Friday, January 13, 7:30 PM
Shabbat service honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Featuring music by Rocky Maffit and folk musician Chris Vallillo. Chris is a singer/songwriter and folk musician who makes the people and places of “unmetropolitan” America come to life in song. Performing on six-string and bottleneck slide guitars and harmonica, Vallillo weaves original, contemporary, and traditional songs and narratives into a compelling and entertaining portrait of the history and lifestyles of the Midwest. From 1990 through 1998 he served as the performing host and co-producer of the nationally distributed, award-winning public radio performance series Rural Route 3 where he performed next to (and with) a virtual who’s who of contemporary and traditional folk musicians. His most recent project, Oh, Freedom!, was released on Martin Luther King Day in 2016 and charted at #6 of the National Folk charts. Find his website and hear samples of his music at http://ginridge.com. Please make plans to join us for this special event.

PASSING THE TORCH!

I have been involved in the Gift Shop for more than 25 years and served as Chairperson of the Gift Shop Committee for almost 20 years. I’ve loved being able to meet and welcome new families as they come to the Temple for the first time. Because the Gift Shop is such a bustling place, especially on Sunday mornings during Religious School, people just seem to gravitate there. I’ve also really enjoyed helping B’nai Mitzvah students and their families as they’ve planned for their special event. But, now I feel it’s time for someone new to take over as Chairperson. I’m not leaving the committee! I’m just stepping aside as Chairperson. I’m so grateful that Jessica Kopelow has agreed to become the new Chairperson. Jessica has been a member of the committee for many years. She’s mainly been involved during our Chanukah and Passover Showcases and has been filing our quarterly state sales tax via the Internet (because I hated doing it!). Jessica has new and exciting ideas. She’s calm! She’s efficient! We are fortunate to have her take over as Chairperson.

The other members of the committee, Pam Olson and Joyce Francisco, will continue to serve as well. In addition to working in the Gift Shop, Pam and Joyce do all our displays as well as the Temple Museum displays.

I will continue to be in the Gift Shop on Wednesday afternoons during Hebrew School and on many Sunday mornings. You may also continue to call me to meet you by appointment when you need something. I’m not leaving; I’m just passing the torch!

L’Shalom,
Natalie Frankenberg
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., speaking to an audience in Montgomery, Alabama in 1957, stated, “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”

This month, as America commemorates what would have been Dr. King’s 88th birthday, we have the opportunity to continue to ask ourselves how we will give back to others. We consider this not only in paying tribute to Dr. King’s legacy, but because it is our calling as citizens of the world, and it is our duty as Jews. What King called the persistent question of life we call tikkun olam—the obligation we have to work in partnership with God and with our fellow citizens in order to perfect the world.

We have many opportunities to “do for others;” one of the things I greatly admire about Sinai Temple is the way that we function in community, standing together in times of celebration and triumph and happiness, and holding one another close in times of tragedy and sadness. We pray that this new year will bring us far more of the former than the latter, but I am confident that however the year may unfold, our Sinai community will continue to heed Dr. King’s call and do for one another.

But service to the Jewish community while wonderful and important, cannot stand alone. Rabbi Hillel taught, “Al tifrosh min ha-tzibbur; do not isolate yourself from the community.” We choose to engage as citizens of C-U, citizens of the United States, and citizens of the world. Thus, we must intervene in the broader causes that stir our passions and seek to “do for others” in the public sphere. It may be that you are moved to work to alleviate the problem of hunger and homelessness in our community; perhaps you are interested in racial justice; maybe you are concerned about environmental issues. On the international front, you may be passionate about ensuring Israel’s strong future, or protecting religious pluralism there, or confronting the devastating humanitarian crisis in Aleppo, Syria. These are but a handful of issues facing our society in 2017; I am sure that each reader of this piece can identify others.

Dr. King liked to quote Unitarian minister Theodore Parker in preaching, “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.” Each of us has ample opportunity to correct wrongs in the world, to engage in acts of tikkun olam, and to work to bend and curve the arc of morality toward justice. Let us each take action as we see fit in order to affect positive change in our community and in our world.

I recently learned a poem by e.e. cummings that I had not previously known. Like all of cummings’ works, the poem is known by its first line: “i carry your heart with me (i carry it in my heart).” While the rest of the poem seems to describe a romantic relationship, I think it can also serve as a beautiful metaphor for the interconnectedness that Dr. King taught us to aspire toward. Only when we carry one another in our hearts, supporting one another through whatever life may bring to us, can we truly begin to understand one another, and to move this world toward wholeness and peace.

So, as you map out your own agenda for the new year, and think about the things that you want to do for yourself and for your family, I hope that you will each also take the time to consider ways that you can honor Dr. King’s message and “do for others.”

L’Shalom,
Rabbi Alan Cook

---

First Friday Feast in February
Friday, February 3, 2017

Our first "First Friday Feast" will take place on Friday, February 3rd. We begin with an abbreviated Shabbat service at 5:30 PM (please note: this is our only worship service for the evening), and then join together for a delicious home-cooked meal and an opportunity to visit with all of your Sinai Temple friends. Please RSVP at: https://sinaicu.wufoo.com/forms/m1mmvr4z0rjk5og/. We hope that you can join us!

---

Birthday & Anniversary Blessings
If you celebrate a birthday or anniversary in January, please join us at our services on Friday, January 13th 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!
I hope everyone was able to spend time with family and friends as we celebrated Chanukah and the New Year. Hopefully, you were able to spend some time doing something special for family, friends or someone in the community that needed your help.

As we begin to replace those 2016 calendars with 2017 calendars, I find that many people are confused about the calendar that Sinai Temple uses for the fiscal year and about the timing of dues. In addition, there seems to be confusion surrounding pledges and payments. I thought now would be a good time to explain the differences and list out how things come together with the calendar.

The most important thing to understand is that the pledge system is a two-step process. The first step is to tell us what you PLAN to pay as your dues. The second step is to fulfill that pledge. It is important for us to know how much you plan to pay as early as possible as it allows us to adjust our spending, if necessary.

**Sinai Temple Fiscal year:** As with many businesses, our fiscal year does NOT match the calendar year. Our fiscal year runs from July 1st to June 30th every year. This means that our budget, our income, our expenses, and our reporting revolve around this time frame.

**Sinai Temple Dues time period:** Our “membership / dues year” coincides with our fiscal year. According to our by-laws (Article IV: Membership), members are considered to be in good standing when they have met their financial obligations or have made arrangements with the Financial Secretary for payment. It goes on to say that Financial obligations are payable in full for the current fiscal year by September 1st unless other arrangements have been made with the Financial Secretary.

**Sinai Temple Pledges:** A pledge form tells the Board how much money you PLAN to pay as your dues for the current fiscal year. A pledge does not have to include any payment, although we do appreciate receiving payment at the same time. We view this form as an indication of what you plan to pay as your dues. Sinai Temple sends out pledge forms at the start of the fiscal year and we request that you return the pledge form by September 1st.

Returning the pledge form helps the board determine whether the budget that was created back in May has any chance of being accurate for income. It can also setup any necessary financial arrangements. When returning the pledge form there are usually options that allow you to pay monthly or quarterly. You can also inform us that you have requested to have your bank automatically send money to Sinai Temple on a recurring basis. If other arrangements are needed, please feel free to contact the Financial Secretary.

So, how does this all come together?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>The Board approves the budget for the next fiscal year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>The Congregation approves the budget for the next fiscal year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Starts the fiscal year with new budget.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July/Aug</td>
<td>Pledge forms are mailed with previous fiscal year paid amounts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 1</td>
<td>The Pledge form, with the amount pledged for the current fiscal year, is expected with any payment arrangements being made, if necessary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Pledge reminders are sent to families who have not yet pledged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>A Reminder is sent to families who have not fulfilled their pledge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>All payments on pledges should be paid in full by this date.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of course, additional contributions to the building fund, general fund, or any other obligated fund are always greatly appreciated and accepted. All of our funds help the Temple to provide services and support to the congregation in many ways.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me (president@sinaitemplecu.org), Sena Cooper (financialsec@sinaitemplecu.org) or Kathy Douglas in the office (stoffice@sinaitemplecu.org).

---

**SINAI TEMPLE DECEMBER BOARD MEETING**

- There was one new member application to vote on for Ashley Medina. Amy Wolff made the motion to accept the application, second by Dan Kopelow. All in favor.
- There was an inspection done on the sprinkler system; the funds for this came from the Building and Grounds Fund. No repairs were needed; the cost was $275.00.
- Finance committee recommended that we spend up to $3000.00, coming from the Building Fund, to have a fire suppression system put in the kitchen hood. All in favor.
- Finance committee recommended that we have a contract with Getz Fire Equipment Company to do fire suppression check, fire extinguisher maintenance, fire alarm system check, kitchen hood and duct cleaning, exit light check, emergency lighting check, and backflow check done on an annual basis. The cost would be $1000.00 annually; this would come from the Building and Grounds Fund.
- The Board is taking suggestions for a chairperson for the Membership Committee.
Maimonides’ 8 Levels of Tzedakah—A CHALLENGE for the NEW YEAR

Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon (also known by the acronym, Rambam, or by the name Maimonides) lived in the 12th century in Egypt. The Rambam is one of the greatest Jewish scholars and in his spare time, he practiced medicine, was a philosopher and wrote a systematic code of Jewish law, the Mishneh Torah. One of his many teachings focuses on tzedakah. According to the Rambam, there are eight different levels of tzedakah, eight different ways to give, each one elevating our giving a bit more than the last.

Early in the Torah, we learn the word tzedek. Noah is described as an ish tzedek when the world is destroyed by a flood sent by God. Noah is saved because he was a righteous person—apparently the only one of that time. We are also taught, tzedek tzedek tirdof—justice, justice shall you pursue. Tzedakah is another word that shares the root letters tzadi, dalet, koof, and therefore, the meaning of tzedakah is greater than coins put into a pushke. There is intention behind tzedakah, it is about an action and not necessarily about the physical item being shared. We DO tzedakah, we don’t just GIVE tzedakah.

Between January 1, 2017 and Elul 1, 5777, when we begin our spiritual preparations for the Jewish New Year, there are 8 months. Coincidentally, there are 8 levels of tzedakah. So, with that, I offer a challenge to each of the families in Religious School (and certainly, those without students enrolled are more than welcome to accept the challenge and share their progress). Each month, make an attempt to grow your righteous acts. Push yourself, model for others and involve your children as you find ways to help make the world a little brighter and a lot better. Each month, as you complete one act of tzedakah, fill out a slip of paper that describes your righteous act, who it impacted and how it impacted you. Indicate the level of tzedakah that you “completed” with that act. Turn it in to Rabbi Jody (you can email something if that is easier). Hopefully, we will be able to create an amazing display of actions from our community.

See a description of the 8 Levels below. A GREAT activity is to try to put the levels in order, discussing whether or not YOU agree with the order that the Rambam proposes. Do you think there are more levels today? Different levels?

- 8. Help another in need by allowing him to become self-supporting.
- 7. The one who gives and the one who receives do not know each other.
- 6. The giver knows the recipient but the recipient does not know the giver.
- 5. The recipient knows the giver but the giver does not know the recipient.
- 4. Giving directly to someone before being asked.
- 3. Giving directly to someone, after being asked
- 2. Giving less than you should, but giving cheerfully.
- 1. Giving resentfully

Religious School: January 15, 22, 29
Hebrew School: January 11, 15, 18, 22, 25, 29

OTHER EVENTS

JANUARY 8th
ICE SKATING SOCIAL - 1:30–4:00
at the U of I Ice Arena.
Cost: $5.00/person (includes skates)
Please RSVP to Rabbi Jody
ALL ARE WELCOME!

JANUARY 20th
Shabbat Rocks! and Next Dor
PAJAMA PARTY! (wear PJ’s to Services!)
SUNDAY ADULT EDUCATION
Sundays, 10:30 AM–11:30 AM
We meet on the weeks when Religious School is in session. At 9 AM, you are invited to join us for an informal session of Talmud study. We will be looking at Tractate Berachot. No prior experience or knowledge of Hebrew or Aramaic is necessary. At 10:30 AM, we will have our Adult Education sessions. This year, Rabbi Alan will guide us toward understanding other faiths. We’ll begin with a general overview of Christianity. In subsequent weeks, we will explore distinctions between Christian denominations. In the second half of the year we will have field trips to area churches to observe their Sunday worship.

BOOK GROUP
Sunday, January 15th at 2:00 PM
The Book Group usually meets the third Monday of the month at 7:30 PM, however during January & February, we will meet on Sundays at 2:00 PM. We will be reading, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* by Katherine Boo at the home of Carol Belber, 2105 S. Mills, U. (384-3030). Contact Person: Susan Schomer (359-2938).

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
Tuesdays, 10:45 AM to 11:30 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, January 5th 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 Astrid Berkson at astridjb@comcast.net.
ALPINER STERN FLOWER FUND
Edward & Nancy Tepper, in memory of Helen Levin

HOWARD BIRNBAUM CAMP
Freda Birnbaum, in memory of Leonard Heumann, in memory of Joseph Rotman, in memory of Bob Eisenstein, and in memory of Blanche Sudman

BUILDING FUND
Richard Cooke
Ann Einhorn
Arne Fliflet & Deborah Levin Fliflet
Melissa Frydman
Lori Gordon
Alan & Lynne Grusby
Tania Ionin & Timur Oikhberg
Hagit Itzkowitz
Debra Karplus
Michael & Sheri Langendorf
Gary & Leslie Mason
Rob & Diane Ore
Gene & Julia Robinson
Jay Rosenstein
Christine & Frank Stephens, in memory of Joe Rotman
Mitchell & Ann Sussman
Edward & Nancy Tepper, in memory of Len Heumann
Amy Wolf & Aaron Smith
Ehud & Janie Yairi

EINHORN GARDEN
Ann Einhorn

FRIENDS OF RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
Stephen Downie & Deborah Katz-Downie

GENERAL FUND
Norman & Barbara Brickman, in memory of Kate Kuper
John Davis & Terri Gitler, in memory of Stephen Bauer
Joyce Nagel Eisenstein, in memory of Kate Kuper and in memory of Steven Gingold
William & Reva Egherman, in memory of Stephen Bauer and in memory of Kate Kuper
William & Eileen Kohen, in memory of Stephen Bauer
Veronica Shavitt, in memory of Isaiah Shavitt
William & Fran Strauss
The News-Gazette, in memory of Stephen Bauer
Paul & Linda Weichsel, in memory of Bob Eisenstein and in honor of Randy Rosenbaum's judicial appointment

KITCHEN/ONEG FUND
John Davis & Terri Gitler, in appreciation of Diane Ore and Natalie Frankenberg
Stephen Downie & Deborah Katz-Downie
Arne Fliflet & Deborah Levin Fliflet
Melissa Frydman
Leslie & Gary Mason
Rob & Diane Ore
Gene & Julia Robinson
Mark & Ann Sapoznik
Kenneth Stolarsky & Andrea Beller
Mitchell & Ann Sussman
Edward & Nancy Tepper, in memory of Bob Eisenstein
Ehud & Janie Yairi

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

MUSIC FUND
Ann Einhorn
Richard & Judith Kaplan, in memory of Kate Kuper

RABBI’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
Edward & Nancy Tepper, in memory of Fred Gottheil and in memory of Stephen Bauer

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND
Robert & Lauren Boucek
Stephen Downie & Deborah Katz-Downie, in memory of Steven Gingold
Ann Einhorn
Edward & Nancy Tepper, in memory of Steven Gingold

ROBINSON FUND
Louise Allen, in memory of Helen Levin
Charles & Janice Olson, in memory of Blanche Sudman
Kenneth Stolarsky & Andrea Beller, in memory of Bob Eisenstein, in memory of Len Heumann and in memory of Joseph Rotman

SIEGEL SOCIAL ACTION FUND
Gary & Leslie Mason, Thanksgiving Baskets

TRADITIONAL MINYAN FUND
Ann Einhorn
Michael Grossman

This listing only reflects donations received through mid-December. 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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday, January 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jacob Berland (11 Jan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morton A. Blum (8 Jan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julian Frankenberg (13 Jan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fanny Goldberg (7 Jan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herbert Gruenstein (9 Jan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Manis Kahn (8 Jan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hattie Freudenstein Kaufman (11 Jan)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday, January 13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vivian Adelston (19 Jan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lillian Berland (18 Jan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herman Bernstein (20 Jan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abraham Braverman (20 Tev)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abe Egherman (16 Tev)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harold Goldberg (16 Jan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alfred Heumann (16 Jan)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday, January 20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alan David Berenbaum (27 Jan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard Birnbaum (23 Jan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sylvia Burszyn (23 Tev)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamar Gershoni (23 Tev)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milton Gorodetsky (24 Tev)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heini Halberstam (25 Jan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mort Heller (27 Tev)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday, January 27</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abraham Adler (2 Feb)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolph A. Adler (2 Feb)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin Davis Braun (31 Jan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lillian Schuster Braun (6 She)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elwood L. Fabert (2 Feb)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorothy Finkin (2 Feb)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Frydman (1 Feb)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phyllis Terry Gillies (3 Feb)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday, February 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frances Aub Bloomfield (8 Feb)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abram Dankowicz (9 Feb)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lena Garber (8 Feb)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Hammer (6 Feb)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boris Isaac Katz (10 Feb)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacob M. Kaufman (10 Feb)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herman Lewis (4 Feb)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julianna Wertheimer Neuwirth (10 Feb)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2017
32nd Annual Dr. MLK, Jr. Service of Celebration
5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Foellinger Great Hall
Krannert Center for the Performing Arts
500 South Goodwin, Urbana

Since 1988, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Advocacy for Justice Committee has awarded over 200 scholarships to local students attending colleges such as Parkland, University of Illinois, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities. This year we honor the memory of Dr. King with Rev. Dr. Allan Boesak as the keynote speaker. Contact: Tracy Kleparski (tklepar@illinois.edu).