



Wednesday, March 23

# STAR WARS PURIM: SHUSHAN AWAKENS

Please join us for a Star Wars-themed Purim festival. We'll feast on Diane's famous fish as well as delightful dishes prepared by our

Temple family. Hamantaschen of all kinds will be on hand for after meal noshing. A pasta dish will also be available for the children.

The evening will conclude with the always entertaining shpiel.

- HELPERS ARE NEEDED -

Organizing an event such as this is a true team effort. If you're able to lend time on the evening of the event to assist with setup or cleanup, please do a mitzvah and contact Robin Goettel at robinfans1@gmail.com.

### PURIM FESTIVITIES -

5:30–6:15 Dinner
6:15–6:30 Purim Parade
6:30 Purim Services/Shpiel This year's theme is "Star Wars"
7:45 PM Traditional Megillah Reading



**Rabbi Alan Cook** Rabbi Emeritus Norman Klein Rabbi Emeritus Isaac Neuman Z"L

## **Schedule of Services**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 4** 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, MARCH 5 10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan

**FRIDAY, MARCH 11** 7:30 PM Kinnet - Erev Shabbat Service

FRIDAY, MARCH 186:30 PMShabbat Rocks!7:30 PMErev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, MARCH 19 10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan

**FRIDAY, MARCH 25** 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

### FOOD ITEMS REQUESTED

Green salad Grain side dish *(rice, pasta, kugel, etc)* 6-8 hamantaschen bakers Vegetable side dish Fruit and Challah

Suggested donations for dinner are \$5/person or \$15/family with a food donation and \$10/person or \$25/family without a food donation.



So come in your favorite "Star Wars" or other festive costume and get ready to eat, join the parade, revel in the Shpiel, and listen to the whole Megillah!

Go to our SignUp Genius website

http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4aafae2ea1f58-purim1. If you're unable to use SignUp Genius, please call Kathy at 352-8140.

> OFFICE HOURS: Monday – Friday 9:00 AM–4:00 PM 3104 W. Windsor Road · Champaign, IL 61822 · (217) 352-8140 · www.sinaitemplecu.org

## From the Rabbi's Desk



A Jew, a Catholic, three Protestants, and a Baha'i walk into a restaurant. It may sound like the beginning of a joke, but it's actually how I spend one Monday each month (I'm the Jew in the occasion, if you haven't figured that out). My lunchmates and I make up the executive council of the Interfaith Alliance of Champaign County, and we get together regularly to discuss ways that we can promote interfaith understanding within our community.

I was privileged to be able to help convene this group back in early 2014. Interfaith work was an important part of my rabbinate in my previous congregations in Seattle and Denver, and I sought to build on that work here. But there was no broad-based interfaith group then in existence here. The groups that were functioning here were either segregated according to religious denomination, or were geared toward the campus community. So, with the assistance of the wonderful transition committee that was helping to welcome me to Sinai Temple, we reached out to a number of religious institutions throughout C-U. About two dozen interested clergy and laypeople attended our first gathering, and from those humble beginnings, our group was born.

Early on, we engaged in some brainstorming, in an effort to determine those issues that we felt were most pressing, the ones that we thought we could help change for the better, if we approached them through the lens of faith. We turned our attentions to three topics: caring for the environment; hunger, homelessness, and poverty; and children and family issues. This latter topic we have since come to define as ensuring that every child has an equal opportunity to grow up in safety and dignity. So, we seek to focus upon addressing racial tensions and curbing the violence in our communities. Since we are a fairly young organization, we are still refining our action plans for exactly how we will confront some of these issues. But we have come to recognize that, in this case, the journey is almost as important as the destination. In our conversations about these issues. participants in the Alliance are learning things about one another. We are taking the opportunity to understand the passions and fears of individuals who cut across nearly every race, class, and faith represented in our county. By building relationships, we are building understanding.

A few months ago, as we formally organized the Alliance, I was selected to be the group's first chairperson. I am honored to serve in this capacity, and to bring a Jewish perspective to the table. We continue to reach out to encourage other faith communities to join our conversation; at the moment, in addition to me, we have representation from the Baha'i, Catholic, and Protestant communities who attend regularly.

Every faith tradition has some iteration of the "Golden Rule." In Judaism, it is articulated in the book of Leviticus as "Love your neighbor as yourself." If we all, regardless of the various religious and social labels we wear, would embrace one another as creatures of God, imbued with human dignity and worthy of love and respect, how much better could our world be?

Currently, the Interfaith Alliance of Champaign County meets on the final Wednesday of each month from 11:30 AM to 1 PM. We rotate our meeting location to gather at different faith organizations each month. Participants are encouraged to bring a bag lunch and join in the conversation and community building. If any of you are interested in being a part of our group, please contact me to be added to the mailing list so that you may learn about our upcoming meetings.

I firmly believe that the way to build a brighter future in which all people's voices are heard is to encourage interaction and education across the lines of faith, class, and race. I hope that you will join with me in these efforts.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Alan Cook



Mazol Tov to Janis & Maury Topolosky on the marriage of their youngest daughter Jenny to Brian Immerman on February 6, 2016 in Denver, Colorado.

Mazal Tov to Sara Benson, professor of law at the U of I, who recently began serving as a Parliamentarian for the UIUC Senate.



Jennie & Brian Immerman



David Neuman, a 1978 Centennial High School graduate (and son of Rabbi Isaac Neuman) will be given the Distinguished Alumni Award at the 2016 Champaign Urbana Schools Foundation recognition gala on April 2nd.To read the whole article and find information on attending the Gala, go to <u>http://www.news-gazette.com/</u> news/local/2016-02-10/schools-foundation-names-heroes-be-honored-gala.html.

## From the Board

I thought that March would be as good a time as any to talk about some of the things happening at Temple, as well as some of the great work happening behind the scenes.

Art Siegel recently presented to the board a list of building repairs/renovations that need to be considered over the next few years. Some of these items would fall into the category of "Sanctuary Renovation" and will be considered once a larger campaign is implemented. I would consider things like carpet replacement, electrical repairs and sound/video upgrades to be part of this category. There are items that are more foundational that include roof repairs and the replacement of 12 heat pumps. We have also looked at renovating the Cohen Garden to provide a nice outdoor place to hold events.

The board is also starting discussion about the Building Fund Obligation. While this fund has served our community well over the years, the contribution level has been relatively stable, while the costs of maintaining our building have increased. In fact, I've been told that it has been at the same level for the past 30 years. We are exploring the fairest way for all to contribute to the fund in order to be sure that we have sufficient funds to care for our building well into the future.

I also want to THANK all of the people who have either pledged additional money to the building fund or have given additional money toward their building fund obligation. This is a great start towards rebuilding the building fund!

So, what events are happening at Temple? Well, I am glad you asked...

... As I mentioned last month, Rabbi Alan has restarted the News and Nosh events. Additionally, Rabbi Alan has been leading a Talmud discussion on Sunday mornings. Also, Adult Education sessions meet on Sunday mornings to talk about a range of topics including Jewish food and conversations about death. Watch your weekly email blast for more information.

Our religious school has been hosting many of our students at several "lock-in events". Rabbi Jody has organized several religious school services that are aimed at students for both Friday and Saturday services. Rabbi Jody has also implemented a new Next Dor service that provides a bridge between the Shabbat Rocks age group and the adult services.

Of course, I can't forget to mention Purim. Happening towards the end of March, Rabbi Alan and his crew will explore the Purim story through the Star Wars characters. I have it on good authority that Purim basket volunteers are still needed for packing and delivery.

Lastly, I will mention that this is a busy time for the board as, among other things, we are preparing the budget for 2016-17 to be presented at the Annual Meeting on May 22. A nominating committee has been formed and is looking for input of possible board members and officers. If you are interested or have ideas, please contact a member of the nominating committee or myself.

I hope to see you at the many opportunities to gather together for worship, fellowship, and volunteering.

~Gary Bernstein~

#### Sinai Temple Board of Trustees Meeting: February 8, 2016

- Approval of minutes: Motion to approve Dec. 15 minutes by Art Siegel, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rob Ore. All in Favor. Motion to approve January minutes, as corrected, by Art Siegel, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jennie France. All in Favor.
- **☞ Financial Reports:** We have received

\$291,000 in pledges with a value of \$341,000.

- ✡ There was discussion about the building fund. Due to a request for additional donations and the fact that we have not spent money recently from the fund, we have received \$74,000 in pledges this year. There was discussion that the current system of a \$1500 obligation does not bring in enough money for repairs, it is more costly to younger members and that members who have paid their obligations continue to use our building. The Board will continue discussing options for the future and may place this on the agenda of the Annual Meeting to get congregational input.
- Religious School: Jody reported that two teens are going to a Song Leading Conference in Chicago March 11–13. The board agreed to pay for their

registration. Jody also nominated Chico Gingold Wilson to receive a Birnbaum Scholarship; this is merit-based award for first-time campers for 2 weeks at Olin Sang Ruby. **Motion** to approve the recommendation from Finance. All in Favor.

Building: The Holocaust Committee of the Champaign Urbana Jewish Federation has been storing their books at the Temple. The resources are available to the school districts, to teachers, to our own community and other members of the Jewish community. They have requested space which is display-based and have it more accessible to the community. Motion by Sanford to approve use of a vacant classroom subject to conditions. There would be no building-use fee. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sena. All in Favor.

## From our Educator

#### **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS**

I stopped wearing my Fitbit a couple of months ago (I plan to start wearing it again once the baby is born), but I know that if I tracked my steps on a Sunday morning, my results would be astounding. There is so much activity in the building on Sunday mornings—and it is amazing to see. Between chuggim (electives), core classes, Hand in Hand students, madrichim, teachers, Sinai Café, parent and community volunteers, Adult Hebrew and Adult Ed, the gift shop, lay leader meetings and more, nearly every room in the building is occupied and the energy level is high! If you haven't been to Sinai Temple lately on a Sunday morning, I encourage you to find a way to be involved or to come by for a cup of coffee and a bagel to check things out!

Hand in Hand—Morah Rebecca and her students are busy making Shabbat boxes. Each student/parent has designed candlestick holders, Kiddush cups, tzedakah boxes and challah covers. The students enjoy free play and exploration time in the room as well as weekly music classes and circle time.

Primary Grades—The mitzvah board in the PreK/K room is nearly filled up because these students come each week eager to share something that they have done to help a parent, to take care of their environment, to care for a pet, to help another child or to celebrate being Jewish. They are also busy learning about the holidays and the Hebrew letters.

In First Grade, the students are almost done learning the Alef-Bet. They are concentrating on decoding letters, writing letters and Alef-Bet Yoga. Morah Becky is going to help them make a movie of their yoga poses! They also had a pajama party to discuss morning and bedtime rituals!

Moreh Eric and his 2nd Graders are studying the Kotel, and have watched a live video stream of the Western Wall in Jerusalem, and are writing about how they observe the different Jewish holidays and about the Jewish calender.

Intermediate/Hebrew High—In addition to their regular core curricula, these students have had many wonderful opportunities to explore different aspects of Judaism in short sessions called chuggim. Check out the 3-D Yads that some students made in a chug about



Charoset Making



Painting a Torah Yad



on genealogy or social justice.

yads and Torah reading. Also, we had a

Sephardic Cooking class where we made

observances of different Jews, and made Sephardic Purim treats called Ojos de Haman.

borekas, compared Sephardic and Ashkenazic

Additionally, students could choose an elective

charoset and discussed the different Pesach

Torah Yad from a 3-D printer

1st Grade Map of Morning Rituals

#### **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CALENDAR—UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### School Dates:

Wednesdays: March 2, 9, 16, 30 Sundays: March 6, 13 (\*see below for details) \*\*This is also Daylight Savings

#### Other Events

## Kitah Gimmel and Kitah Dalet Family Shabbat Dinner and Service—March 11

Students in Kitah Gimmel (Elana) and Kitah Dalet (Itamar) will help lead Shabbat services at 7:30. Please come to the service to support the students in our Hebrew School program! Families of students are invited to a dinner before the service. Please RSVP according to instructions on the SignUp Genius website. If you need the link, please contact Rabbi Jody at Sinai Temple. Dinner is for students in these classes and their families.

#### Purim Carnival—March 13!

We will have REGULAR HEBREW CLASS on the morning of March 13. Following Hebrew, students will meet in the sanctuary at 10:00. Please have students sit in designated areas by class. Parents are welcome to join us in the back rows of the sanctuary for our Purim assembly. The carnival will start at approximately 10:30. This event is open to the community—please be sure to share the date with friends who celebrate Purim! Of course, wear an appropriate costume!

#### Shabbat Rocks! - March 19

Please note, in March, we <u>will not</u> have a Next Dor service. We will still have a community dinner at 5:30 and Shabbat Rocks! service at 6:30 followed by an oneg.

#### Purim Celebration—March 23

Sinai Temple Purim dinner and Spiel—see announcement elsewhere in the bulletin.

#### PURIM ANNOUNCEMENTS

By this point, everyone should have had an opportunity to support the Sinai Temple Religious School through participation in the Purim Project. Shalach manot will be packed and delivered over the next several weeks. Please consider signing up to deliver shalach manot to Sinai Temple members on March 20. This is a great mitzvah and a really easy and fun way to meet people.

Please note, Spring Break for the local schools was scheduled over Purim. If you plan to be out of town on March 20, please make arrangements for your shalach manot to be picked up by a neighbor. There will not be an issue with food inside spoiling if it is left for several days.

Please consider coming to the Purim Carnival. This event, sponsored by the Religious School, is truly an event for the greater Champaign-Urbana Jewish community. You are encouraged to help run a booth, serve food, sell tickets or clean up from the event. Sinai Temple and the Religious School appreciates your willingness to volunteer! Sign up is available for shalach manot and for the Purim Carnival at this link:

http://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084aa8a929a20upcoming

### Announcements

#### **BOOK GROUP**

#### Monday, March 21st 7:30 PM

We usually meet on the third Monday of the month. We will be reading *Life After Life* by Kate Atkinson at the home of Joyce Francisco, 1505 Greyrock Lane, C. (378-8024). Facilitator: Joyce Francisco. 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.

#### VIMs

#### Thursday March 3rd 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.

#### CHAI LUNCHEON: Singing Our Heritage

#### Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM

Please join us for an hour of Jewish melodies as we lift our voices in song. Kate Kuper will share simple, familiar, singable settings of Hebrew and Yiddish folk, liturgical and holiday music. Lyrics are provided, so all you need to bring is your love of community and a willing spirit. Rekindle memories through music.



Kate Kuper is a dance and movement educator who enjoys teaching diverse content through movement, music, rhythm and rhyme and in helping non-dancers understand and appreciate the art form.

Within the Jewish community, she co-leads monthly services at Sinai as part of the Sinai Family Folk Singers and helps to

prepare students in chanting the Torah and Haftarah for B'nai Mitzvah, Traditional Minyan participation and High Holiday readings. A founding member of the Music Committee, she also helps organize Simchat Torah music and dance elements and other events.

Please RSVP by Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup> by contacting the CUJF office at 367-9872 or by email at cujf@shalomcu.org. The cost is \$5 per person which includes lunch. Transportation is available. Please notify the CUJF office if you need a ride.

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

## Sinai Temple Gift Shop

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

### March specials

20% OFF ALL in-stock Door Mezuzahs

REMEMBER TO CHECK OUT THE CLEARANCE TABLE BARGAINS!

Remember to shop at Sinai Temple Gift Shop for all you Judaica needs. We offer a **Gift Registry** (B'nai Mitvah, Wedding, etc.) and **Gift Certificates** that never expire.

### SAVE THE DATES

HAGGADAH SALE APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup>, 9 AM-1 PM

Each year, in the weeks before Passover, we feature a variety of available Haggadot, leaving enough time to receive special orders for your seders.

#### PASSOVER SHOWCASE

**APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup> & 17<sup>TH</sup>, 9 AM–2 PM** We have everything you'll need to observe and celebrate the holiday. The full schedule will be in the April Bulletin.

#### UPCOMING B'NAI MITVOT

Helen Sussman May 21<sup>st</sup> Charlotte Ebel June 4<sup>th</sup> Dara Althouse June 18<sup>th</sup>

#### 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 BE CLOSED

MARCH 20-27 FOR SPRING BREAK.

#### 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.

## Giving

#### **BUILDING FUND**

Larry Adelston & Katherine Coyle Natalie Frankenberg, in memory of Yefim Grinberg Bart & Pamela Greenberger Marshall Greenberg & Lee Egherman Kate Kuper & Rocky Maffit Lilyan Levant Mark & Ann Sapoznik Vitaliy & Anna Soloveychik Christine & Frank Stephens

#### FRIENDS OF RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Steve & Linda Bauer Carl & Carol Belber Mary Lou Brotherson, in honor of Jenna Barricklo for her role in "Ragtime" and in honor of Ian Wells for his award as an Eagle Scout Bob & Joyce Eisenstein Jennie France & Charles Kahn Natalie Frankenberg, in memory of Al Goodfriend, brother of Marlene Goodfriend Joan Friedman & Charles Blair Joli Ginsberg, in honor of Judy & Peter Braunfeld Eugene & Toni Greenberg Charles & Joan Kozoll Ira & Cecile Lebenson **Ruth Morhaim** Rob & Diane Ore Harry & Sam Rosenberg

Richard & Jacqueline Ross Art & Marcia Siegel, in memory of Tony Novak Christine Stephens Penny & Tony Soskin Jake & Ruth Sosnoff Bill & Fran Strauss Buddi Tepper Maury & Janis Topolosky John & Bette van Es Barry & Linda Weiner

#### **GENERAL FUND**

Loretta Dessen, in memory of Ed Dessen William & Phyllis Gingold, in memory of David Gingold Ruth Morhaim, in memory of Beverly Rodriguez, Hilda Banks' sister in law Paul & Susan Schomer, in memory of Al

- Goodfriend Veronica Shavitt, in memory of Juliana Wertheimer Neuwirth
- Blanche Sudman, in memory of Beverly Rodriguez and in memory of Nancy Abelmann

#### J. BEN HAMBURG ECE FUND

Ron & Joyce Levy, in memory of Marilyn Adleman and Gordon Babbs

KITCHEN/ONEG FUND Lilyan Levant

#### LIBRARY FUND

Henrietta Schwartz & Susan Brim, in memory of Henry Schwartz and Bernice Schwartz

#### MUSEUM FUND

Natalie Frankenberg, in memory of Marilyn Adleman

#### MUSIC FUND

Anne Heiles, in memory of Mischa Mischakoff

#### **NEUMAN GARDEN**

Fred & Diane Gottheil, in memory of Rabbi Neuman

#### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Hilda Banks, in appreciation of Rabbi Cook

- Anne Heiles, in memory of Mattthew Mischakoff
- Laurence & Bernice Lieberman, in appreciation of Rabbi Cook Christine & Frank Stephens, in honor of
- the recent Shabbat Shira
- Ira & Lynn Wachtel, in appreciation of Rabbi Cook for the unveiling

#### TRADITIONAL MINYAN

Harry & Melanie Dankowicz

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.

### FLOWER FUND

The Sinai Temple has several obligated funds, meaning that the money donated to those funds are spent on those specific needs.

This month we would like to highlight the Alpiner Stern Flower Fund. This fund is used to supply weekly flowers for the Bima during services. After the weekend services, the flowers are taken to people in the hospital or home bound to provide a bright spot in their day. Joyce Eisenstein has been a longtime volunteer for this mitzvah. Thank you, Joyce!

When you are making a donation to the Temple, either for a yahrzeit or in honor of someone, the Alpiner Stern Flower Fund might be a fund you would like to consider!

### FRIENDS OF SINAI TEMPLE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Friends of Sinai Temple Religious School was established to encourage an annual commitment to the religious education of our youth. Contributions are used exclusively to help defray the cost of operating the Religious School. **The minimum contribution to the fund is \$36.** As in all funds, contributions may be made "in honor of," "in memory of," or to commemorate any occasion. All FRIENDS will be acknowledged in the Sinai Temple Bulletin.

To become a FRIEND, make your check payable to Sinai Temple FRIENDS, and mail to Natalie Frankenberg, 3705 Marjorie Lane, Champaign IL 61822, or to Sinai Temple.

## Memoríals

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Adding memorials to your membership record is simple. Just call the Temple office (or email us at <a href="mailto:stoffice@sinaitemplecu.org">stoffice@sinaitemplecu.org</a>) 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.



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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! 8 Sinai Temple Bulletin March 2016 ~ Adar I/Adar II 5776