Are you looking for ways to serve others in our community or to be more involved here at the Temple?

There are many opportunities available—step out . . . . . . .

How about offering a ride to someone without transportation to our Temple services?

How about visiting someone in the hospital or who is homebound?

How about helping with an Oneg or Purim Baskets?

How about helping in the Library, being an usher or joining a committee?

****See insert for Religious School form . . . . .
Of the many celebrations held in the month of February (National Grapefruit month, National Pistachio Day on the 26th etc.), undoubtedly one of the best-known is Presidents’ Day. It is fitting that we take time each year to honor those who have led our country; only forty-three individuals have filled that role so far in our nation’s existence. History (and/or our personal political proclivities) may dissuade us from venerating some of these men, yet in the final analysis, I think we can be appreciative of the sacrifices they each have made, and the difficult challenges they face in serving as leaders of the free world.

Over the course of a presidency, a president has ample time to ruminate, write, and speak about the job. We should perhaps consider ourselves fortunate that because of their elevated positions, people have seen fit to preserve these thoughts for posterity. As I scanned the Internet for presidential quotes, a few stood out for me as particularly insightful and inspirational. Many of our presidents had something to say about the often-daunting task of leadership. Lyndon Johnson noted, “A president’s hardest task is not to do what is right, but to know what is right.” Theodore Roosevelt said, “The only man who makes no mistake is the man who does nothing.” Part of leadership—if not part of generalized human existence—exists in this struggle to know the right thing to say and do. But we are going to make mistakes, and being able to own up to (and grow from) these errors is also important. For my part, I hope that any decision I make in my work within this congregation will be for the ultimate benefit of the congregation. And if you ever feel that I have erred in any way, I hope that you will appreciate that my words and actions are undertaken with the best of intentions. As Bill Clinton noted, “If you live long enough, you’ll make mistakes. But if you learn from them, you’ll be a better person. It’s how you handle adversity, not how it affects you. The main thing is never quit, never quit, never quit.”

Our nation’s 43 presidents can also impel us to be aspirational. A young person growing up in the United States today can dream of achieving great things. Perhaps someday he or she will even hold our nation’s highest office. President Woodrow Wilson taught, “We grow great by dreams. All big [people] are dreamers.” President Franklin Delano Roosevelt opined, “Happiness lies in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort.” We should continue to encourage our young people (and indeed, all people) to use their imaginations and explore the world around them. Our liturgy teaches that God renews the Divine work of creation on a daily basis; so too should we find outlets that nurture our creativity and provide us room for its expression.

Lastly, our nation’s presidents try to use their leadership to build a brighter future for our nation. Thomas Jefferson embraced this through westward expansion; John F. Kennedy dreamed of exploration of the moon and beyond. More recently, Barack Obama has said, “We did not come to fear the future. We came here to shape it.” In Judaism, we reflect this value in the principle of L’dor VaDor, from generation to generation. We seek to leave a firm foundation and meaningful legacy so that our children and grandchildren may build upon it, and create a strong and vibrant Judaism well into the future.

Whichever of our presidents you find most inspiring, I think we can agree that many of our American values which they pledged to uphold are echoed in our Jewish values. May we forever be grateful to live in a land wherein our religious principles can stand in concert with the American principles of freedom and equality.

I wish you all a meaningful Presidents’ Day, and a very happy February.

B’Shalom,
Rabbi Alan Cook

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**Birthday & Anniversary Blessings**

If you celebrate a birthday or anniversary in February, please join us at our services on Friday, February 12th, 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!

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**People in the News**

Gene Robinson, the director of the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology at the U of I was featured in the “Getting Personal” section of the News-Gazette on Sunday, January 3. To read the article you can go to: [http://www.news-gazette.com/living/2016-01-03/getting-personal-gene-robinson.html](http://www.news-gazette.com/living/2016-01-03/getting-personal-gene-robinson.html).

Janet LeRoy, president of the Rebounders fan club had the privilege, along with Lou Henson, of presenting Dee Brown an orange blazer to wear while he’s on the job as special assistant to the athletic director. To read more go to: [http://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/2015-12-29/one-legend-another.html](http://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/2015-12-29/one-legend-another.html).
Well, it’s February! By now you have probably gotten back into your normal every day routines. The kids are back at school during the day, extracurricular activities are happening, and work is in full swing. By now, most of the New Year’s resolutions have probably been broken or are about to be broken. Hebrew school and Religious school have also started up again after an even longer break. Life is settling back down to “normal.”

Despite this nice comfortable feeling of normal; I am going to remind you about some of the opportunities that are available to do something that you may not be part of your “normal.” Additionally, as Dawn Blackman reminded us during our Shabbat Service remembering Dr. Martin Luther King, a question that we should start out every day with is “What am I going to do for someone else today?”

Did you know that Rabbi Alan has started up the News and Nosh events again (watch the bulletin for more details on when and where)?

Have you attended an Adult Education session lately? Join them for “Sacred Conversation about Death”. These sessions seek to break through the taboos and explore the sacredness of how we think about and talk about our final days. This is not intended as grief therapy, but an opportunity to learn about Jewish approaches to these issues.

Are you interested in discussing the Talmud? Each week the Religious School is in session, join Rabbi Alan and others for an overview of the history and composition of the Talmud, and an exploration of key Talmudic passages.

Have you volunteered to help with an Oneg? You can check the oneg host schedule at Lisa.Sherrin@gmail.com and contacting Diane Ore to schedule an oneg.

Are you interested in helping out at the gift shop? Give Natalie Frankenberg a call at 390-4168.

Can you help with the Purim Baskets? Give Rabbi Jody or Tonya Bernstein a call.

Have you volunteered for a committee? There are a number that could use your help. Please see the list of committees on our website at:

http://www.sinaitemplecu.org/index.php/about-us/committees

I conclude by reminding everyone of Rabbi Alan’s challenge (the “Art Robinson Invitational”) to find ways to volunteer within the community as a tribute to Art’s memory.

-Gary Bernstein

Sinai Temple Board of Trustees Mtg: January 11, 2016

🌟 Membership: We have received one application for membership from Nikolai and Natalya Matatov. Motion to approve their application was made by Art Siegel, 2nd by Amy Wolff. All in Favor.

🌟 Financial Report and Pledge Update: Profit and Loss Budget Performance through December 2015 was passed around. Income and Membership are higher than last year. Expenses are on track but building and grounds are higher than budgeted for this point in the year. The balance sheet was also passed around and reviewed. We are doing well but our investments have gone down in value, in general, because the stock market has gone down in value.

The Board must annually review our Investment Policy. There was discussion about the policy including the differences between endowment and obligated funds, the goals of each and asset distributions.

🌟 Motion to accept the Investment Policy with the addition of: “The building fund should be invested so as to preserve its value in real terms.” Made by Julia Robinson, 2nd by Art. Discussion followed. All in favor.

There was discussion to upgrade our security system which would include alarms in the Davis Chapel and panic buttons. There would be a monthly savings on service due to elimination of 2 phone line, but a one-time $4,000 charge for equipment/setup. Motion was made by Amy, 2nd by Randy Rosenbaum to accept the Finance Committee recommendation (to include investigating grant money to pay for this) to pay F. E. Moran up to $4,000 to revamp the hardware for the alarm system and make changes to appropriate phone lines. If no grants are available, this would come from building fund. All in Favor.

🌟 Religious School - The Religious Education Committee has been calling school families. Comments about the school were overwhelmingly positive. Two issues had to do with the length of the school day and the length of the break between semesters. Rabbi Jody and the Committee have already discussed ways to address these concerns. The Religious Ed Committee has also been discussing ways to revamp Hebrew High and Confirmation programs to enhance the experience for the students.
From Our Educator

Rabbi Jody Cook

PLEASE SEE INSERT . . . .

for the Shalach Manot Greeting Project Worksheet
A project of the Sinai Temple Religious School

FORM AND PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 1, 2016
Please complete online with secure password (members will receive this in the mail)
OR submit the form on the insert to Sinai Temple c/o Rabbi Jody
3104 W.Windsor, Champaign, IL 61822

Religious School Calendar
Upcoming February Events

School Dates:   Wednesdays: February 3, 10, 17, 24
                Sundays: February 7, 14, 21, 28
***see below for information about February 7th****

Other Events:
Feb 5–7: 5th & 6th Grade Retreat in Wisconsin
Feb 6–7: 7th–12th Grade CUTY Lock in

***NO RELIGIOUS OR HEBREW SCHOOL ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH
FOR GRADES 5–9 DUE TO RETREAT AND LOCK IN.***

Feb 12–13: 3rd–7th Grade Lock in
Feb 13: Religious School Shabbat Morning Service
        Brunch will be from 9:00–9:45
        Tefillah will be from 9:45–10:30 (approximately)
Feb 19: Shabbat Rocks! and Next Dor and Teacher Appreciation Shabbat

CUTY got into the winter spirit early in the new year with a trip to the UIUC ice arena for some ice skating. We braved the crowds on the ice rink then warmed up with hot cocoa, yum! Currently, we are planning the most anticipated event of the year: the lock-in at Sinai Temple. We are getting ready for a night full of games, movies, snacks and maybe even some sleep? CUTY members have asked to watch the movie “Mean Girls,” which happens to be a favorite of ours too. Sardines is on the list of games to play, but thankfully not on the menu for dinner, which will be a feast of vegetarian lasagna, garlic bread, and a mixed salad. Don't forget you can find the details of upcoming events at cutempleyouth.weebly.com, or you can email sinaitempleyouth@gmail.com to get on our regular email list.
Announcements

BOOK GROUP
Sunday, February 14th at 2:00 PM
We usually meet on the third Monday of the month at 7:30 PM. However, for February we will meet on Sundays. We will be reading The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown at the home of Ann Sapoznik, 308 Yankee Ridge Lane, U. (367-5262). Facilitator: Ann Sapoznik. 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).

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.

MAH JONGG
Wednesday, February 24th at 7:00 PM
Mah Jongg is a game that has been played for generations. Join us for an evening of fun whether you are a seasoned player or beginner (lessons provided). Please bring your own cards, extra cards to share and a snack and a smile.

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, February 4th at 11:45 AM
Calling all women 55 and older, come join us for lunch and fellowship at 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.

Sinai Temple Gift Shop
(Fall Gift shop profits go to support the Religious School)

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

Remember to check out the Clearance Table bargains!
(We also have a selection of used cookbooks from Freda Birnbaum’s cookbook collection.)

Book Features
We have copies of The Milk Underground by Israeli poet Ronny Someck, translated by Hana Inbar and Temple member Rob Manaster. The book won The Cliff Becker Translation Prize. The cost is $16.

We also have copies of Amid the Alien Corn, 100 Years of Sinai Temple in Champaign, Illinois, 1904-2004. The cost is $18.

Change in Regular Hours of Operation
Sundays: 9:00 AM–1:00 PM (during Religious School)
Wednesdays: 4:00 PM–6:00 PM (during Hebrew School)
(We will continue to have extended hours of operation during our Chanukah and Passover Showcases.)

We are ALWAYS open by appointment.
Email: nataliefr@comcast.net or call Natalie Frankenberg (390-4168), Jessica Kopelow (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, so we suggest you call the Temple Office 352-8140 to make sure someone is in the shop.

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

BUILDING FUND
Richard & Ilana Akresh
Karen Aprill & Bob Stewart
Ariel & Christie Avgar
Allen & Elaine Avner
Carl & Carol Belber
Gary & Tonya Bernstein
Ronald Dolgin & Jean Clarkson
Ann Einhorn
Matthew & Eleanor Finkin
Arne Fliflet & Deborah Levin Fliflet
Natalie Frankenberg
William & Phyllis Gingold
Jeffrey & Carmen Glezer
Kazuko Goodman
Michael Grossman
Stephen & Anita Hamburg
Anne Heiles
Sanford & Elizabeth Hess
Charles Kahn & Jennie France
Lyle Konigsberg & Susan Franken berg
Paula Kaufman
William & Eileen Kohen
Wynne Sandra Korr
Charles & Joan Kozoll
Ira & Cecile Lebenson
Benjamin LeRoy & Jessica Zinger
Emily Levin
Robert & Sondra Libman
Leslie & Gary Mason
Natalya & Nikolai Matatov
Alice McGinty
Lee & Evan Melhado
Richard & Shirley Newman
Gary & Fraeda Porton
Gene & Julia Robinson
Elyse Rosenbaum & Robert Smith
Barak Rosanshine
Annette Schoenberg
Paul & Susan Schomer
Michael Shapiro & Elizabeth Klein
Art Siegel & Marcia Monaco
Jacob & Ruth Sosnoff
William & Fran Strauss
Mitchell & Ann Sussman
Judith & Steve Ul lom

FRIENDS OF RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
Ann Einhorn
Christine Graham

GARDEN FUND
Ann Einhorn

GENERAL FUND
Hilda Banks, in memory of Al Goodfriend,
Marlene Goodfriend’s brother
Loretta Dessen, in memory of Judy Seligman

INTRODUCTION
Ann Einhorn
Amy Fuller, in memory of Henry Novak
and Tony Novak
Lee & Lisa Greenstein, in memory of Orie Greenstein
Gary & Fraeda Porton, in memory of Judy Seligman and Frada Green, in honor of the engagements of Jonathan Wachtel, David Kaplan and Jenny Topolosky
Eva Rosenfield, in memory of Mary Zakem & Lena Rosenfield
Judith Siess & Stephen Bremseth, in memory of Chester Siess
William & Fran Straus, in honor of the Danville Jewish Community
Blanche Sudman, in memory of Al Goodfriend

INTERIOR FUND
Loren & Maya Israel, in appreciation of Aaron Averbuch and his expertise in event recording

KITCHEN/ONEG FUND
Ariel & Christie Avgar
Howard Berenbaum & Megan McLaughlin
Anne Heiles
Jennifer Klatsky
William & Eileen Kohen
Benjamin LeRoy & Jessica Zinger
Natalya & Nikolai Matatov
Buddi Tepper

LIBRARY FUND
Ann Einhorn
Henrietta Schwartz & Susan Brim, in memory of Abraham Lapedes

MUSIC FUND
Ann Einhorn
Charles & Joan Kozoll, in memory of Art Robinson and Bob Green
Yoram & Carol Mizrahi, in memory of Dr. Sol Barnett

RABBI’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
Firouz & Nasrin Gahvari, in appreciation of Rabbi Cook
Loren & Maya Israel, in appreciation of Rabbi Cook for Kayla’s wonderful Bat Mitzvah

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
Sybelle Timberlake & Scott Rohde, in memory of Freida & David Sherman

ROBINSON FUND
James & Elizabeth Blum

MLK SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Ann Einhorn
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Paula Kaufman
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Barry & Linda Weiner
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Harvey Choldin & Marianna Tax, in loving memory of Art Robinson
Leslie & Gary Mason, in memory of Art Robinson

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Rabbi Alan & Rabbi Jody Cook
Loretta Dessen
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Natalie Franken berg
Stanley & Catherine Friedman
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William & Phyllis Gingold
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Leslie & Gary Mason, in memory of Art Robinson
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.

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.
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.

ONEG VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We have several dates available listed below for anyone interested in serving as an Oneg Host(ess) for our Temple Services.

February 19     Erev Shabbat Service
February 26     Erev Shabbat Service
March 18        Erev Shabbat Service
March 25        Erev Shabbat Service

To sign up, please email Lisa Sherrin Margolin at Lisa.Sherrin@gmail.com.

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