

OFFICE HOURS

Mon.—Fri. 9:00 AM—4:00 PM

www.sinaitemplecu.org

(217) 352-8140



Reflecting
on a year
of wonderful
Memories!



JANUARY SERVICES

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1

Erev Shabbat Service 7:30 PM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8

Erev Shabbat Service 7:30 PM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9

Egalitarian Traditional Minyan 10:00 AM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

Shabbat Rocks! 6:30 PM

MLK Erev Shabbat Service 7:30 PM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

Erev Shabbat Service 7:30 PM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

Erev Shabbat Services 7:30 PM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

Egalitarian Traditional Minyan 10:00 AM

OFFICE CLOSED

New Year's DayJan. 1st

Martin Luther King BDJan. 18th



As January approaches, we look forward to the new secular year. During the Jewish New Year season, we are called to reflect upon our lives up until that point, engaging in *cheshbon ha-nefesh*, an “accounting of the soul.” So too is it traditional, at the turning of the calendar page, for us to consider how we wish to make changes in our character and behavior.

In Genesis chapter 45 (which is often read right around the time of the secular New Year), Joseph reunites with his brothers after a separation of many years. In the interim, he has become quite powerful in Egypt, while the rest of the family has faced famine in Canaan. Joseph now encourages his brothers to resettle in Egypt, assuring them that he will take care to provide for all of their needs. He instructs them, “Do not worry about your belongings, for all the best of Egypt will be yours.”

More than one commentator has expressed that we can read this verse not only as referring to the material possessions that the family had amassed during their life in Canaan, but also their overall way of life. It is as though Joseph is saying, “Don’t be

distressed about what you are leaving behind.” The brothers will have a chance, in a sense, to begin their lives in Egypt with a completely blank slate. By the way, lest you worry that this passage is encouraging assimilation into Egyptian culture, it should be noted that the proto-Israelites settle in their own enclave in Goshen, in part to avoid just such a temptation. The rabbis emphasize that even into the later period of Egyptian slavery, the people did their utmost to uphold the culture and traditions that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had established.

The lack of distress over what we leave behind seems to me to be more a message about our resiliency in the face of change. It is not that we repudiate all that has come before—as a people, we have been taught “*Zachor*” (remember), and thus we are very much rooted in our cultural past. But we are willing to adapt and to embrace change when such change can strengthen us and improve us. In the 1990s, I spent several summers working at Jewish overnight camp. Many of my fellow counselors had grown up at the camp as campers, and were dismayed when changes were made to the programs, traditions, or even the buildings that they had known and loved as children. But the director of the camp would stoically respond to their concerns by intoning, “Change is neither good nor bad; change is merely change.” Like Joseph’s admonition in the Torah, this phrase served to remind us camp staffers that change is an inevitable part of our lives, and we need not be fearful of it.

At Sinai Temple, we are preparing to embark on some changes. Our building on Windsor Road has been our home for over forty years. We seek to make some improvements—some aesthetic, others

practical—that will ensure that our Temple stands as a beautiful, accessible, and comfortable space in which we can continue to serve the needs of the Jewish community in East Central Illinois. From improving accessibility to the bimah to upgrading carpeting and lighting, we are exploring a variety of possible changes that we feel will enhance our home. We hope that you will each be a part of these exciting changes.

There may be other changes that you will notice in the months and years ahead. We continue to build upon our educational offerings, both for our students in our religious school programs, and for adults who seek to continue their Jewish learning. We’re exploring enhancements to our worship experiences, through music and through liturgy (new High Holiday *machzorim* in both the Reform service and the Egalitarian Traditional Minyan, and new *siddurim* in the ETM). We’re increasing our partnerships with Hillel and CUJF in an effort to offer Jewish programming to the entire C-U Jewish community. These are just a few ways in which change may be visible at Sinai Temple, in 2016 and beyond.

Do not be fearful for the things that may be left behind. We build upon the wonderful 111-year legacy of our congregation, even as we grow and adapt so that we may be warm, welcoming, and relevant within the 21st century.

My family and I wish you each a [secular] New Year filled with health, happiness and prosperity.

B’Shalom,

Rabbi Alan Cook



Mazel Tov to **Julia and Gene Robinson** on the engagement of their son, Aaron, to Diana Gore, daughter of Dr. Margaret Gore and Dr. Richard Gore of Highland Park, Illinois.

Mazel Tov to **Joshua Ferrer**, a 2013 graduate of Champaign Centennial High School and student at Amherst College, who just finished the fall semester in the White House Internship Program in the Domestic Policy Council, Office of Urban Affairs, Justice and Opportunity.

Bulletin Submission: The deadline for the **February Bulletin** is **January 15th at 10:00 AM**. All submissions may be edited for length and content. **EMAIL submissions to:** Kathy Douglas stoffice@sinaitemplecu.org.

Greetings and Happy New Year! I know, I know, many of you are thinking that you should remind me that this is the Sinai Temple bulletin and that the Jewish New Year was several months ago. I assure you that I do know what time of year it is on both calendars. While I was unfortunately unable to attend Rabbi Alan's discussion of the "December Dilemma"; I think we can all relate to the topic at hand. November and December can be difficult months to navigate with all the holidays. Luckily they all seem to focus on the same core things: family, friendship, health, happiness, thanks, help for those that need it, and peace.

Since my December article focused on the community support for Ray Spooner and attending the URJ Biennial conference, I thought I would use this space to send out some thanks.

First, I would like to thank our Board members for their thoughtful deliberation of issues and their dedication to improving Sinai Temple and the Jewish community.

I would like to thank Rabbi Alan and Rabbi Jody for their support and dedication to our community. While they have only been in Champaign-Urbana for a short time, it is clear that they are laying down roots and

are committed to providing the best for everyone from our children to our seniors.

I want to thank our volunteer committee chairs and members; without your support, dedication and time, we would not be able to provide such wonderful events and services.

While all of our committees and chair people are doing great work; I need to especially thank the building committee and development committee for your expert advice and guidance as we work to find long term solutions to resolve long standing issues that are now becoming urgent.

I need to thank all of the Sinai Temple staff. You make sure that things are happening as they should. You take care of everything from payroll and bills to contacting vendors / repairmen to support of the committees and scheduling the building.

I need to thank all of those people who answer their phone or email when I ask for advice, historic context, and anything else that comes up. I especially need to thank Randy Rosenbaum who continues to provide me with advice and historic

context that I do not have.

I would be remiss, if I didn't thank my family for their support, encouragement and understanding. I often spend more time than they would like working with committees or doing other work for and at Sinai Temple.

Lastly, I need to thank you, the community. Without your support and time, there is no reason for all the work that we do. Please keep finding ways to improve Sinai Temple and providing us (the Board) with your ideas.

I will end, with a wish for everyone to have a wonderful, happy, healthy and peaceful 2016.

~Gary~



New Member Spotlight: Robert Stewart & Karen Aprill



Daughter Winn's wedding in Boca Raton

Robert Stewart and Karen Aprill have lived in Champaign-Urbana for 40 years. Bob is originally from Iowa, and Karen hails from Chicago. They have two children; Winn who is 32 and Heather who is 28.

Karen is a private practice behavioral health therapist, and Bob is a social worker for Community Resource Center in Paxton.

They are actually returning members to Sinai Temple. They re-joined this fall as a way of supporting the Jewish community.

They identify their Jewish practice with the Reform movement and enjoy Rosh Hashanah as their favorite Jewish holiday.

In their leisure time, Karen is a volunteer with exchange students through American Field Service. She also enjoys reading and spending time with their pets. Bob has been an Urbana Parks Commissioner since 2007.

Board of Trustees Mtg: December 2015

- ☆ Finance committee proposed and board voted to agree, to spend up to \$3500 for Purim baskets and up to \$1800 for the Purim carnival. These are upfront costs and temple will make a net fundraising profit on the events.
- ☆ Roof repairs were completed, as were the repairs to the movable walls in the pods.
- ☆ A motion was approved by email vote previously, to allow the Egalitarian Traditional Minyan to spend up to \$4000 to buy new Siddurim from the Traditional Minyan Obligated Fund, not the general Temple fund. The timing of this motion allowed us to take advantage of the 50% pre-publication discount for orders placed by November 30.
- ☆ January 10 is an ice skating event for the Religious School.

Religious School Calendar Upcoming December Events

Sinai Temple Religious School is on break from
December 17th—January 20th. Enjoy the break!

School Dates: Sundays: January 24, 31
Wednesdays: January 20, 27

Special Events:

Sunday, Jan 10—Family Ice Skating Event

Friday, Jan 15—Shabbat Rocks/Next Dor Services

Sunday, Jan 24—Parent Meeting for B'nai Mitzvah
families (2016-2017)

Febr 5 to 7—5th and 6th Grade retreat for small
congregations.

Feb 12—Shabbat Lock In for grades 3-7

Feb 13—Shabbat Morning Service (brunch and tefillah)



CUTY CORNER

CUTY members have had an exciting Chanukah! Eight of our members traveled to Bloomington, IL, on December 5th to take part in a group event with the Bloomington and Peoria temple youth groups. They made graham cracker menorahs and enjoyed a bagel and shmear dinner.

Sababa Lounge on December 13th was also full of Chanukah spirit! Members got a sugar rush from some sufganiot and gelt to help us stay sharp as they studied for their upcoming finals. Members wrote letters to third grade students at a local elementary school and took time to study or have a study break.

**CUTY wishes everyone a belated Happy
Chanukah &
A Happy New Year!**

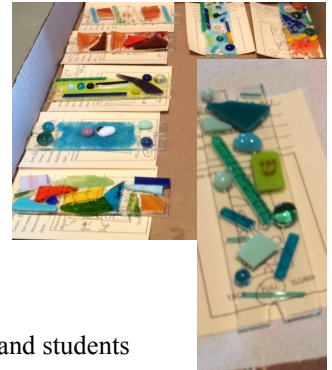


Our students have been very busy in November and December!



1. Rabbi Alan invited the students from the choir *chug* (elective) to light the *hannukiyah* at Shabbat services. CHANU-CHOIR also participated in the Hanukkah Cabaret and performed at Clark Lindsey.

2. Family Education was a huge success. It was amazing to have so many students and parents/special friends in the building for a morning of studying, learning and creating. All students created *mezuzot*. Anyone who needs help hanging their *mezuzah* please be in touch—happy to direct you to resources with the appropriate blessings! Of course, you can purchase a scroll in the temple gift shop!



3. Our Hand in Hand students made beautiful *hanukkiyot* to use during the festival of lights!

4. The First Grade students

organized a toy collection for a mitzvah project. Our congregation collected over 40 toys to donate to a local organization that distributes toys to help families celebrate during this holiday season.



We hope you will come to a

FAMILY SKATING EVENT

during our extended winter break.

Sunday, January 10th

1:30 PM—4:00 PM



Cost: \$4.00 per skater (Includes skate rental and ice time)

Cash only (collected at the event)

RSVP: Rabbi Jody (educator@sinaitemplecu.org)

Children of all ages and parents are invited to an open skate session at the University of Illinois Ice Arena. Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by an adult. If you are dropping off a child (10+), you are responsible for getting skate rental and bracelet for your child as well as leaving contact information with Rabbi Jody in case of emergency.



Announcements

BOOK GROUP

Sunday, January 17th at 2:00 PM

We usually meet on the third Monday of the month at 7:30 PM. However, for January and February we will meet on Sundays. We will be reading *Songs of Willow Frost* by Jamie Ford at the home of Susan Schomer, 2117 Robert Dr., Champaign (359-2938). Facilitator: Natalie Frankenberg. 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.

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).

Regular classes will resume Jan. 24th. A special session will meet on Jan. 10th at 10:30 AM for part two of our December Dilemma discussion.

TORAH STUDY

Saturdays, 9:00 AM

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 robinfans1@gmail.com** or by phone at 217-367-8053.

VIMs

Thursday, January 7th at 11:45 AM

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

A Special Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to deliver Meals-on-Wheels. Great job! I am sure it was much appreciated by those receiving the meals and by Family Services.

Larry Adelston & Katherine Coyle
Carl & Carol Belber
Charles Blair & Joan Friedman
Steve Bremseth & Judy Siess
Dov Cohen
Susan Cohen
Rabbi Alan Cook
Regina Cortez
Bill & Reva Egberman
Bob & Joyce Eisenstein
Michael Jay
Craig Koslofsky & Dana Rabin
Eilleen Kohen
Kate Kuper
Ira & Cecile Levenson
Danny & Eileen Lichtblau
Jacki Loewenstein
Robert Manaster
Gary Mason
Jane & Alan Nathan
Marcus & Stephanie Pregent
Gene Robinson
Randy & Jill Rosenbaum
Ann Sapoznik
Alex Scheeline & Alice Berkson
Cheryl Silver
Avigail Snir
Anthony & Penny Soskin
Buddi Tepper
Linda Weiner
Kathryn Weisbaum

*Many thanks,
Tony Soskin, Meals-on-Wheels
Coordinator*



MUSEUM PROJECT

If you would like to share your family stories for the Holocaust Museum Project, please fill out and send in your form that was in the December Bulletin.

Sinai Temple Gift Shop

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

Thanks to everyone who shopped at the Chanukah Showcase. It is only through your patronage that the Gift Shop is able to make its yearly contribution to support the Religious School.



JANUARY SPECIALS

20% OFF ALL in-stock Mugs and all things Ceramic!

CHECK OUT THE CLEARANCE TABLE BARGAINS!

40% OFF merchandise on our inventory clearance table



The Gift Shop will be open BY APPOINTMENT during the Religious School Winter Break and will reopen on Jan. 20th during Hebrew School.

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.

BIRNBAUM CAMP

Freda Birnbaum, in honor of the
Birnbaum family

BUILDING FUND

Dana Rabin & Craig Koslofsky
Veronica Shavitt
Elaine Shpungin & Mikhail Lyubansky
Ray & Rae Spooner
Paul & Linda Weichsel
Inna & Vadim Zharnitsky

GENERAL FUND

Annette & John Buckmaster, in memory
of Ralph Weinstein
Loretta Dessen, in memory of Judy
Seligman
Marshall Greenberg & Lee Egberman, in
appreciation of Alice Berkson and her
work on the Cemetery Committee
Frances & Mitchell Harris, in memory of
Suzanne Shapiro
William & Lisa Libman, in memory of Art
Robinson, Rabbi Issac Neuman,
Judith Seligman and Edythe Davis
Eva Rosenfield, in memory of Ben Riaff
Veronica Shavitt in memory of Isaiah
Shavitt

Myron & Sonya Sholem in memory of
Leon Ades and Isaac Morhaim

KITCHEN/ONEG FUND

Stephen Downie & Deborah Katz-Downie
Lee & Evan Melhado
Ray & Rae Spooner

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Freda Birnbaum, in honor of the
Birnbaum family
Dr. Alan & Gayle Israel
David Seligman & Betsy Abramson

ROBINSON FUND

Stephen Downie & Deborah Katz-
Downie, in memory of Art Robinson
Miles Klein
Gene & Julia Robinson, in memory of Art
Robinson

SENIORS FUND

Yoram & Carol Mizrahi, in memory of
Jeanne Grustein and many thanks to
Judy Laufhutte

SIEGEL SOCIAL ACTION FUND

Anthony & Penelope Soskin, in memory
of Arthur Robinson

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Carl & Carol Belber
Annette & John Buckmaster
Susan Cohen & George Monahan
William & Reva Egberman
Don & Joyce Francisco
Natalie Frankenberg
Monica Grant
Sherry Helfer
Sandra Hynds
Jennifer Klatsky
Toni Lachman
Gene & Julia Robinson
Religious School Students
Paul & Susan Schomer
William & Fran Strauss

TRADITIONAL MINYAN FUND

Lee & Evan Melhado
Gene & Julia Robinson, in memory of
Judy Seligman and Elinor Harris
Robert Silverman

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.



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 volunteers for these essential tasks. We will be featuring
different groups of volunteers each month in the bulletin.

This month we thank those who serve on the Membership
Committee. The Membership Committee consists of Susan
Donahue, Lil Levant, Diane Ore and Chair Elizabeth Hess. They
officially host two events a year - a "New Member Dinner" in the
spring, and a "Potential Member Oneg" in the fall. When families or
individuals inquire about Sinai Temple, the Membership
Committee contacts them and answers any questions they have
about our community. When they decide to join, they provide them
with a welcome basket, as well as information about the many
educational opportunities and events at Sinai Temple.

*Thank
You*



Birthday & Anniversary Blessings

If you celebrate a birthday or
anniversary in January, please join us at our
services on Friday, January 15th, 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!



ZingerBug.com

Memorials

Friday, January 1	Walter H. Abelman (6 Jan) Morton A. Blum (8 Jan) Johanna Braunfeld (3 Jan) Boris Brotherson (4 Jan) Sylvia Bursztyn (23 Tev) Ruth Herman Garfinkel (3 Jan) Tamar Gershoni (23 Tev) Fanny Goldberg (7 Jan)	Stanley Gordon (4 Jan) Milton Gorodetsky (24 Tev) Mort Heller (27 Tev) Ruth Manis Kahn (8 Jan) Dena Linado (4 Jan) Fred Ore, Sr. (6 Jan) Ruth A. Robinson (7 Jan) Mildred Nandel Senn (8 Jan)	Maybelle Solon (3 Jan) Marvin Phillip Steinberg (26 Tev) Babette Bloch Stern (6 Jan) Sol Tax (4 Jan) Nellie Gertrude Terry (8 Jan) Florence K. Weinberg (8 Jan) Frieda G. Wollstein (5 Jan) Mary E. Zakem (27 Tev)
Friday, January 8	Jacob Berland (11 Jan) Rose DeJack (13 Jan) Julian Frankenberg (13 Jan) Herbert Gruenstein (9 Jan) Hattie Freudenstein Kaufman (11 Jan) Viola Koenigsberg (9 Jan) David Krakower (5 She) Cecelia Klein Pearle (28 Tev)	Abraham H. Reizman (4 She) Aaron Rosenberg (13 Jan) David Rous (12 Jan) Edward Arnold Shapiro (2 She) Irving Siegel (28 Tev) Chester P Siess (14 Jan) Jessica Tager Underberg (15 Jan) Herman Weissman (12 Jan)	
Friday, January 15	Vivian Adelston (19 Jan) Lillian Berland (18 Jan) Lillian Schuster Braun (6 She) Harold Goldberg (16 Jan) Alfred Heumann (16 Jan) Isaac Kuhn (21 Jan) Alma Mautner (18 Jan) Lillian Radeloff (21 Jan)	Henry W. Schwartz (19 Jan) Samuel Small (12 She) Mathlia Zimmerman (20 Jan)	
Friday, January 22	Howard Birnbaum (23 Jan) Orie Earl Greenstein (28 Jan) Heini Halberstam (25 Jan) Mollie Herman (27 Jan) Matthew Mischakoff (23 Jan) Louis Rudolph (29 Jan) Harry Sherman (26 Jan)	Louis Spelke (27 Jan) Ruth Weinberg Strauss (27 Jan) Ruth Waxman (28 Jan) Sam Weingarten (27 Jan) Lida Kuhn Wolff (27 Jan)	
Friday, January 29	Abraham Adler (2 Feb) Adolph A. Adler (2 Feb) Benjamin Davis Braun (31 Jan) Elwood L. Fabert (2 Feb) Dorothy Finkin (2 Feb) Phyllis Terry Gillies (3 Feb) Zelda Ginsberg (2 Feb) Abetta L. Helman (22 She)	Michael Herman (22 She) Iosif Ionin (1 Feb) Herman Lewis (4 Feb) Mischa Mischakoff (1 Feb) Sultana Morhaim (24 She) Rosalie Goodfriend Rudolph (30 Jan) Morris Sapoznik (30 Jan) Samuel Shmikler (30 Jan)	Jerome J. Sholem (31 Jan) Pearl Seltzer Sweital (30 Jan) Rufina Vyshedsckaya (3 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 stoffice@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.

SINAI TEMPLE

3104 West Windsor Rd.
Champaign, IL 61822

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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.



Monday, January 25th



Dr. G's BrainWorks

THE BRAIN FITNESS STORE & MORE

Birthday Parties! We do the work and everyone enjoys the Fun!
More information at www.drgsbrainworks.com/parties/
Call us at (217) 607-2427!

Dr. G's ChessWorks New Fall Classes to be announced for all ability levels!
Play Chess. Have Fun. Think Better. Visit www.drgsbrainworks.com/chessworks
For up-to date information and registration or call (217) 607-2427!



GRAND SALON & SPA

the beginning of a *Beautiful Journey*

3006 crossing court · champaign, IL 61821 · 217.355.0505



The Weiner Companies, Ltd.

Full Real Estate Services

www.weinercompanies.com

- Residential Brokerage
- Investment Brokerage
- Property Management



Barry Weiner : barry@weinercompanies.com
Certified Commercial Investment Member & Certified Residential Specialist
211 E. Green Street, Urbana, IL - (217) 384-8001

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