

Chanukah Cabaret

Friday, December 30th at 5:30 PM

We will begin at 5:30 with a fun and festive Shabbat service. Following the service, we will enjoy a delicious latke dinner—Temple provides the latkes and an entrée, you provide a potluck side-dish of your choice. We'll conclude the night with the singing of Chanukah songs and some other fun surprises. Please RSVP to the Temple office.



**THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
Monday, December 26th
Monday, January 2nd**

Schedule of Services

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

5:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services
dinner to follow

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

10:00 AM Bat Mitzvah of Alina
Loewenstein

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

5:30 PM Shabbat Rocks! / Next Dor
7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

5:30 PM Chanukah Service, dinner and
Cabaret

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan

SAVE THE DATE!

2ND ANNUAL MOVIE/CHINESE EVENT

On Sunday, December 25th, Sinai Temple will hold its second-annual Movie and Chinese Dinner event. We will offer family-friendly movie and a more contemplative film for adults. Then we will gather for a delicious Chinese feast catered by Rainbow Garden. Please watch your weekly email blast or Shabbat program for the RSVP information coming.





Based on the messages that American retailers are sending online and on television, the focus of this season is on giving and receiving gifts. By the time you read this, we will have been through “Black Friday” and “Cyber Monday,” not to mention the other gimmicks that individual stores may adopt in an effort to convince us that the must-have item of the season has to be purchased from them, and that true happiness and enjoyment of the season can only be reached by amassing more material possessions.

Personally, I don't subscribe to this emphasis on commercialism. For me, it does not speak to the essence of Chanukah (nor is it really in keeping with the spirit of Christmas, Kwanzaa, Diwali, or any of the other winter festivals). Still, we can find some meaning at this time of year as we think about gifts—not the ones that come wrapped in fancy paper with bows, but the gifts that we each have been blessed with as we make our way through this world. What are your gifts? How will you share them with others, not only at this season, but also throughout the year?

By the time you read this, our Social Action Committee will have completed its Thanksgiving Food Basket effort, helping to provide more than twenty needy families in C-U with the supplies that they needed to put a festive meal on their tables. Sinai Temple has also participated in Habitat for Humanity's interfaith build, and the framing has already been finished on two homes that will help to provide the partner families with housing security.

Other volunteer opportunities abound, both here at Sinai Temple and in the community at large. To name just a few:

Sinai's Social Action Committee, under the leadership of Leanna Cossman, is always welcoming new members to embrace the work of *tikkun olam* (making our world a better place) by helping to envision and steer projects that support the less fortunate in our community and around the world.

Our Condolence Committee, which helps to arrange the meals of consolation when a member of Sinai Temple suffers a loss, is currently in “ad-hoc” status, without a formal chair. We are grateful to the many individuals who regularly step up to ensure these needs can be filled (particular thanks is due to Natalie Frankenberg, Leslie Mason, and Diane Ore). We are always looking to expand the list of those who can step up when such a need arises.

Our Membership Committee, which helps to welcome new families and individuals and encourage their involvement in our

community, is also seeking additional members. Committee members share the responsibility of serving as the congregation's ambassadors to newcomers.

In the wider community, budget cuts have led to lean times for many important social service agencies, and there are wonderful chances for you to contribute of your time and energy to these efforts:

The Daily Bread Soup Kitchen

provides a daily meal to over 200 guests per day.

The Phoenix Drop-in Center is a safe

place where the homeless community can gather during the day on Tuesday–Friday to share time in a non-judgmental space and seek shelter from the elements.

Both Champaign Unit 4 School District and Urbana School District 116 have mentoring programs for their students.

These community mentors spend a few hours each week with their assigned student to serve as a stable adult influence in the students' lives.

These are just a few examples of how, with a minimal investment of time and energy, we can give of our gifts with a generous heart and help make the world brighter for others. In the cold and dark of winter, let us each seek out ways to bring more light and hope into our world.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Alan Cook



Mazel Tov to **Robin and Bruce Goettel** celebrated the marriage of their daughter, Lauren, to Corey Levin on October 9th. They met in Israel on a Birthright trip.

Mazel Tov to the following students who were recently recognized for their scholastic achievements at Centennial High School: **Ilana Gersten, Bryn Gerwin, Emma Glezer, Jake Rosenbaum and Isaac Soloveychik**

Birthday & Anniversary Blessings

If you celebrate a birthday or anniversary in December, please join us at our services on **Friday, December 9th 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!

SINAI TEMPLE NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING

- ✧ The board had two applications for membership, Minna Friedman and Julie & Darren Hertz. Randy Rosenbaum moved to accept both applications. Carmen Glezer seconded. Motion carried.
- ✧ The Finance Committee approved spending up to \$475 for sidewalk repairs, to come out of the Building Repairs & Maintenance line item.
- ✧ Mitch Harris was nominated by Gary Bernstein to complete Bob Eisenstein's unfinished term as trustee. All in favor.

THERE IS STILL TIME to donate to the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Fund.

THE END OF THE CALENDAR YEAR IS FAST APPROACHING. All donations to Sinai Temple postmarked December 31, 2016, will be credited to your account for the 2016 tax year. In January, the office will mail out IRS contribution letters for all contributions made during 2016. If you have not yet made a pledge for FY2016-17 it would be greatly appreciated. Knowing how much people plan to donate helps us meet our budgetary goals. We wish you and your family a joyous New Year!



At this time of year, we are often enjoying time spent with family and friends as we look forward to the upcoming gatherings and some time off to rejuvenate and recharge. We have probably sat around a Thanksgiving table and given thanks for our health, our happiness, our family and our friends. However, for many people this time of year can be hard. Many people struggle with hardship or financial issues at this time of year. It can also be difficult with the loss of "loved one's" at this time of year.

For me, especially with so much going on in the world this year, I feel like now is a great time to commit to doing more to strengthen our community in the coming year. There are so many wonderful opportunities to get involved with that can benefit those that are not as fortunate or that are struggling at this time of year.

During the months of October and November, Sinai Temple participated in a food drive for the Eastern Illinois Food bank, an interfaith build for Habitat for Humanity, and collected food for Thanksgiving baskets. Tony Soskin is currently organizing volunteers to deliver meals for Meals on Wheels during the first weeks of December. Additionally, Leanna Cossman has recently agreed to head up our social action committee (again) and I am excited to help her revive this committee.

On a slightly different note, I want to update you on the recent discussions about enhancements and updates to the sanctuary spaces. The Sinai Temple Board of Trustees has asked the Building committee to identify an architect or two and have them provide ideas, pictures, and proposals that we can evaluate. The hope is to get some preliminary ideas of what could be done in the spaces and an estimate of how much it would cost. The architect(s) will be using the discussions from the Envision the Future event as a basis for the types of changes that are desired. At the time of this writing, Art Siegel, head of the building committee, has met with one architect and he was contacting others. If you were unable to make the first meeting, I want to assure you that there will be more opportunities to offer input throughout the process.

As we prepare to celebrate Chanukah, and the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, I find it fitting that we are preparing to envision what our community space might look like in the future. We do this to strengthen our community, to prepare this building for the challenges of the future, and to provide a safe and welcoming space for our children and future generations. I hope that you will continue to join me in support of this effort by providing your time, your ideas, your expertise, your energy and your financial support.

L'Shalom

Gary Bernstein

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

I have always enjoyed the role of teacher in a classroom setting. Each week, I make an effort to visit as many classrooms as possible during Hebrew School and Religious School. While there are often times parents with questions or other duties that keep me from spending each session with the kids, I feel it is important to see the progress and growth of our students. On a recent visit to one class, we talked about favorite Jewish holidays. While there were a couple of students who named Passover or Purim, the majority, not surprisingly, named Hanukkah as their favorite.

Hanukkah means “dedication” and the importance of the holiday should not be taken over by presents and latkes. Hanukkah celebrates the rededication of the temple that was defiled by the Greeks. Today, Hanukkah means that each year, we have a chance to rededicate ourselves to keeping Judaism alive.

As Hanukkah approaches and you prepare to celebrate according to your family custom, find ways to connect latke eating and candle lighting, dreidel spinning and gift giving to the Jewish values and traditions that have allowed the Jewish people to thrive and survive.

As the lights of Hanukkah shine brightly this year, may we all find ways to make our Jewish presence shine brightly too.



Religious School: December 4, December 11

Hebrew School: December 4, 7, 11, 14

OTHER EVENTS:

December 14—Junior Youth Group Roller Skating

December 16—Shabbat Rocks! and Next Dor

December 18—Swim Party at Urbana Indoor Aquatic Center



Junior Youth Group (Grades 3-7)

GRAB YOUR SKATES AND GET READY TO ROLL!

December 14th—5:30–8:30

Dinner will be provided at Sinai Temple from 5:30–6:15.

We will arrange for transportation to Skateland (Savoy)

Skating from 6:30–8:30—parents pick up at Skateland

Cost—\$5 if you bring skates,

\$8 if you need to rent skates

RSVP to Ben and Jess

sinaitempleyouth@gmail.com by 12/11



KIDdish Club Indoor Swim Party

Sunday, December 18th—11:00–1:00

Urbana Indoor Aquatic Center

Cost: \$5/family

Please RSVP to Rabbi Jody

educator@sinaitemplecu.org by 12/11

KIDdish Club is an outreach and engagement initiative of Sinai Temple Religious School and CU Jewish Federation. Programs intended for families with young children.

Announcements

Alina Loewenstein Bat Mitzvah

Alina Mara Loewenstein will become a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, Dec. 3rd at 10:00 AM. Alina is the daughter of Jacki and Jeff, and sister of Emma. An eighth grader at Next Generation School, she will turn 13 on Dec. 2nd, the night of Sinai's special 5:30 PM First Friday Shabbat service and dinner (please RSVP to Rabbi Alan).

For her Mitzvah project, Alina combined her love of theatre with her desire to help less fortunate children in our community. She volunteered as a Peer Mentor for CU Theatre Company's PENGUIN PROJECT production of *Aladdin Jr.* The Penguin Project offers children with special needs the opportunity to develop close friendships, rehearse and perform a musical alongside their mentors. Alina's partner, Izzy Gonzalez, struggles with many physiological health challenges—namely, a condition called VACTERL Association, which involves serious defects to several organs and limbs. Contributions to directly help Izzy and her family can be made to the Pull-Thru Network, in honor of Izzy Gonzalez.



Throughout this weekend, Alina will be remembering her wonderful Bat Mitzvah tutor, Kate Kuper and thinking of Kate's family and friends with love. Kate continued with weekly Bat Mitzvah lessons and diligently prepared Alina for this special moment while undergoing significant challenges. May Kate's memory always be a blessing

The Loewenstein family hopes to see you on Dec. 2nd and 3rd!

Eastern Illinois Foodbank

The Social Action Committee wishes to thank everyone for their generous contributions to the Eastern Illinois Food Bank this Yom Kippur.

Know that every can of food collected and every dollar given has greatly helped the less fortunate families in our community.

Our drive has raised a total of \$6406 and 434 pounds of food which is enough to provide 32,030 meals for local individuals and families. *Together we make a difference.*

Thank you!

SINAI TEMPLE GIFT SHOP

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

DECEMBER SPECIAL

20% OFF All In-Stock Menorahs



40% OFF MERCHANDISE (or reasonable offer)
ON OUR INVENTORY CLEARANCE TABLE!

You might find "cool" Chanukah gifts!

REGULAR HOURS OF OPERATION

Sundays 9:00 AM–1:00 PM

(during Religious School)

Wednesdays 4:00 PM–6:00 PM

(during Hebrew School)

See insert for special hours for Chanukah

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.

The Gift Shop will be closed during the

Religious School Winter Break:

12/25/16–1/11/17

will reopen when Hebrew School resumes.



Giving

ALPINE STERN FLOWER FUND

William & Reva Egherman, in appreciation of the Sabbath flowers for our anniversary

BUILDING FUND

Ronald Dolgin & Jean Clarkson
Yael Gertner & Mahesh Viswanathan
Debra Karplus
Kate Kuper & Rocky Maffit
Jacki & Jeff Loewenstein
Lee & Evan Melhado
Lois Adele Meyer, in memory of Paul Hyman Meyer
Diane & Rob Ore
Paul & Susan Schomer, in memory of Len Heumann
John & Bette van Es, in memory of Leonard Heumann
Monique & Michael Tsipursky
Jacob & Suzanne Woolfson

CONDOLENCE FUND

Marganit Rotman

FRIENDS OF RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

George & Muriel Swartz, in honor of Rosh Hashanah visit with the Karen & Geoff Ray family

GENERAL FUND

Carl & Carol Belber, in memory of Ray Spooner, in memory of Len Heumann, in memory of Steven Gingold and in memory of Jesse Belber
May Berenbaum & Richard Leskosky, in memory of Tony Novak, in memory of Bob Eisenstein and in memory of Ray Spooner
Albert & Marion Cuoco, in memory of Joseph Rotman
Harold & Nancy Diamond, in memory of Joseph Rotman
William & Reva Egherman, in memory of Joseph Rotman and in memory of Leonard Heumann
Ann Einhorn, in memory of Len Heumann and in honor of the engagement of Julia & Gene Robinson's son
Madeleine Hymowitz
Gloria & Myron Goff, in memory of Joseph Rotman
Kazuko Goodman, in memory of Joseph Rotman

Gayle Kopin, in memory of Eli Mandel
Mark Mandel, in memory of Joseph Rotman

Veronica Shavitt, in memory of Michael Neuwirth

Judith Siess & Stephen Bremseth, in memory of Della B. Kranson

Myron & Sonya Sholem, in memory of William H. Sholem and in memory of Bessie Siegal

Cecile Steinberg, in memory of Joseph Rotman

INTERIOR FUND

Yoram & Carol Mizrahi

KITCHEN/ONEG FUND

Yael Gertner & Mahesh Viswanathan
Jennifer Klatsky
William & Eileen Kohen
Merle Levy
Jacki & Jeff Loewenstein
Lee & Evan Melhado
Judith & Steve Ullom
Jacob & Suzanne Woolfson

LIBRARY FUND

Henrietta Schwartz & Sue Brim, in memory of Henrietta Israel Schwartz

MEMORIAL PLAQUE

May Berenbaum & Richard Leskosky
Joyce Nagel Eisenstein, plaque for Bob Eisenstein

MUSIC FUND

Charles & Joan Kozoll, in memory of Joseph Rotman

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

May Berenbaum & Richard Leskosky, in memory of Rabbi Isaac Neuman
Peter & Judy Braunfeld, in memory of Joseph Rotman
Robin & Bruce Goettel, in honor of our daughter Lauren's marriage to Corey Levin
Roberta Heumann
Richard & Shirley Newman, in memory of Harold Miller and in memory of Molly Newman
Marganit Rotman

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Arnold & Rita Blockman, in memory of Steven Gingold

Ann Einhorn, in memory of Steven Gingold

Judith & Steve Ullman, in memory of Joseph Rotman

ROBINSON FUND

Neil & Ilene Danziger, in memory of Blanche Sudman
Cecile Steinberg, in memory of Bob Eisenstein

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

Carl & Carol Belber, thanksgiving baskets
May Berenbaum & Richard Leskosky
Tania Coombs, thanksgiving baskets
Susan Cohen & George Monahan, thanksgiving baskets
Don & Joyce Francisco, Thanksgiving baskets
Natalie Frankenberg, Thanksgiving baskets
Sherry Helfer, Thanksgiving baskets
Jennifer Klatsky, Thanksgiving baskets
Charles & Joan Kozoll, Thanksgiving baskets
Judy Lachman, Thanksgiving baskets
Paul & Susan Schomer, Thanksgiving baskets
Anthony & Penelope Soskin, in memory of Blanche Sudman
William & Fran Strauss, Thanksgiving baskets
Buddi Tepper, Thanksgiving baskets

TRADITIONAL MINYAN FUND

George & Muriel Swartz, in honor of Rosh Hashanah visit with the Karen & Geoff Ray family

A special thank you to Melanie Dankowicz for teaching us Trope and making it so much fun. Donations have been made in her honor to the Traditional Minyan Fund by: Richard Cooke, Mitch Harris, Toni Lachman, Rob Silverman and Aaron Smith.

This listing only reflects donations received through mid-November. Donations received after this date will be acknowledged in future Bulletins. 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.

December Memorials

Friday, December 2

Philip Applebaum (4 Dec)
Annette Sudman Baich (8 Dec)
Doris Dorman Feinberg (9 Dec)
Sidney Feinberg (6 Dec)
Morris Gottheil (3 Dec)
Morris M. Kaplan (9 Kis)
Rabbi Louis Kaufman (9 Kis)

Abraham Lapedes (6 Dec)
Ethel Lesht (9 Dec)
Fred Lewin (4 Dec)
Herbert Elsworth Lyon (5 Dec)
Sarah Rubinstein (9 Dec)
Isaiah Shavitt (8 Dec)
Frieda Sherman (5 Kis)

Jennie Steinberg (8 Kis)
Jacob Toby (4 Kis)
Jane P. Walter (4 Kis)

Friday, December 9

Nathan Berenbaum (12 Kis)
Ruth Koller Berkson (13 Kis)
Harriet Mae Davis (12 Dec)
Marshall Egberman (16 Kis)
Jewel Berenson Friend (12 Dec)
Jacob Benjamin Hamburg (15 Dec)
Norma Klein (10 Dec)
Joseph Kuhn (15 Dec)
Alan Birk Kuper (16 Kis)

Natalie Yawitz Levy (16 Dec)
Marilyn Libman (16 Dec)
Minnie Lipson (11 Dec)
Helen Wollstein Loeb (10 Dec)
Isadore Meyerson (15 Kis)
Victorya Meyerson (14 Kis)
David Porton (12 Kis)
Rose L. Prince (16 Dec)
Judith Rosencranz (15 Dec)

Rose Sapoznik (11 Dec)
Gerti Shalev (13 Kis)
Albert Leland Stern (16 Dec)
Peter James Stolurow (11 Dec)
Mary Elizabeth Stone (12 Dec)

Friday, December 16

Ruth B. Ades (23 Dec)
Rebecca Rubenstein Blockman (18 Dec)
Rosa B. Bower (19 Dec)
Gilford Currier (17 Dec)
Frances Dessen (18 Dec)
Florence Zibel Dooley (18 Dec)
Da'vid Efergan (21 Kis)
Frieda Forst (18 Dec)
Rabbi Benjamin M. Frankel (21 Dec)
Sara Goldring (21 Kis)
Arthur Golub (22 Dec)

Frada Green (21 Dec)
Evelyne J. Helgesen (23 Dec)
Lily Helman (23 Kis)
Audrey Rezits Huber (21 Dec)
Bernard Hymowitz (20 Kis)
Phillip C. Katz (18 Dec)
Jewel Kurland (19 Dec)
Sally Levitt (20 Dec)
Joseph Levy (19 Dec)
Robert Marshak (23 Dec)
Morris Olefsky (18 Dec)

Clare Herman Perkel (20 Dec)
Sadie Rudnick (22 Dec)
Alice Rauh Scheeline (23 Dec)
Yetta Schneider (21 Dec)
Hyman Simon (18 Dec)
Jack Aaron Simon (17 Dec)
Ethel Bower Stern (17 Dec)
Arthur Allen Telcser (17 Kis)
Ida John Terry (22 Dec)
Charles A. Wolff (19 Dec)

Friday, December 23

Joseph C. Aub (30 Dec)
Adrienne Merkel Berenbaum (29 Dec)
Jack Birnbaum (25 Dec)
Nathan H. Cohen (28 Dec)
Morris Dessen (24 Dec)
Bette Jane Dunn (27 Dec)
Jean Eva Ginsberg (25 Dec)
Helen S. Golub (25 Dec)

Ida Gorodetsky (24 Kis)
Judith Harrison (24 Kis)
Bobbie Rudolph Kulwin (25 Dec)
Ruth Lasker (28 Dec)
Leo Lewis (30 Dec)
Joseph Linowes (26 Kis)
Isaac Reyman (27 Dec)
Ben Riaff (28 Kis)

Shirley Senoff (27 Kis)
Demitri B. Shimkin (26 Kis)
Sylvia Siegel (30 Kis)

Friday, December 30

Nancy Abelmann (6 Jan)
Walter H. Abelmann (6 Jan)
Johanna Braunfeld (3 Jan)
Boris Brotherson (4 Jan)
Fred Deckard (1 Jan)
Ethel Depper (5 Tev)
Pesselle Rothenberg Friedman (2 Tev)
Ruth Herman Garfinkel (3 Jan)
Stanley Gordon (4 Jan)

Belle Halpern (1 Jan)
Jeanette Cohen Levy (1 Jan)
Dena Linado (4 Jan)
Sarah Meyerson (4 Tev)
Sandra Molasky (5 Tev)
Fred Ore, Sr. (6 Jan)
Sidney Sinow (31 Dec)
Maybelle Solon (3 Jan)
Babette Bloch Stern (6 Jan)

Sol Tax (4 Jan)
Isaac Tepper (1 Jan)
Harry A. Topolosky (2 Jan)
Ralph Weinstein (6 Tev)
Frieda G. Wollstein (5 Jan)

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.



3104 West Windsor Rd.
Champaign, IL 61822

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Champaign, IL 61821

The purpose of Sinai Temple is to worship God in accordance with the Jewish faith; to cultivate a love and understanding of Jewish heritage through education; to stimulate fellowship in the Jewish community; to strengthen bonds of loyalty with Jewish people everywhere; and to bring nearer the Dominion of God on earth through an emphasis on righteousness (*tzedakah*), commandments (*mitzvot*), and goodwill (*gemilut hasidim*) to one another and to society at large.



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