

Rabbi Alan Cook
Rabbi Emeritus Norman Klein
Rabbi Emeritus Isaac Neuman Z"l

SINAI TEMPLE

April
Bulletin 2016

OFFICE HOURS: Monday – Friday 9:00 AM–4:00 PM

3104 W. Windsor Road · Champaign, IL 61822 · (217) 352-8140 · www.sinaitemplecu.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

FRIDAY, April 1

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

FRIDAY, April 8

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, April 9

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan

FRIDAY, April 15

6:30 PM Shabbat Rocks!

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, April 16

10:00 AM English Service

FRIDAY, April 22

5:00 PM Erev Shabbat Service

(This will be an abbreviated service to give congregants the opportunity to say kaddish prior to their Passover seders)

SATURDAY, April 23

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan

5:00 PM Second Night Seder at Hillel

FRIDAY, April 29

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, April 30

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan



Passover Showcase

in the Davis Chapel

Sunday, April 10th & 17th

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

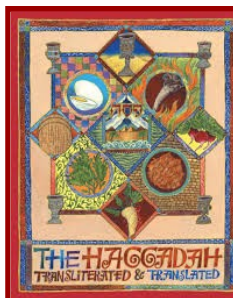
Additional Showcase hours in the Gift Shop:

Tuesday, April 19 10:00 AM–1:00 PM

Wednesday, April 20 4:00 PM–6:00 PM

Thursday, April 21 10:00 AM–1:00 PM

The First Seder is Friday, April 22



HAGGADAH DISPLAY

in the lobby outside the Gift Shop

Sunday, April 3rd, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

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

*****See insert for information on the Passover Seder, April 23rd*****



Yom Hashoah will be commemorated on

Sunday night May 1st at 7:30 PM

Our keynote speaker will be

Professor Jonathan Druker, speaking on

“Future Prospects for Remembering and Commemorating the Holocaust”





Passover this year coincides with the contemporary holiday known as Earth Day. First celebrated in 1970, Earth day is designed to raise awareness of environmental issues and make us conscious of the importance of being responsible stewards of our planet. It is now commemorated in some fashion in 192 countries worldwide.

It seems fitting that Passover and Earth Day overlap. After all, while Passover celebrates the important historical re-enactment of our freedom, it is at its heart a spring festival. To our Israelite ancestors dependent upon agriculture, an abundant wheat harvest in the springtime was certainly worthy of celebration. Our seder table is replete with many nods to the season, from the egg (*beitzah*), symbolizing the cycle of life and rebirth, to the parsley (*karpas*) and additional vegetable (*chazeret*) adding a touch of greenery to our plate. We are reminded that after the

cold of the winter and spring, God's creation has renewed itself, and we once again are privileged to enjoy nature's bounty.

The *megillah* scroll associated with Passover, Song of Songs, carries forward the emphasis on springtime. (While many of us are most familiar with *megillat* Esther, the Book of Esther read on Purim, the Jewish Bible actually contains five *megillot*, including Esther, Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations, and Ruth). Song of Songs' poetry, seen as a metaphor for the love between God and the Jewish people, contains many references to the beauty of nature. One such passage is in the Haggadah edition that we use at our community seder each year:

Arise my beloved, my fair one,
And come away;
For lo, the winter is past.
Flowers appear on the earth,
The time of singing is here.
The song of the dove
Is heard in our land.
Let us go down to the vineyards
To see if the vines have budded.
(adapted from Song of Songs 2:10 ff)

I have always appreciated the vibrant pastoral imagery that this passage conjures up. It stands in contrast to much of the rest of the Haggadah, which speaks of our ancestors' experiences in Egypt and their wanderings through the wilderness. Neither of these locales were particularly

lush or verdant. We can imagine that the people longed for the springtime much in the way that we might after a lengthy winter, and thus the promise that they were headed to a land "flowing with milk and honey" seemed even sweeter.

The midrash collection Ecclesiastes Rabbah teaches that when God first created the world and placed Adam in the Garden of Eden, Adam was told, "Be careful not to spoil or destroy My world - for if you do, there will be no one after you to repair it."

On Pesach, we celebrate our freedom. But with freedom (and free will) comes great responsibility. Let us respond wisely. As we celebrate around our seder tables, let us be grateful for the beauty we can find in the rebirth of spring. And let us concentrate our efforts so that future generations will be able to enjoy nature's beauty and bounty in the same manner that we have. Let us commit ourselves to bequeathing to our children and grandchildren an earth that is just as healthy- if not healthier- than the one we lived with.

B'shalom (and an early Chag Sameach!),

Rabbi Alan Cook



Mazel Tov to Rabbis Alan & Jody on the birth of their daughter, Eden Chana, born Wednesday, March 9th.

Mazel Tov to Janet and Michael LeRoy who welcomed granddaughter Josephina Mae recently. Uncles and Aunts include Sam LeRoy and Ben LeRoy and Jess Zinger.

ENGLISH SERVICE RETURNS!

For 13 years, Peter & Judy Braunfeld diligently organized a service held primarily in English as a nod to our congregation's roots in Classical Reform Judaism. Using an updated version of the Union Prayer Book, we gather in the Davis Chapel for worship and community. On **Saturday, April 16 at 10 AM**, Rabbi Alan will lead the first English service of 2016. All are welcome.

Birthday & Anniversary Blessings

If you celebrate a birthday or anniversary in April, please join us at our services on Friday, April 8th, 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!

I often find myself conflicted about what to write for these bulletin articles. I want to write about events that have “just happened” at Sinai Temple. However, due to deadlines, what has “just happened” when you read the article has not yet happened when I write the article. When deciding what to write for the April bulletin, I wanted to write about the fabulous Purim carnival, dinner and spiel; including the wonderful spiel written by Rabbi Alan and the incredible acting and singing of the “Purim Players”. Surely, this should be worthy of at least a few paragraphs in our bulletin. Unfortunately, I can only assume that these will be great events filled with fun and excitement. I hope you all had as a great a time as I assume that I will at these events.

We all know the classic story of Purim and how Queen Esther helped to defeat Haman and then King Ahasuerus allowed the Jewish people to defend themselves. As I look forward in the calendar, I notice that Passover will be celebrated at the end of April. Passover is a celebration of the Jewish people being released from servitude by the Egyptians. While these Jewish holidays are

celebrated differently and have different specific stories, there is an underlying theme. Both celebrate a time where the Jewish people were able to defeat their enemies and secure their freedom.

As I think about this very simplistic description of Purim and Passover, it occurs to me that this seems to be a recurring theme both in Judaism and in the modern world. How different is this from things happening in our modern day to not only Jewish people around the world, but other religions and peoples? I don't feel that I need to list out the atrocities that have occurred in the name of one religion/race or another in our modern day.

As we are often reminded, we can't let these atrocities go unnoticed. In our modern society there are a number of ways to let people “in power” know about your concerns. Generally speaking, I am not an activist, and I tend to pay more attention to things that are happening within our own community. My belief is that if we want a world that is safe and fair, we need to start at home and within our community. This is one of the many

reasons why I want to see a strong and vibrant Jewish community in Champaign-Urbana that provides for the well being of it's members and the larger community. However, this should not (and does not) stop me from supporting organizations or people that are helping to repair the larger world.

I will conclude by asking you the question that I am asking myself: Are we doing enough to repair our community and our world? What more should we be doing?

~Gary Bernstein

SINAI TEMPLE BOARD MEETING, March 2016

We have one new family membership. Yael Gertner and Mahesh Viswanathan. Rob Ore made the MOTION to accept their membership application, Julia Robinson seconded. All in FAVOR.

☆ **Financial Report:** Finance Committee made the MOTION that we create a new Obligated Fund for CUTY (Champaign-Urbana Temple Youth). This will allow CUTY to maintain their funds from year to year. Finance Committee recommended a change in procedure in auditing the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund; they have proposed moving that audit to the summer.

☆ **Building:** The Alarm system upgrades have been done. This enabled us to discontinue 3 existing phone lines. The sprayer for the dishes in the kitchen is broken. The cost for repair is \$407.00. Sanford made the MOTION that we allocate \$407.00 from the Kitchen Fund to pay for repair. Seconded by Sena. All in FAVOR. The breaker for the cooling tower for the Air Conditioner is not working. Sanford made the MOTION to allocate up to

\$750 from the Building Fund to pay for this repair. Second by Jennie. All in FAVOR.

☆ **Religious School report:** In February, the Religious School had their Teacher Appreciation Shabbat. In March, the Gimel and Dalet classes led the Friday night worship service. The students did a marvelous job and their teachers did a great job of preparing them to lead the service. The Purim Carnival was March 13. There were many volunteers from within the Religious School parents and from other congregants also. Purim baskets will be delivered March 20.

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

Religious School Calendar—Upcoming Events

School Dates

Wednesdays: April 6, 13, 20, 27

Sundays: April 3, 10, 17 & May 1

Please Note: April 27 is the **final Wednesday session**. It is during Pesach—please send after school snacks that are Kosher for Passover!

May 1 is the **final Sunday session**. There will be regular Hebrew from 9-10 followed by grade level classes, an assembly for students, parents and teachers, and the End of Year Celebration!

Other Events

Kitah Alef and Kitah Bet Family Shabbat Dinner & Service, April 1st

Students in Kitah Alef (Iris) and Kitah Bet (Eric) 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.

Shabbat Rocks/Next Dor, April 15th

Join us for our monthly services that are geared toward families with young children. All are welcome to participate in the community dinner and tefillot.

B'nai Mitzvah Class Family Shabbat Dinner & Service, May 6th

The B'nai Mitzvah class will lead Shabbat services for the congregation and share thoughts with the community about their experiences thus far in Religious School. We will recognize them as they prepare to transition to Jewish adulthood. A dinner for B'nai Mitzvah families will take place prior to the service.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

It's hard to believe, but the end of the 2015-2016 Sinai Temple Religious School year is nearing. With only one month left of classes, I can begin to reflect on the year and plan for the upcoming year. Overall, the program has seen two major shifts in the last two years. The Hebrew School continues to be a success and students are moving through the ramot (levels) at a comfortable pace and kitot (classes) based on level rather than age are familiar to the students. I feel that the goals of learning to read fluently and comprehensively are being met, and we will continue to build exposure to modern Hebrew. The chuggim (electives) have also been a great addition to the program. Overall, the mixture of ages as well as student choice have been positive changes. Exposure to different topics for short periods of time seems to work well. I am looking forward to developing the electives over the summer, tweaking the core class curricula to fit the new schedule and enhancing other parts of our program.

Hand in Hand: The littlest kids in our school completed more work on their Shabbat boxes. They also learned about Purim and made delicious hamentaschen with the most creative fillings (dulce de leche, lemon curd, jam, pie filling and more)! Turning a circle into a triangle is challenging but these kids were pros! They also paraded through the hallways as they learned the song *Hinei Rakavet—Here is a Train*.

Primary Grades: The PreK–2nd graders have been busy with units on the holidays, Hebrew letters, daily rituals and of course, baking hamentaschen! Students in Moreh Eric's class have been writing about their personal holiday celebrations in a special journal. Morah Becky's students started a unique video making project based on the Hebrew Alef Bet.

Intermediate Grades/Hebrew High: Electives from the last session include choir (focusing on Yom Ha'Atzmaut), Torah scribing, You be the Judge and tzedakah allocation. Thank you to Matti Shalev for providing many cleaned turkey feathers. These were used in the Torah scribing elective where students learned about the process of making a Torah as well practiced Hebrew calligraphy using ink and a quill. Also, thank you to Loren Israel for leading the elective You be the Judge, focusing on Jewish law.

Todah Rabah—Many Thanks

Purim time just might be the busiest time of year for the Director of Education at Sinai Temple. Within a very short period of time, I had to oversee the Purim Greeting Fundraiser (which involves choosing basket contents, packing the baskets, oversight of the Purim Project ordering and much more), the Purim Carnival, a Family Shabbat dinner and service and the Religious School. The major Purim related events are a significant part of the Sinai Temple Religious School. They serve both as community builders and as general support of our wonderful STRS program and they are A LOT of work!

I put out an early call for volunteers and I am thankful to each

person who was able to dedicate some personal time to ensure that everything ran smoothly. 25 members of our community helped deliver shalach manot. An additional 15 helped to package the contents of the bags. Nearly 100 people sent greetings and all of our membership received greetings. We had enough volunteers to run 25 Purim activities for 2 hours. Food, prizes and ticket sales for the carnival were handled perfectly. The Kitah Dalet and Kitah Gimmel Shabbat service and dinner were beautifully coordinated and the students did a wonderful job leading the service for the congregation.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE INVOLVED!

These programs benefit Sinai Temple in so many ways and the involvement of the members is critical—Thank You!

Announcements

BOOK GROUP

Monday, April 18th, 7:30 PM

We usually meet on the third Monday of the month. We will be reading *Everything I Never Told You*, by Celeste Ng at the home of Buddi Tepper, 304 E. Holmes, U. (367-4152). Facilitator: Buddi. 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.

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 April 7th 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.

MAH JONGG

Wednesday, April 27th 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. **Please note** that the April Mah Jongg event falls during Passover. If you bring snacks, please be sure that they are appropriate for the holiday.

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Yael Gertner & Mahesh Viswanathan and Maya

Yael Gertner and Mahesh Viswanathan, and their 9 1/2-year-old daughter, Maya, have lived in Champaign-Urbana for 14 years. Yael is originally from Israel and Mahesh originates from India. They were both in Philadelphia for graduate school before they came here.

Yael is currently homeschooling Maya. Mahesh works in the Computer Science department at the University of Illinois.

Yael and Mahesh joined Sinai Temple to broaden Maya's Jewish education and to have their family participate more actively in the Jewish community. They value Jewish culture, scholarship and traditions.

While they love all of the Jewish holidays, they like Passover the most, because of its significance, and because of the many fun songs and foods. They also love the fact that it is a family holiday.

In their leisure time they like to read and cook. The family also enjoys going to the lake in the summertime and ice skating in the winter.



Giving

BUILDING FUND

Dan & Shira Epstein
Yael Gertner & Mahesh Viswanathan
Wynne Korr
Kate Kuper & Rocky Maffit
Toni Lachman
Laurence & Bernice Lieberman
Gary & Leslie Mason
Jacob & Ruth Sosnoff, in memory of
Yefim Grinberg

CONDOLENCE FUND

Marlene Goodfriend, in memory of
Marilyn Adleman

FRIENDS OF RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Mary Lou Brotherson
Harvey & Marianna Choldin
Doreen Halberstam
Robert & Sandra Libman
Richard & Shirley Newman, in memory of
Ralph Newman
Dana Rabin & Craig Koslofsky
Barak Rosenshine

Paul & Susan Schomer, in honor of the
birth of Eden Chana Cook
Maury & Janis Topolosky
Ira & Lynn Wachtel, wishes for a very
Hag Purim Sameach
Jon & Kathryn Weisbaum

GENERAL FUND

Jim & Martha Barnett, in memory of
Marilyn Adleman
Loretta Dessen, in memory of Marilyn
Adleman
June Gronik, in memory of Milton
Gorodetsky, Ida Gorodetsky and
Jerome Wachtel
Mitchell & Frances Harris in memory of
Nancy Abelmann
Gayle Kopin, in memory of Jenny Mandel
Evan & Lee Melhado, in memory of
Eugene Grinberg's father, Yefim
Grinberg
Ruth Morhaim, in memory of Marilyn
Adleman and in honor of Blanche
Sudman's recovery

Myron & Sonya Sholem in memory of
Faye Siegel Sholem
Dvora Tager, in memory of Pauline
Tager, Marcus Tager, Jessica
Underberg, Marianne Melnikoff,
Florence Reyman, Isaac Reyman,
Solon Reyman, Ruth Tager &
Stephen Tager

KITCHEN/ONEG FUND

Yael Gertner & Mahesh Viswanathan
Eugene Greenberg

MUSIC FUND

Arnold & Rita Blockman, in memory of
Marilyn Adleman

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Andrew & Laurie Hochberg, in memory of
Rabbi Neuman
Sarah Keeville & Jordan Finkin

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.

Sinai Temple Gift Shop

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

April SPECIALS

20% OFF ALL in-stock Seder Plates.

During our Passover Showcase, we will feature
additional Passover items at a discount.

**We have EVERYTHING you'll need to observe and
celebrate Passover; Seder and Matzo Plates, Elijah and
Miriam Cups, Haggadahs, Afikomen Prizes, Hostess
Gifts, etc.**

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 HAVE EXTENDED HOURS OF OPERATION
DURING THE PASSOVER SHOWCASE.**

UPCOMING B'NOT MITVOT

Helen Sussman May 21st; Charlotte Ebel June 4th; Dara Althouse June 18th

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 Wednesdays), so we suggest that you call the
Temple Office (352-8140) to make sure that someone is in
the shop.

Memorials

Friday, April 1	Jack Diamond (3 Apr)	Wolf Lewis (2 Apr)	Marcus Tager (4 Apr)
	Joshua David Gottheil (4 Apr)	Irma Lipson (4 Apr)	
	Adam Koslofsky (4 Apr)	Abraham Loeb (4 Apr)	
	Lena Loeb Kuhn (8 Apr)	Woodrow Pearlman (6 Apr)	
	Aaron Kurland (8 Apr)	Nina Nelson Seidenberg (4 Apr)	
	Hermine Ruth Lachman (7 Apr)	Lenore Levy Simon (6 Apr)	
Friday, April 8	Helen Gold Beller (10 Apr)	Helaine Stone Lane (9 Apr)	Selig Schwartz (9 Apr)
	Benjamin Grossman (12 Apr)	Leonard D. Lewis (10 Apr)	Gladys Singman (11 Apr)
	Wilhelmine Heumann (14 Apr)	Ruth Marshak (12 Apr)	Abraham Sitron (12 Apr)
	Donald Imlay (10 Apr)	Patricia McGinty (11 Apr)	Anne B. Weisel (3 Nis)
	Martin H. Katz (13 Apr)	John P. Melhado (1 Nis)	
	Edward R. Kerman (12 Apr)	Alex Rubin (14 Apr)	
Friday, April 15	Joel Lee Agran (21 Apr)	Sidney Kadish (20 Apr)	Lee W. Reineberg (16 Apr)
	Evelyn Nelson Bros (21 Apr)	Miriam B. Kaplan (16 Apr)	Jack Robinson (14 Nis)
	Hannah Choldin (21 Apr)	Clara Kaufman (10 Nis)	Sonja Robinson (10 Nis)
	Louis Cutler (19 Apr)	Clara Koslofsky (16 Apr)	Myer Joseph Rosenfield (13 Nis)
	Lillian Gingold (22 Apr)	Dorothy Evelyn Pollard Liebovich (22 Apr)	Natalie M. Smith (21 Apr)
	Sadie Goldstein (17 Apr)	Gary Lyon (16 Apr)	Gertrude Katz Tax (21 Apr)
	Alvin Hamburg (19 Apr)	Rose Maus (18 Apr)	Beatrice R. Tepper (21 Apr)
	Emanuel Heller (14 Nis)	Amelia A. Reineberg (16 Apr)	Rose Weissman (19 Apr)
Friday, April 22	Leon M. Ades (25 Apr)	Henia Shifreh Bursztyn (19 Nis)	Mathilde Loeb (24 Apr)
	Molly Belber (26 Apr)	Edward Epstein (16 Nis)	Ethel Uritz Marcus (29 Apr)
	Frank A. Berg (27 Apr)	Gertrude H. Francisco (19 Nis)	Kenneth H. Ober (26 Apr)
	Edward Israel Blum (29 Apr)	Claire Hutner (16 Nis)	
	Dr Samuel Bojar (17 Nis)	Alfred Kohn (28 Apr)	
	Isidore Brill (29 Apr)	Lewis Lasker (26 Apr)	
Friday, April 29	Samuel Adleman (30 Apr)	Abraham Goldberg (6 May)	Norman Stanley Rosenzweig (4 May)
	Laura Moore Avner (4 May)	William Arthur Graff (6 May)	Naomi M. Siegel (4 May)
	Bertha Craven (5 May)	Philip Horwitz (3 May)	Helen K Siess (1 May)
	Beverly J. Cronin (4 May)	Raisa Ionina (1 May)	Marvin Silver (4 May)
	Bertha Rabinowitz Diness (30 Apr)	Blair Bernard Kling (2 May)	Seymour Sudman (2 May)
	Michael Faiman (24 Nis)	Celia Berman Kulwin (30 Apr)	Pauline Evenson Tager (5 May)
	Fay Ferrer (24 Nis)	Florine Lesht (28 Nis)	Manie Tepper (5 May)
	Faye Garrick (24 Nis)	Ida Levine Markoff (30 Apr)	Theodore H. Zimmerman (1 May)
	Abraham Gerald Ginsberg (5 May)	Edith Pincus (4 May)	

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.

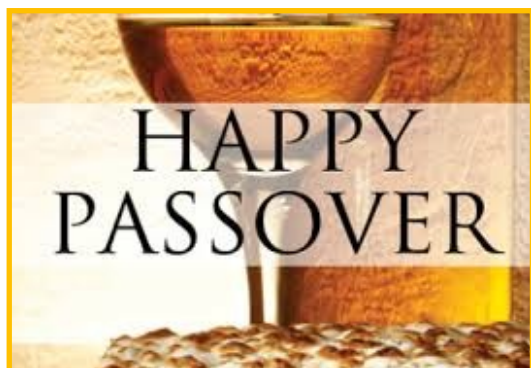


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The purpose of Sinai Temple is to worship God in accordance with the Jewish faith; to cultivate a love and understanding of Jewish heritage through education; to stimulate fellowship in the Jewish community; to strengthen bonds of loyalty with Jewish 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.



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