes engraving) is requested.
- To order leaves or make inquires, please contact Kellie Messman at 715-675-2560 or by email at kelliem@mtsinaiwisconsin.org; or fill out the order form below, enclose your check and give to Kellie.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

To be engraved on plaque: _____

Please include your check made out to Mt. Sinai Congregation and write “Tree of Life” on the memo line.