

NOVEMBER SERVICES

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 67:30 PMErev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7 10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 137:30 PMErev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 9:00 AM Religious School Service

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20 5:30 PM Shabbat Rocks! 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21 10:00 AM English Service

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service



ОFFICE HOURS Mon.—Fri. 9:00 ам–4:00 рм (217) 352-8140 www.sinaitemplecu.org

OFFICE CLOSED:

Veteran's Day...... Nov. 11th Thanksgiving Nov. 26th–27th



Volume CXII, Issue XXI

Sinai Temple Gift Shop Chanukah Showcase in the Davis Chapel

Sunday, November 15 9:00 AM–2:00 PM Wednesday, November 18 ... 4:00 PM–6:00 PM Thursday, November 19 10:00 AM–1:00 PM Sunday, November 22 9:00 AM–2:00 PM

> The first Chanukah candle lighting is Sunday, December 6th!





The idea for the English service began when we were on the 'Synagogue 2000' committee and had just attended a regional conference. While we were there we used a wonderful new prayer book from Sinai Temple in Chicago that was written in modern, non-sexist English. We brought up the idea of a monthly service using this book at our temple. We hoped to reach out to those who didn't like to drive at night, older women who never got to learn Hebrew, and interfaith couples. The committee agreed that we could 'try it for a year'. But it lasted all this time.

On November 21st. we will have our 14th anniversary service, and it will be our last. We have had well over a hundred different people attend. The most heartening comment was from a "pillar" of the temple who said, "This is just like what I grew up with!"

We owe a debt of gratitude to a large number of people who have made the English Service a success, including Rabbis Klein and Cook.

It certainly has been a labor of love for us both. We have learned a lot and like to think that those who've attended have too. Please join us for this sad but special goodbye service.

Judy and Peter Braunfeld

From the Rabbi's Desk



My family subscribes to a magazine called *Cook's Illustrated*. It's not a magazine about my ancestors; it's a collection of recipes and cooking tips. Each issue opens with a letter from the editor, Christopher Kimball. Kimball is a part-time resident of Vermont, and many of his columns are folksy stories about the

happenings in the small New England town.

In the current issue, timed to focus on Thanksgiving, Kimball writes about the musical Carter family, who were residents of a town known as Poor Valley, Virginia (so named for its poor, thin soil, and its adjacency to Rich Valley with its deep loam). Kimball writes that his town in Vermont is like Poor Valley: limited in resources, the 940 residents focus on what they do have. A general store and a firehouse form the focus of the town's activity. Up the road are larger towns that cater to New York tourists with antique shops, golf courses, and quaint country inns. It presents the postcard image that many of us would readily associate with Vermont. So why, Kimball asks, would he (and other denizens of his town) prefer the smaller community?

Kimball answers, "The reason to live in such a town is gratitude. A hard life is balanced by the joy of life. Tragedy is offset by community. Anger is suppressed with forgiveness. Stupidity is upended with laughter. In Rich Valley, many are proud of their success. In Poor Valley, folks are proud of their town." Champaign-Urbana is not as small a community as "Poor Valley," though we know that we lack some of the amenities of Chicago or St. Louis or other metropolises. Most of us are here as the result of a conscious choice. And I believe that we stay, in part, because of gratitude. We recognize, like the residents of Kimball's "Poor Valley" that we are in this together. That's particularly true within our congregation. We've formed a *kehilla kedosha*, a holy community that is greatly enhanced by the diversity of our membership. We embrace one another in times of sorrow, and rejoice with one another in times of celebration.

We saw the strength of our *kehilla* recently as we mourned the loss of a cherished member of our community, Arthur Robinson. As Art noted on numerous occasions, in the absence of any local family connected to him by blood, Sinai Temple became his family, connected by love. We are grateful for Art's many contributions to strengthening our Jewish community, and we are thankful for the inspiration he has given so many of us.

While gratitude should be part of our daily "diet," this is the season of the year in which we are particularly focused on thankfulness. As we reflect on our many blessings and the bounty of our tables, let us also take a moment to be mindful of the less fortunate in our communities. And let us celebrate the joy of human interconnectedness that so enriches our congregation and continues to guide us toward holiness.

I wish for all of you a very happy and meaningful Thanksgiving season.

B'Shalom, Rabbi Alan Cook

Birthday & Anniversary Blessings

If you celebrate a birthday or anniversary in November, please join us at our services on Friday, November 13th, at 7:30 PM. Rabbi Alan will invite all those marking a milestone to join him on the bimah for a special blessing. After the service, we will enjoy treats at the Oneg in your honor! No RSVP is necessary to participate!



Mazel Tov to **Rosalind and Elliot Weinberg** on the birth of their granddaughter September 24th.

Mazel Tov to **Tony Soskin** who was named Master Gardener at the State Master Gardener Conference annual Awards Banguet.

Mazel Tov to **Richard and Judy Kaplan** on the engagement of their son **David** to **Marina Mednik-Vaksman**. The couple will be married at Congregation Agudas Achim in Austin, TX.

From the Board

President Gary Bernstein

Sinai Temple Board of Trustees October 2015

- ☆ Sanford Hess made the Motion to approve the proposed minutes from the Sept. 2015 meeting. Rob Ore seconded the motion. All in Favor.
- ☆ Membership: There was 1 new member applications this month: Karen Aprill and Robert Stewart. All in Favor.
- Wynne Korr came to talk with the board about development concerns. Many ideas were presented and discussed, as well as the list of projects needed to be completed. A board subcommittee will look at the finances to provide the full board and the development committee with a better sense of the amount of money that needs to be raised for the Building Fund.
- Rabbi Jody reported that members of the Religious Education committee will be contacting parents of children in the religious school to touch base, answer questions, and discover any issues. Rabbi Jody also reported that the High Holiday Jewnior services were well received. She plans to repeat the services next year.
- The board discussed and reviewed the High Holiday services. Rabbi Alan reported on the results of the surveys that he has received. There was some discussion of the new Machzor.

"We mourn the recent passing of Art Robinson who was such a pillar of the Sinai Temple community for over forty years. We are beginning to explore renovations to our sanctuary in order to preserve its beauty and functionality for future generations. Contributions made to the Temple in Art's memory will be used to help finance this project, so that we might carry forward his name and his legacy in the building which he so loved."



Thanksgiving day will be here before we know it. We are supporting 15 families in need this year through our Thanksgiving Basket project. For a list of needed items, please see the Sunday school classes or check the hall by the Rabbi's office. As you read this, we are starting the month of November. The weather is turning colder as the leaves are still falling from the trees. We have hopefully settled in to a routine with school and work. Perhaps we are looking forward to a time with friends and family to celebrate Thanksgiving. I find Thanksgiving to be an interesting holiday. As I approach the holiday, I am excited for a few days off from work so that I can rejuvenate and rest. Some years, we pile in the car and drive for 12-14 hours to visit with relatives, or stay closer to home and visit with framily. (That is not a typo. For those unfamiliar with the term, "framily" are those friends that are like family.) During these years, we sometimes dread spending time with that "special" relative (every family has at least one). In other years, our family has stayed in town and celebrated quietly in our PJ's as we watch the parade and enjoy each other's company. During these years, the holiday celebration seems to be missing something though. It just doesn't seem like the same holiday if we don't get together with others.

No matter how or where or with whom you spend the holiday, I urge you to remember what this holiday is about. While Thanksgiving is not a Jewish holiday, there are many pillars of Judaism that are highlighted at this time of year. When I think of Thanksgiving, I think of family and community. This is the time of the year when we need to get together with other people, and we need to help others who are in need. Please take some time out of your busy schedule and volunteer to help some one less fortunate than you. Make sure your elderly neighbors are not spending Thanksgiving alone. Reach out to others and make sure that they can find a reason to be thankful. Find ways to increase your level of support for those that may be cold or hungry. Volunteer to help with the Meals on Wheels project. Perhaps take a shift at a soup kitchen and allow the workers to celebrate their holiday. While these are things that are highlighted during the cold months of November and December, I encourage you to remember these people throughout the year. These mitzvot are important every month, no matter the season or the temperature.

As I write this article, Sinai Temple and the broader Jewish community are mourning the loss of one of the pillars of our community. Art Robinson gave his time and energy to the betterment of our community. I met Art late in his life, only a few a years ago, and it was clear to see how much Art contributed to our community. Additionally, it was easy to see how much our community cared about Art. As many have noted, it has taken quite a few people to fill his shoes as *shammes* as he slowed down this past year. It was wonderful to hear all of the great stories about Art over the last few days. As Rabbi Alan urged us all at Art's funeral, I encourage you to enroll in the "Art Robinson Invitational," and find ways to volunteer within the community as a tribute to Art's memory. We can be thankful for his inspiration during this season of Thanksgiving, and throughout the year.

We will miss Art's generosity (measured not only in financial contributions, but also in the significant time and energy he gave to the Temple) and his sense of humor as we continue to mourn his passing and celebrate his life.

Gary Bernstein

From Our Educator

November 6–December 6 is Jewish Book Month. Dating back to 1925 (the first several years the celebration was limited to a week), Jewish Book Month allows for us to pay special attention to literature written about Jewish topics and/or by Jewish authors. Many of us are grateful to receive a free book of Jewish content on a monthly basis thanks to the generosity of the PJ Library initiative and the various organizations who support and fund the giving of such books to young children. These books represent only a small fraction of the Jewish literature that is available to read. During Jewish Book Month, I challenge each of you, as well as the members of your family, to read a book with Jewish content and to submit a short book review of the book to Rabbi Jody. Whether the book is historical fiction, non-fiction, a graphic novel, diary or other genre, I hope you choose something that you enjoy and inspire others to read it too.

If you are looking for a list of Jewish books, please check out the following resource: http://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/about/ jewish-book-month.html. Also, don't forget about our wonderfully rich resource, the Sinai

Religious School Calendar Upcoming November Events

- School Dates: Sundays: November 1, 8, 15, 22 (no Hebrew on Nov. 22) Wednesdays: November 4, 18
- Third Shabbat: November 20 (Shabbat Rocks!, "Thanksgiving" dinner, and Next Dor)

Special Notes: Daylight Saving Time ends on November 1st....don't forget to FALL BACK and get your extra hour of much needed sleep!

November 22 will be a FAMILY EDUCATION DAY. There is NO HEBREW CLASS at 9:00. Please look for more information in the weekly blast.

CUTY CORNER

CUTY is going viral! That is, our twitter is up and running with announcements and reminders about local and regional events. Follow @cutempleyouth to get in on the action! Want more details than a tweet? Visit our new, updated website cutempleyouth.weebly.com for the full rundown.

Also, it's not too late to join CUTY! We welcome all Jewish 8th– 12th graders. Contact us at <u>sinaitempleyouth@gmail.com</u> if your teen is interested in joining. With 15 registered teens, we are looking forward to amazing programming opportunities this year!

 $\sim Ben$ and Jess



Temple library. Be sure to spend some time in the library, choose a book to check out and read. We have so many great books to offer.

HAPPY READING Rabbi Jody Cook

Electives/Chuggim Update

Have you ever stopped to consider how many Israeli innovations you use in your daily life? The students in Israeli Mish Mosh had the chance to learn about Israeli contributions that affect us on a regular basis,



inventions that allow for crops to grow in Israel, medical advancements and more. Israeli innovations have a significant impact on our lives from technology to health. Check out the water irrigation system that some of our students designed after learning about the drip irrigation system invented by Israelis.

Another chug that gave students a chance to experience something new was the Sukkot chug for the 3rd-5th graders. After doing a research project/scavenger hunt to determine what constitutes a sukkah, the students designed their own sukkot. To conclude their



studies, they put on their lab coats and became scientists. The students compared different citrus fruits (grapefruit, orange, lemon, lime and Etrog) and discovered that the etrog has a very thick skin, produces very little actual fruit or juice, and has a beautiful inside with many seeds. They made an etrog cake and learned about how this is a *shmittah* year, (sabbatical year) and we have an obligation to use our etrogim after the holiday of Sukkot.

Announcements

BOOK GROUP Monday, November 16th at 7:30 рм

We meet on the third Monday of the month. This month we will be reading *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Frye* by Rachel Joyce at the home of Fran Strauss, 2308 S.Cottage Grove, Urbana (367-1322). Facilitator: Rachael Schechter. Contact Person: Susan Schomer (359-2938).

SUNDAY ADULT EDUCATION Sundays, 10:30 AM–11:30 AM

Adult Education classes meet from 10:30–11:30 on Sundays when Religious School is in session. **Nov. 1st:** Professor Brett Kaplan speaks on "Literary Responses to the Holocaust." **Nov. 8th:** Professor Chris Benson speaks on the film "Inheritance," about the daughter of Nazi commandant Amnon Goeth. **Nov15th & 22nd** and **Dec. 6th**, Rabbi Alan will lead a series on "Modern Hebrew Poetry in translation." **New this year:** join us from 9:30–10:15 for family Talmud study (geared to teens and their families, though all interested learners are welcome)."

TORAH STUDY Saturdays, 9:00 ам

The Sinai Temple Torah Study Group meets in the Sinai Temple Library, and all are welcome to attend our stimulating lay-led discussions.

GENTLE CHAIR YOGA Thursdays, 9:45 AM to 10:30 AM

SHAL*OM! Please come and try your first class for free! People have said the class is calming, refreshing and provides a nice, gentle stretch and great start to their day. **Be sure to let Robin know that you are coming by email** at <u>robinfans1@gmail.com</u> or by phone at 217-367-8053.

VIMs

Thursday, November 5th at 11:45 AM

Calling all women 55 and older, come join us for lunch and fellowship at the Urbana Country Club. We meet the first Thursday of the month. If you would like to join us, please email Joyce Eisenstein at joyjoyce3939@gmail.com.



New Member Spotlight: Faye Jones



Faye Jones moved to our community on August 11th from the Gainesville, Florida area for her job as Director and Clinical Professor at the UIUC College of Law Library. She has two lovely adult stepdaughters, Kelly Hainsworth and Tonya Garrett.

Faye identifies as Reform, and joined Sinai Temple to connect with the Jewish community and expand her understanding of Judaism. She enjoys Sephardic music, so she'd love to learn more about the Jews of Spain, Morocco, and the Middle East. Her favorite holiday is Passover; she

says it is the perfect combination: a wonderful message of liberation, great food and songs, companionship with other Jews, and hope for the future.

In her leisure time, Faye loves to travel, participate in strength training, read, and enjoy good wine and food with friends.



Where would we be without our volunteers? There are many people working behind the scenes contributing their time, energy and talents to the weekly tasks that keeps the Temple running smoothly. And

we would like to give a **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone of you who volunteer for these essential tasks. We will be featuring different groups of volunteers each month in the bulletin.

Aren't you grateful that we have such a wonderful library? There is an enormous array of Jewish literature at your disposal for the whole family, and it is all taken care of by volunteers. We are very grateful and thank our long time library volunteer, Bernice Lieberman who has been performing the many tasks that are needed in maintaining the library. And we thank and are grateful to all those who volunteered over the years: Melanie, Even, Lia & Zachary Dankowicz; Adena Wilson; Irina Ionin; Amy Atkinson; Joyce Meyer. Current helpers: Faye Jones, Katherine Coyle and Sanford Hess who is the Library Board Representative. We also thank Mick Woolf's Hebrew High class for their energetic work cleaning the book shelves.

There is a need for volunteers in the library, so if you are looking for a place to volunteer, you might consider helping in the library.



FRIENDS OF THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Christina Graham

Muriel & George Swartz, in honor of their Rosh Hashanah visit with the Karen & Loretta Dessen Geoff Ray family

GENERAL FUND

Sena Cooper & Howard Gerwin, in honor of Kari Imlay and her preparation of Bryn for her Bat Mitzvah

Anita Hochberger

- Sandra Hynds, in memory of David Adam O'Connor-Shoresman and Ruth Hiller
- Rob & Diane Ore, in honor of Phyllis & Bill Gingold's 50th Anniversary

HIGH HOLY DAYS

Daniel & Nancy Epstein, in appreciation of High Holy Days services

Irwin Noparstak, in appreciation of High Holy Days services

KITCHEN/ONEG FUND

Garth Gersten & Janet Bercovitz Kazuko Goodman Lori Gordon Vitaliy & Anna Soloveychik Jon & Kathryn Weisbaum

LIBRARY FUND

Larry Krupp, in fond memory of my time spent at Sinai Temple and wishing everyone a healthy and happy New Year.

Henrietta Schwartz & Sue Brim, in memory of Henrietta Esrael Schwartz

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TRADITIONAL MINYAN FUND

George & Muriel Swartz, in honor of Rosh Hashanah visit with the Karen & Geoff Ray family

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Carl & Carol Belber, in appreciation of Rabbi Cook Sena Cooper & Howard Gerwin, thank you to Rabbi Cook for a great Bat

Mitzvah for Bryn

ROBINSON FUND

Garth Gersten & Janet Bercovitz

Sinai Temple Gift Shop

has EVERYTHING you'll need to observe and celebrate Chanukah menorahs, candles, dreidels, other Chanukah merchandise and gifts! (Nut-free chocolate Gelt available!)

SHOP EARLY FOR THE BEST SELECTIONS!

We will be open in the Gift Shop Wednesday, December 2nd, 4:00–6:00 PM, Thursday, December 3rd, 10:00 AM–1:00 PM, and Sunday, December 6th, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM.

Beginning Monday, December 7th,

limited Chanukah supplies (candles, gelt, dreidels) will be available in the Temple office during office hours.

WE ARE ALWAYS OPEN BY APPOINTMENT Call: Natalie Frankenberg (390-4168), Jessica Kopolow (344-6683), or Pam Olson (384-4335).

Many congregants are straightening up their houses, decluttering, or downsizing. In doing so, you may be finding books or other Judaica for which you no longer have a use.

We deeply regret that we are unable to accept unsolicited donations of books and other items. We appreciate your understanding.

Sinai Temple Gift Shop

(All Gift Shop profits go to support the Religious School)

NOVEMBER SPECIALS

20% OFF ALL in-stock menorahs.

Check out the clearance table bargains

40% OFF merchandise on our inventory clearance table

REGULAR HOURS OF OPERATION

Sundays: 9:00 AM-1:00 PM (during Religious School) Wednesdays: 4:00 PM-6:00 PM (during Hebrew School) Thursdays: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

We are ALWAYS open by appointment.

Email: nataliefr@comcast.net or call Natalie Frankenberg (390-4168), Jessica Kopolow (344-6683) or Pam Olson (384-4335). Cash or checks are always welcome. Credit cards accepted for charges over \$25. We now accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover using SQUARE.

Please note: The Gift Shop is staffed by volunteers. Occasionally, we are unable to be open as planned (especially on Thursdays) so we suggest you call the Temple Office 352-8140 to make sure someone is in the shop.

Memorials

9	Jesse Belber (9 Nov)	Jerry Keller (1 Kis)	Irving Weissman (12 Nov)
Friday, November 6	Louie Blockman (8 Nov)	Meyer Klorfine (7 Nov)	Gertrude Wolf (29 Che)
	Eva Cutler (12 Nov)	Sylvia Leary (7 Nov)	Reba Wolf (25 Che)
	Molly Denenholz (11 Nov)	Lev Oykhberg (13 Nov)	
	Florence Goldberg (13 Nov)	Melvyn Silver (30 Che)	
y, I	Ruth Jacobs Gordon (7 Nov)	Susan Melanie Sirkis (13 Nov)	
daj	Jenny Gottheil (10 Nov)	Abe H. Waxman (9 Nov)	
Fri	Ruby Kanfer (7 Nov)	Lawrence Weingarten (12 Nov)	
[3	Ann Black (16 Nov)	Aaron Linder (20 Nov)	Jane P. Walter (4 Kis)
Friday, November 13	Joseph B. Bloomfield (20 Nov)	Stuart S. Nagel (18 Nov)	Roslyn Mae Boxerman Woolf (17 Nov)
	Lawrence Martin Davis (14 Nov)	Rabbi Isaac Neuman (17 Nov)	
	Manuel Gomez (18 Nov)	Molly Newman (16 Nov)	
101	Jacob Herman (15 Nov)	Minnie Rosenstein (18 Nov)	
ν, Γ	Fred Hess (16 Nov)	Frieda Sherman (5 Kis)	
day	Miriam Korogodsky (18 Nov)	Jennie Steinberg (8 Kis)	
Īrie	Rose Weinberger Levy (18 Nov)	Jacob Toby (4 Kis)	
Friday, November 20	Nathan Berenbaum (12 Kis)	Helmut Heumann (22 Nov)	David Porton (12 Kis)
	Ruth Koller Berkson (13 Kis)	Morris M. Kaplan (9 Kis)	Ada Feinstein Roth (25 Nov)
bel	Louis L. Bing (21 Nov)	Rabbi Louis Kaufman (9 Kis)	Sylvia Selicovitz (26 Nov)
em	Myrtle Berenson Braun (26 Nov)	Della B Kranson (22 Nov)	Gerti Shalev (13 Kis)
0V(Julius Cohen (26 Nov)	Della B. Kranson (22 Nov)	William H. Sholem (24 Nov)
N	Paulette E. Deckard (22 Nov)	Bernice L. Lewis (24 Nov)	Bessie Siegal (22 Nov)
ay,	Bertel Forst (25 Nov)	Samuel Arthur Libman (26 Nov)	Estelle Spelke (21 Nov)
rid	Libby Goldberg (21 Nov)	Isadore Meyerson (15 Kis)	Jane P. Walter (25 Nov)
	Alex Goldman (23 Nov)	Victorya Meyerson (14 Kis)	
7	Dhilin Anglahaum (4 Das)	Marria Catthail (2 Dag)	Deviewin Deceletain (2 Dec)
Friday, November 27	Philip Applebaum (4 Dec)	Morris Gottheil (3 Dec)	Benjamin Pearlstein (2 Dec)
	Rosa Lee Brill (29 Nov)	Sally Grusby (2 Dec)	James Strauch (30 Nov)
	Morton Dunn (30 Nov)	Bernard Hymowitz (20 Kis)	Arthur Allen Telcser (17 Kis)
	Da'vid Efergan (21 Kis)	Beatrice Karan (1 Dec)	
	Marshall Egherman (16 Kis)	Ben Karol (30 Nov)	
	Lena V. Garfinkel (1 Dec)	Alan Birk Kuper (16 Kis)	
id:	Louis Nathan Glaser (2 Dec)	Fred Lewin (4 Dec)	
Fr	Sara Goldring (21 Kis)	Harry David Nelson (1 Dec)	

Adding memorials to your membership record is simple. Just call the Temple office (or email us at <u>stoffice@sinaitemplecu.org</u>) 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.

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

Bulletin Submission: The deadline for the December Bulletin is **November 13th at 10:00 AM**. All submissions may be edited for length and content. **EMAIL submissions to:** Kathy Douglas stoffice@sinaitemplecu.org.



Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage P.A.I.D. Permit No. 298 Champaign, IL 61821

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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.



Would you like to help sponsor our Bulletin? Contact Kathy in the Temple office for more information!