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

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

### Food Items Requested

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

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!
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

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

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

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 http://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/2016-02-10/schools-foundation-names-heroes-be-honored-gala.html.
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~
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 Hebrew calendar.

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 yads and Torah reading. Also, we had a Sephardic Cooking class where we made borekas, compared Sephardic and Ashkenazic charoset and discussed the different Pesach observances of different Jews, and made Sephardic Purim treats called Ojos de Haman. Additionally, students could choose an elective on genealogy or social justice.

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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 15th 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 11th 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.
GIVING

BUILDING FUND
Larry Adelston & Katherine Coyle
Natalie Frankenberg, in memory of Yefim Grinberg
Bart & Pamela Greenberger
Marshall Greenberg & Lee Egheerman
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

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 Mattheh 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

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!

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.

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.

March 2016 ~ Adar I/Adar II 5776
### Memorials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday, March 4</th>
<th>Wednesday, March 9</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mack Bernard Braun (6 Mar)</td>
<td>Sam Klugman (8 Mar)</td>
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<td>David S. Choldin (6 Mar)</td>
<td>Harriet Mildred Lavey (10 Mar)</td>
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<td>Oscar Einhorn (25 1Ad)</td>
<td>Mollie Leavitt (9 Mar)</td>
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<td>Irving Eisenstein (7 Mar)</td>
<td>Solon Aaron Reyman (9 Mar)</td>
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<td>Arthur Fagan (7 Mar)</td>
<td>Edith Saporznik (10 Mar)</td>
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<td>Bernard Karsh (7 Mar)</td>
<td>Ted Sher (11 Mar)</td>
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<td>William Klaiman (6 Mar)</td>
<td>Charles O. Silverman (25 Ada)</td>
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<td>Hiram Gene Slottow (11 Mar)</td>
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<td>Minnie Slutsky (8 Mar)</td>
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<td>Ruth Marieke van Es (6 Mar)</td>
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<td>Rosetta Kuh Victor (9 Mar)</td>
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<td>Jerome S. Wachtel (28 1Ad)</td>
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<td>Colonel Uzi Yairi (6 Mar)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Friday, March 11</th>
<th>Friday, March 18</th>
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<tr>
<td>James Adler (17 Mar)</td>
<td>Harry Lipson Sr (20 Mar)</td>
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<td>Fritz Braunfeld (18 Mar)</td>
<td>Charles F. Loeb (25 Mar)</td>
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<td>Sylvia Kadish Cohen (13 Mar)</td>
<td>Alan Pall (22 Mar)</td>
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<td>Bess Frankenfeld (15 Mar)</td>
<td>Sonya Pearlman (23 Mar)</td>
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<td>Zola Joseph Goodfriend (12 Mar)</td>
<td>Abraham M. Reider (13 Ada)</td>
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<td>Frances Kain Greene (12 Mar)</td>
<td>Gayle Riches (13 2Ad)</td>
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<td>Carl Greenstein (15 Mar)</td>
<td>Eugenia Coleman Roddis (13 Ada)</td>
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<td>Evan Gordon Sarney (25 Mar)</td>
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<td>Edward I. Siegal (25 Mar)</td>
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<td>Helen Tepper (22 Mar)</td>
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<td>Daniel Terry (19 Mar)</td>
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<td>Bill Wiese (21 Mar)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Friday, March 25</th>
<th>Friday, April 11</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rose Shore Applebaum (30 Mar)</td>
<td>Isadore Ginsburg (29 Mar)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Henry Baich (26 Mar)</td>
<td>Jennifer Hodges (1 Apr)</td>
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<td>Phillip Bedein (28 Mar)</td>
<td>Ida Klugman (28 Mar)</td>
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<td>Samuel Cosman (28 Mar)</td>
<td>Arthur Lerner (31 Mar)</td>
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<td>John Porter Davis (29 Mar)</td>
<td>Fania Levin (30 Mar)</td>
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<td>Edward L. Edlitz (26 Mar)</td>
<td>Rose (Bebbe) Mandel (29 Mar)</td>
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<td>Bertha Ginsburg (28 Mar)</td>
<td>Charles Miller (26 Mar)</td>
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<td>Harry Miller (28 Mar)</td>
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<td>Beverlee Mirell (1 Apr)</td>
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<td>Anna B. Vineberg (27 Mar)</td>
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<td>Irving Weinberg (21 2Ad)</td>
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<th>Friday, April 11</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jack Diamond (3 Apr)</td>
<td>Wolf Lewis (2 Apr)</td>
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<td>Joshua David Gotttheil (4 Apr)</td>
<td>Irma Lipson (4 Apr)</td>
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<td>Adam Koslofsky (4 Apr)</td>
<td>Abraham Loeb (4 Apr)</td>
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<td>Lena Loeb Kuhn (8 Apr)</td>
<td>Woodrow Pearlman (6 Apr)</td>
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<td>Aaron Kurland (8 Apr)</td>
<td>Nina Nelson Seidenberg (4 Apr)</td>
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<td>Hermine Ruth Lachman (7 Apr)</td>
<td>Lenore Levy Simon (6 Apr)</td>
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<td>Marcus Tager (4 Apr)</td>
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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.
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.