



# Sinai Temple

# BULLETIN

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 3

7:30 PM - Erev Shabbat Service

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

9:00 AM - Torah Study

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 10

7:30 PM - Federation Erev Shabbat Service

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

9:00 AM - Torah Study

10:00 AM - 10:00 AM - English Service

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

6:30 PM - Shabbat Rocks!

7:30 PM - Erev Shabbat Service

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

9:00 AM - Torah Study

10:00 AM - Egalitarian Traditional Minyan

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 24

7:30 PM - Growth & Renewal Shabbat Service

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

9:00 AM - Torah Study

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

7:30 PM - Erev Shabbat Service

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

9:00 AM - Torah Study

10:00 - Egalitarian Traditional Minyan

## An Evening of Music with The Robinson Sisters

Saturday, February 1

7:30 PM

Liz Robinson Kruger and Sally Robinson Heckelman began singing together when they were growing up in Buffalo, New York. They now both live in Silver Spring, MD, where they raise their families and share their musical talents with children and adults in the greater Washington area.

Sally and Liz are both thrilled to bring their music to their brother Gene's synagogue in Champaign.

For more information about Sally & Liz, check out their websites:

<http://www.lifelinesongs.com>

<http://www.sallyandthedaffodils.com/>

*The evening will include havdalah and a dessert reception. Look for your invitation in the mail in early January!*



### Sponsorship\*

Platinum: \$1000+

Gold: \$500-999

Silver: \$250-499

Bronze: \$100-249

### Tickets

\$18.00/couple

\$10.00/adult

\$5.00/student

*\*All sponsors will receive premier reserved seating.*

*In cases of inclement weather the office may be closed. Please call ahead to make sure someone is here. Rabbi Alan and Kate Meghji will both be reachable in case of emergency.*





Many of us make New Year's resolutions. Few of them survive beyond the first few weeks of the year: willpower yields to temptation, and the best-laid plans are frequently disrupted by a lack of momentum or a litany of

excuses.

I can't claim to be any better than the average American in maintaining my resolve to change for the better. Nevertheless, I'm going to give it a shot. And I'd like to enlist you, my friends, in helping me to achieve my goals. Perhaps, in turn, we can help one another to accomplish all we hope to in 2014.

Pastor Rick Warren, of Saddleback Church in Southern California, recently set out to lose weight and improve his health. He encouraged congregants to join him on his journey. He has already lost nearly sixty pounds; the 15,000 parishioners and friends participating with him have lost a cumulative total of 250,000 pounds and counting. They have focused on what they call "The Daniel Plan," a diet of non-starchy vegetables, whole grains, and "healthy" proteins, combined with exercise, that is inspired by a passage from the biblical book of Daniel.

My weight has fluctuated widely for much of my life, and I have determined that 2014 is as good a time as any to get it under control. I am telling you, my friends, about my quest—not to force anyone else to participate (we are a food-loving people, and we'll continue to have our *onegs* and other celebrations at temple), nor to ask you to police my project, but because I hope and pray that my efforts will be of benefit to all of you they help me to maintain the good health and energy that I will need to serve this congregation well into the future.

I will be devising my own diet and exercise routine, recognizing that both elements must be considered in order for such an effort to be successful. If you do choose to join me, I encourage you to adopt the habits that you feel will be most successful for you. Again, our goal is not to slap the cookie out of anyone's hand at the

*oneg*, but to adopt a healthy lifestyle that will not only promote weight loss, but that will be sustainable well into the future. As we progress, we may add wellness-based activities (exercise classes, hikes, bike rides, etc.) to the congregational calendar, if there is interest.

There is strength in numbers, as the saying goes, and so I'd like to invite you to join with me in this enterprise, if you wish. Whether you feel you have a lot or a little weight to lose, or you want to improve your cardio or strength-training, you're welcomed on board. For those who are computer-savvy, we'll be introducing a Facebook group, "Sinai Temple *L'Chaim*," where we can share stories, ideas, and tips to motivate one another.

There's another way that I'm focusing on my personal health for the coming year that I'd also like to share with you. As many of you know, I have some hearing loss. It is more pronounced in my left ear than my right, but it is something that I will continue to cope with for the remainder of my life. I ask for your continued understanding and patience with me. It is not necessary to shout when speaking with me, nor to exaggerate or enunciate your normal speech. But if I ask you to repeat yourself, or seem to respond to a question other than the one you've asked, I hope you'll work with me so that I can best respond to your needs. And if I should ever fail to respond when you are trying to speak to me, please know that it is never my intent to insult or ignore you. I value each of you very much, and want to hear the questions you have, the comments that you wish to share, and the joys and concerns that are impacting your lives.

I look forward to sharing life's journey with all of you, in 2014 and beyond. May we all enjoy the blessings of health, happiness, and community.

B'Shalom,

Rabbi Alan

I was uncertain whether to attend the Biennial of the Union for Reform Judaism. The cost of attendance, travel and lodging was not a small sum and 5 others from our Temple were already going. I had every expectation that the Biennial would be like all other large conferences I had attended - boring speakers, irrelevant topics, peddlers selling their wares, and no real opportunity to get to know other participants. Despite these reservations, I decided to go.

The Biennial was marvelous! I encourage every member of Sinai Temple to attend the URJ Biennial at least once. It was exciting, educational, musical and fun. Five thousand Jews from around the world came together to meet, eat, learn, and pray. The sight of 5000 people praying and singing at the Shabbat service was one that I will always remember. During the 4 days I was there, I attended numerous sessions on membership engagement, finance, social action and other important facts of temple life. The evenings were filled with comedy, song and inspirational speeches. The six of us who attended will soon be meeting to debrief and find the best ways to discuss, with committees and the board, the many wonderful ideas we learned not only from the URJ but from other congregations.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that the Chair of the URJ Board spoke about refining the way in which URJ dues are assessed. He pledged that the new system, which has yet to be unveiled, will be predictable, transparent, and simple. He stressed that the goal is to increase revenue from other sources and reduce temple dues. I do not think his words were hollow. I truly believe, after my experiences at the Biennial, that the URJ is committed to helping temples be the best that they can be, including reducing their financial obligation to the URJ. I will continue to keep you apprised on this, as well as other Biennial issues. Have a great new year.

Randy Rosenbaum  
President

## Board Meeting Summary

December 9, 2013

Meeting opened with the Board going immediately into closed session until 8:22 pm.

1. MOTION to approve \$600 for the purchase of flood lamp bulbs. Approved.
2. MOTION to approve increasing the deductible on the Temple insurance to \$2500 which will keep premiums approximately the same. Approved.
3. Membership applications were approved for one family: Sara, Eric and Avery Benson.
4. MOTION to put "no guns" signs required by the new concealed carry law at all entrances--11 in favor, 1 opposed. Approved.
5. MOTION to include Veteran's Day and MLK Birthday as days the office will be closed--6 in favor, 5 opposed. Approved.
6. MOTION to approve proposed changes to the employee handbook. Approved.
7. MOTION to approve a Tepper OSRUI camp scholarship for Rachel Bernstein and a Birnbaum camp scholarship to Gabriel Henigman--10 in favor, 1 abstention. Approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen S. Ray, Secretary

### THE URJ AND YOU

On December 11-15, Rabbi Alan, Randy Rosenbaum, Paul Weichsel, Susan Schomer, Natalie Frankenberg, and Toni Lachman represented Sinai Temple at the biennial convention of the Union for Reform Judaism in San Diego, California. We look forward to sharing with the congregation all of the ideas and learning that we brought back. Watch this space in future months to learn more about how our congregation benefits from our affiliation with the URJ.

Rabbi Alan was able to attend an entertaining and informative session about the Reform movement's historic involvement in social justice causes. The panel discussion with Julian Bond, former chair of the NAACP; Al Vorspan, former vice president of the URJ; and Rabbi David Saperstein, the director of the URJ's Religious Action Center (RAC) was both entertaining and informative. Attendees were reminded of the historic legislation that was drafted at the RAC headquarters that is now part of the law of our nation: the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act; the Americans with Disabilities Act, and countless other social policies. The RAC has been at the forefront of calling for immigration reform, an increase in the minimum wage, sensible legislation to prevent gun violence, and so forth. To learn more about this important arm of the URJ, please visit [www.rac.org](http://www.rac.org)

# Announcements

## iNosh

Dori Gordon Walker is excited to announce that the iNosh app is now available for purchase from the iTunes store. One-half of all profits are being donated to Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger. Dori wishes to thank her Sinai Temple kitchen sisters for many years of joyful cooking in the temple kitchen. The app is available here: <http://goo.gl/6lOsLn>



## Book Group

During January and February, The Book Group will meet on Sundays at 2:00 PM. SUNDAY, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM: The Emperor's Children by Claire Messud at the home of Carol Belber, 2105 S. Mills Dr., U. (384-3030)  
Facilitator: Buddi Tepper

## Bulletin Submission

The deadline for the February Bulletin is January 15 at 9:00 AM. All submissions may be edited for length and content. Email submissions to Kate Meghji: [stoffice@sinaitemplecu.org](mailto:stoffice@sinaitemplecu.org).

## CALL FOR FAMILIES TO HOST STUDENTS FOR DINNER

Illini Hillel will be hosting an Alternative Winter Break in Champaign county between January 12th-January 17th. 12-24 students from the University of Illinois will spend the week volunteering and engaging with the local community. This will include volunteering projects in Champaign-Urbana as well as tornado relief work in Gifford, IL.

As part of our attempt to expose the students to the local Jewish community we wanted to reach out to local families and ask each family to host a couple of students for dinner on the evening of Wednesday, January 15th.

This would be a great opportunity for the students to learn about Jewish family life in Urbana-Champaign and for the community to get to know the students better.

Interested families can get in touch with Erez Cohen, Hillel's Executive Director at [erez@illinihillel.org](mailto:erez@illinihillel.org).

Illini Hillel's Alternative Winter Break is funded by the Champaign-Urbana Jewish Endowment Fund and generous donations from private donors.

## Meals on Wheels

Many thanks to the following volunteers:

Larry Adelston	Michael Jay	Randy & Jill
Judy Bach	Eileen Kohen	Rosenbaum
Carl & Carol Belber	Kate Kuper	Anne Sapoznik
Charles Blair & Joan Friedman	Cecile & Ira Levenson	Tauby Shimkin
Dov Cohen	Daniel Lichtblau	Judy Siess
Susan Cohen	Jacki Loewenstein	Avigail Snir
Rabbi Alan Cook	Robert Manaster	Tony Soskin
Bill & Reva Egberman	Gary & Leslie Mason	Ellen Swengle
Ann Einhorn	Joyce Nagel	Buddi Tepper
Bob Eisenstein	Alan & Jane Nathan	Rosalind Weinberg
Sue Falender	Claire Newman	Linda Weiner
Natalie Frankenberg	Stephanie Pregent	Hana Wickersheimer
Diane Gottheil	Dana Rabin & Craig Koslofsky	Janie Yairi
Karin Imlay	Gene & Julia Robinson	

## Philippines Relief

Dear Friends,

On behalf of International Medical Assistance Team, I would like to thank everyone who donated to help make our trip to the Philippines such a success.

We were able to set up a field hospital, which, when I left, was seeing over 300 patients per day as well as doing multiple remote village assessments for the UN.

Your generosity and support is overwhelming.

Sincerely,  
Leanna Cossman

# Announcements

## Martin Luther King Scholarship Fund

It's been an historic year! Sinai Temple has raised nearly \$3500 for the MLK Scholarship Program, and increase over last year of more than \$1000! Thank you to our generous donors!

Ansel Law Ltd.  
Mildred Barnett  
Stephen & Linda Bauer  
Carl & Carol Belber  
Rabbis Alan & Jody Cook  
Harold & Nancy Diamond  
Ann Einhorn  
Thomas & Susan Falender  
Marvin & Matilda Frankel  
Natalie Frankenberg  
Frances & Stanley Friedman  
Fred & Diane Gottheil  
Sanford & Elizabeth Hess  
Ruth Hoberman & Richard Sylvia  
Valerie Hotchkiss & David Price  
Lenrose Jahiel  
Lilian Katz  
Paula Kaufman  
Julia Kling  
Charles & Joan Kozoll  
Jewel Kurland  
Warren Lavey & Holly Rosencranz  
Roger & Angie Marsh

Gary & Leslie Mason  
Lee & Evan Melhado  
Joan Miller  
Barbara & Penn Nelson  
Barbara Orden  
Barak Rosenshine  
Brian Ross & Cheri Sullivan  
Richard & Jacqueline Ross  
Robin Sahner  
Alexander Scheeline &  
Alice Berkson  
Paul & Susan Schomer  
Michael Shapiro & Elizabeth Klein  
Myron & Sonya Sholem  
Marc & Avigail Snir  
Anthony & Penelope Soskin  
Esther Steinberg  
Blanche Sudman  
Edward & Nancy Tepper  
John & Bette van Es  
Paul & Linda Weichsel  
Barry & Linda Weiner

### ADULT EDUCATION AT SINAI TEMPLE Sundays 10:00 - 11:00 AM in the Board Room

There will be no adult education classes until  
Religious School starts again January 26.

1/26 & 2/2 - Prayer Book History

Led by Darin Henigman

#### Upcoming Topics

New Testament led by Phyllis Gingold

Animal World led by Art Siegel

The World of Sholom Aleichem led by Toni  
Lachman

### *Sinai Temple Gift Shop*

#### **JANUARY SPECIALS SCAVENGER HUNT!**

Look for 20% OFF signs on selected  
merchandise all over the Gift Shop.  
Remember to check out the Inventory  
Clearance Table! 40% OFF everything  
on the table.

Exciting News: We are going to a new system for  
Credit/Debit Card charges. We will be accepting Visa,  
MasterCard, American Express and Discover using  
**SQUARE!**

Winter Break: By appointment only. We will resume  
our regular hours of operation on Sunday, January 19,  
2014.

# From Our Educator

This past December, the third (Alef) and fourth (Bet) grade students led the congregation in a Shabbat evening service. Before the service, the students and their families braved the crazy weather of Friday the 13th and came together for a potluck Shabbat dinner. The dinner began with the singing of Shalom Aleichem and continued with lighting candles, blessing the men, women and the children, and the Kiddush and Motzi.

Even with the miserable snowy weather, the families filled seven tables in the South Pod. The room was filled with joyous song, laughter, and appreciation for the delicious food.

In Hebrew School, the Alef class has been learning their Alef Bet letters, vowels, and script forms. The Bet class has been studying the Shema and Its Blessings, including the Barchu, Maariv Aravim, and the V'ahavta.

In preparation for this service, each of the students was asked to respond to several questions centered around the theme of "Creating Community Through Prayer." The students provided their insights on the why they thought learning Hebrew is important, why they believe a

Minyan is required for some prayers, and how prayer could create a community.

Many of the fourth grade students mentioned how their class is a community unto itself. There are thirteen kids in the group, many of whom have been together since PreK or before. For them, coming to Hebrew and Religious School is just as much about the interaction with their "community" as it is about their learning.

Here are some of the insights shared at the Family Shabbat:

"One way prayer creates community is by letting fellow Jews in the congregation know who is in need of support because they are ill or have suffered a loss."

"It could be comforting to have others that care about your losses and other problems you have. To me, the "talking to God" part is not as important as knowing there is a community with you that cares!"

"...I think learning Hebrew is important. We learn it so we can learn the Torah and the Bible. I like learning Hebrew because it reminds me about being Jewish. I also like it because it is really

Wed	1/22	HS RESUMES
Sun	1/26	HS, RS RESUMES
Wed	1/29	HS
Sun	2/2	HS, RS
Wed	2/5	HS, RS
Sun	2/9	HS, RS
Wed	2/12	HS
Sun	2/16	HS, RS
Wed	2/19	HS
Sun	2/23	HS, RS
Wed	2/26	HS

KEY: HS = Hebrew School, RS = Religious School

fun!"

"We pray because we want to let God know that we know that God is all around us. We also pray to speak to God privately in a more relaxed way."

"Prayer can create a community because people come together to pray. I pray because I want God to help my sick friend. I also pray because I want to feel close to God."

"I think my class is a community because every Sunday we get together, learn things together, and play with each other. It is like we are one family. Being part of a community is important because Jews should be together and help each other. I love being a part of my class community because I get to see all of my friends, I get to meet new

people, I learn new things, and I enjoy being with my classmates."

As you can see, we have some very special members of our school community. Please join us February 21st for our next Family Shabbat and for more insights from our students.

B'Shalom,  
Stephanie

## PARENT MEETING

“Understanding Our Curriculum”

Sunday, February 9th

10:15 AM—Light Refreshments

10:30 AM—Presentation of Curriculum

Over the last ten years, there has been an effort to examine the purpose, mission, and goals of the Sinai Temple Religious School. When Beri Schwitzer began in 2003, she created the framework and structure for a multi-strand spiraling curriculum. Over the years, there has been much effort to look at each grade level and create more detailed objectives and content specific benchmarks.

Come to this parent meeting to learn about the overall mission, goals and grade level specific learning objectives. Parents will have an opportunity to see some of the breadth of material available to our teachers and students. Learn how you can become an active part of continuing the ongoing development of the Religious School program.



## SAVE A CHILD'S HEART

Sunday, February 9th-10:00 AM

*Living Our Jewish Values*

*This organization embodies the Jewish philosophy of “Tikkun Olam,” repairing our world.*

SACH (Save a Child's Heart) is an Israeli based international humanitarian organization. As its name suggests, its mission is to assist with pediatric cardiac needs in developing countries where availability of quality pediatric cardiac care is limited.

David Litwack, Executive Director of SACH US will host a Skype session between the 6th - 10th grade students at the Religious School and SACH patients in Israel.

*Sponsored by Champaign-Urbana Jewish Federation & University of Illinois Hillel*



## IFTY-MV WINTER CHAVURAH

Spend time in the mile high city with your friends from NFTY MV: The Happiest Place on Earth. Come learn, pray and play with new and old friends. See you in Denver!

Friday, January 17th—Monday,  
January 20th

Temple Sinai, Denver, CO



## Shabbat Rocks!

Friday, January 17th

5:30 PM Dinner ~ 6:30 PM Service

*This 45-minute musical service is an inviting, entertaining, and participative service.*

Join us for dinner at 5:30 and/or services at 6:30 PM all at Sinai Temple.

**Dinner:** We will enjoy a pasta dinner from Za's, with salad too! Cost is \$6 for adults, \$4 for children; payment is expected at the event.

RSVP by 3:00 PM THURSDAY, January 16th, to Laura at [lwbleill@gmail.com](mailto:lwbleill@gmail.com) or (217) 417-6671.

**ALPINE STERN FLOWER FUND**

Joyce Nagel & Bob Eisenstein, in honor of Meredith Belber & Michael's wedding.

**BIRNBAUM CAMP**

Freda & Shari Birnbaum, in memory of Beverly, mother of Gary Weiss.

**EINHORN GARDEN**

Ann Einhorn

**FRIENDS OF THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**

Ann Einhorn

**GENERAL FUND**

Annette & John Buckmaster, in memory of Ralph Weinstein  
Ann Einhorn

Ruth Morhaim, in honor of Meredith Belber's marriage to Michael, in honor of Esther Steinberg's Birthday & in memory of Dr. Isaac Morhaim.

Veronica Shavitt, in memory of Isaiah Shavitt

Myron & Sonya Sholem, in memory of Ruth B. Ades

Judith Siess & Stephen Bremseth, in memory of Bobbie Kulnin

Michael Ullmann

Elizabeth Weiss

**LIBRARY FUND**

Ann Einhorn

Toni Lachman

**MUSIC FUND**

Ann Einhorn

Stephen & Anita Hamburg, in honor of Judy & Peter Braunfeld and the English Service

**RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Harold & Nancy Diamond

Jenny France & Charles Kahn, in honor of Rabbi Cook's Installation

Stanley & Joan Levy, in memory of Rose W. Levy

Bernice & Laurence Lieberman, in honor of Rabbi Cook

Veronica Shavitt & the Zimmerman-Shavitt Family, in memory of Isaiah Shavitt

Paul & Linda Weichsel

**SIEGEL SOCIAL ACTION FUND**

Sanford & Elizabeth Hess, in honor of Rabbi Cook's Installation

Daniel & Eileen Lichtblau, See's Candy Fundraiser

Rob & Diane Ore, in honor of Rabbi Cook's Installation

Dana Rabin & Craig Koslofsky, in honor of Rabbi Cook's Installation

Randall & Jill Rosenbaum, in honor of Rabbi Cook's Installation

**TRADITIONAL MINYAN PRAYER BOOK FUND**

Ann Einhorn

Michael & Peggy Grossman

Birgitta Steinberg, in honor of Esther Steinberg's Birthday

**Please send your donations made payable to Sinai Temple. Only donations of \$15.00 or more per fund and honoree will be listed in the Bulletin.**

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## Thanksgiving Baskets

Social Action Committee

Blanche Sudman, Chair

Thanks to all who helped prepare the Thanksgiving Baskets. David Donnini and daughter Emma, Sara and Micah Heumann and sons Daniel and Asher, Dan Lichtblau and son Eli, Carol Belber, Paula Kaufman, Eleanor Finkin, and Blanche Sudman.

The Social Action fund supplied \$500 and the Turkeys were donated by congregants. The donations of Turkeys were: Larry Adelston, Carol Belber, Susan Gumpert (2), Natalie Frankenberg, Eleanor Finkin, Paula Kaufman, Andrea Klein, Joyce Nagel, Karen Rudolph, Susan Schomer (2), Christie Stephens, and Blanche Sudman.

It was an excellent project. Next year we may have the religious school children help by bringing canned goods.

The families that received the baskets are names given by Family Service. We made Thanksgiving a very happy for twelve families.

# Memorials

<b>Friday, January 3</b>	Walter H. Abelmann ( 6 Jan) Morton A. Blum ( 8 Jan) Lillian Schuster Braun ( 6 She) Boris Brotherson ( 4 Jan) Fanny Goldberg ( 7 Jan) Herbert Gruenstein ( 9 Jan) Viola Koenigsberg ( 9 Jan)	David Krakower ( 5 She) Dena Linado ( 4 Jan) Fred Ore, Sr. ( 6 Jan) Abraham H. Reizman ( 4 She) Ruth A. Robinson ( 7 Jan) Mildred Nandel Senn ( 8 Jan) Babette Bloch Stern ( 6 Jan)	Sol Tax ( 4 Jan) Nellie Gertrude Terry ( 8 Jan) Florence K. Weinberg ( 8 Jan) Jacob Wigoda ( 7 Jan) Frieda G. Wollstein ( 5 Jan)
<b>Friday, January 10</b>	Jacob Berland (11 Jan) Rose DeJack (13 Jan) Harold Goldberg (16 Jan) Alfred Heumann (16 Jan) Hattie Freudenstein Kaufman (11 Jan) Aaron Rosenberg (13 Jan) David Rous (12 Jan)	Harry Sherman (15 She) Chester Siess (14 Jan) Samuel Small (12 She) Jessica Tager Underberg (15 Jan) Herman Weissman (12 Jan)	
<b>Friday, January 17</b>	Vivian Adelston (19 Jan) Lillian Berland (18 Jan) Howard Birnbaum (23 Jan) Abetta L. Helman (22 She) Michael Herman (22 She) Isaac Kuhn (21 Jan) Alma Mautner (18 Jan) Lillian Radeloff (21 Jan)	Henry W. Schwartz (19 Jan) Harriet Sherman (21 She) Mathlia Zimmerman (20 Jan)	
<b>Friday, January 24</b>	Abraham Adler (29 She) Benjamin Davis Braun (31 Jan) Sidney R. Cooperband (30 She) Max Creinin (28 She) Loretta Lee Goldberg (28 She) Orie Earl Greenstein (28 Jan) Mollie Herman (27 Jan) Ursula Rothfels Konigsberg (27 She)	Sultana Morhaim (24 She) Shirley S. Porton (29 She) Channa Reizman (27 She) Louis Rudolph (29 Jan) Rosalie Goodfriend Rudolph (30 Jan) Morris Sapoznik (30 Jan) Samuel Shmikler (30 Jan) Jerome J. Sholem (31 Jan)	Louis Spelke (27 Jan) Ruth Weinberg Strauss (27 Jan) Pearl Seltzer Sweital (30 Jan) Florence Ethel Viscomi (29 She) Ruth Waxman (28 Jan) Sam Weingarten (27 Jan) Lida Kuhn Wolff (27 Jan)
<b>Friday, January 31</b>	Adolph A. Adler ( 2 Feb) Elwood L. Fabert ( 2 Feb) Dorothy Finkin ( 2 Feb) Phyllis Terry Gillies ( 3 Feb) Zelda Ginsberg ( 2 Feb) Charles Hammer ( 6 Feb) Iosif Ionin ( 1 Feb)	Edward P. Katz ( 2 Ada) Anna Klein ( 5 IAd) Herman Lewis ( 4 Feb) Nissim Morhaim ( 7 Ada) Henry Novak ( 4 Feb) Edward Louis Roth ( 6 Feb) Florence Schutz ( 6 Feb)	Faye Siegal Sholem ( 6 Feb) Arthur Siegel ( 7 Feb) Rufina Vyshedskaya ( 3 Feb) Ruth Weinberg ( 5 IAd) Florence F. Weingarten ( 7 Feb) Helen Kuhn Wiese ( 2 Feb) Leon Zibel ( 4 Feb)

Adding memorials to your membership record is simple. Just call the Temple office (or email us at [assistant@sinaitemplecu.org](mailto:assistant@sinaitemplecu.org)) and let us know the name of the deceased, their relationship to you, and the secular or Hebrew date you wish to observe their *yahrzeit*. If you are unable to attend services and wish to reschedule the observance, please let us know a few days in advance.

## Memorial Plaques

Honor the loving memory of a departed family member or close friend by having his or her name inscribed on a solid brass Memorial Plaque for placement on our Memorial Wall outside of the Sanctuary. Sinai Temple affords those who have lost a loved one the opportunity to perpetuate the cherished memory of their departed by donating a *Yahrzeit* Memorial Plaque. Each nameplate is inscribed with the name of the departed along with the English or Hebrew date of death. The name of the departed inscribed on the Memorial Plaque is also published annually at Yom Kippur in the Sinai Temple Roll of Remembrance. Cost: \$325.00 each. Contact the Temple office if you would like to order a Memorial Plaque.

# *International Medical Assistance Team Summary*

## *Leanna Cossman RN, BS*

As 2013 comes to a close, and various local groups and service agencies prepare their annual reports, I thought I would submit the Leanna Report so that the generous people of Champaign Urbana, and beyond, can see how their donated funds were used this year. It has been a year of both joy and destruction and we paid witness to much of it.

In December 2012 I was fortunate to travel to Israel to participate in the first Magan David Adon program to train medical professionals from all over the world in disaster response. We received lectures from individuals with firsthand knowledge of the many bombings throughout Israel. We participated in a chemical weapons decontamination drill at a hospital in Tel Aviv and an earthquake drill in Jerusalem. It was an incredible experience and the information I learned has been shared with many of our disaster response agencies here.

February found me in Gondar, Ethiopia with Jewish Healthcare International. We were there at Israel's request providing medical screening for the last of the Olim making aliah to Israel. Small teams of 2-4 medical professionals saw 50-80 people a day and determined what healthcare would be needed on arrival in Israel. This information was communicated to the social worker responsible for meeting each plane of 250 people and appointments and



ambulances were booked accordingly. We were also afforded the opportunity to teach at the local hospital.

The clinical work was not difficult and the local staff was kind and helpful. What they lacked in supplies and education, they more than made up for in their desire to learn. What struck me most was the generosity of those waiting to leave for Israel. Although their poverty was palpable; their housing consisted of a tiny, temporary structure with a dirt floor, and no running water, and their financial resources were virtually nonexistent, their strong sense of gratitude and community was awe inspiring. While walking I would be greeted by groups of children that I had seen at the clinic and escorted to their homes only to be welcomed and thanked by their parents. Often this meant having to accept food or drink knowing that failure to do so would be an insult but that accepting meant that someone in the



family would not eat that day.

I was able to hike the mountain trails that fleeing Jews had taken during Operation Moses. I saw some of the most beautiful vistas in the world. I visited the Jewish cemetery and placed small stones on all of the graves. I wonder who will continue that tradition now. Ethiopia is a complicated, beautiful land and I remain in awe of the people who live there.

November brought Typhoon Haiyan to the Philippines. The Champaign Urbana community helped to provide an Interagency Emergency Health Kit which treats up to 10,000 people for 90 days. We also sent an assessment and treatment team of



physicians, paramedics and a nurse. We provided assessments of remote villages to the UN and set up a clinic in Ormok which saw an average of 200 patients daily. The second team kept the Ormok clinic functioning and was able to set up a second clinic in Tacloban. It was a very long way to go but the Filipino people were warm and gracious hosts.

What struck me most about the people I met was their desire to remain strong and get back to their lives. We spoke with many individuals who had lost everything but who remained determined to help others as well as themselves. They were not interested in being a victim and looking for a hand out but rather wanted to be active participants in



the recovery of their country. Public Health was playing a central role in the organization and distribution process there was a sense of hope.

Ironically, disaster struck here in Illinois while I was away. The tornados that moved through our state on November 17<sup>th</sup> left great destruction in both Gifford and Washington. So, after arriving home on Monday, I left on Saturday with Team Rubicon for Washington, IL where we provided debris clean up. The following weekend I returned with a small group from Champaign to demolish homes using heavy equipment.

Team Rubicon consists mainly of veterans looking for a way to continue serving and I am honored to have been accepted by such an amazing group of men and women. If you are looking for a place to donate, I would highly recommend this group.

Twelve months, four countries, and hundreds of people helped all because of the generosity of people of the Champaign Urbana community. I am honored that you chose to give to causes that were important to me and I hope that I was able to use the funds well.

Thank you for your support!



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Administrator Kate Meghji  
Educator Stephanie Pregent  
www.sinaitemplecu.org

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The purpose of Sinai Temple is to worship God in accordance with the Jewish faith; to cultivate a love and understanding of Jewish heritage through education; to stimulate fellowship in the Jewish community; to strengthen bonds of loyalty with Jewish people everywhere; and to bring nearer the Dominion of God on earth through an emphasis on righteousness (*tzedakah*), commandments (*mitzvot*), and goodwill (*gemilut hasidim*) to one another and to society at large.

## LEAVES FOR LIFE-CYCLE EVENTS ON OUR TREE OF LIFE



Our synagogue is proud to possess the Eitz Chaim, a "Tree of Life". This beautiful sculpture, given to us by the Hymowitz family, is permanently displayed in the Sinai Temple lobby. The branches of the tree contain leaves which can be inscribed to highlight or commemorate such joyous events as births, weddings, anniversaries, bar and bat mitzvahs, graduations or simply to honor parents, family or friends. Share your

happy occasions by inscribing your family "Simchas" on our synagogue's Tree of Life. This will be a permanent dedication to the meaningful, and happy events that touch our lives. The price per leaf is \$250.00. For more information, please call the Temple office at (217) 352-8140.

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### TREE OF LIFE ORDER FORM

Name of Honoree: \_\_\_\_\_

Occasion: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Occasion: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Message: \_\_\_\_\_

Contributed By: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

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