









Please join us for our annual 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. So please come in your favorite festive costume and get ready to eat, join the parade, revel in the Shpiel and listen to the whole Megillah!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



5:30–6:15 PM Dinner 6:15–6:30 PM Purim Parade

Purim Services/Shpiel—This year's theme is Grease Service with singing, celebration and Megillah reading led by the Egalitarian Traditional Minyan

FOOD ITEMS REQUESTED

6:30 pm

7:30 pm

Please RSVP online for the food dish you will bring and how many will attend on our SignUp Genius at http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4aafae2ea1f58-purim1. If you are unable to RSVP online, please call the office at 352-8140.

Food items needed include green salad, vegetable side dish, grain side dish (rice, pasta, kugel, etc.) fruit and Challah. We'll need 6–8 hamantaschen bakers, so let us know if you can help with that too.

SUGGESTED DONATION

\$5/per person with food donation\$15/family with food donation\$10/person or \$25/family without a food donation



Please bring a box of pasta for noise maker, and we will donate it to the food pantry.



Schedule of Services

5:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service Dinner to follow

FRIDAY, MARCH 107:30 PMErev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan 5:30 PM Purim celebration (see details on this page)

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

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

> SATURDAY, MARCH 18 10:00 AM Chico Gingold Wilson

Bar Mitzvah

FRIDAY, MARCH 24 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, MARCH 25 10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan

FRIDAY, MARCH 31 7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service



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

Rabbi Alan Cook

From the Rabbi's Desk



When I was in my first year of rabbinical school in Jerusalem, we had a large seminar -style class designed to give us an overview of the Jewish calendar and lifecycle events that might arise in our rabbinate. Generally, it was an informative course with a great teacher, but I do recall one point of contention that arose. On the course's final exam, the instructor asked us to identify which time period of the year would be the least busy for congregational rabbis.

The teacher (who, incidentally, had not served a pulpit for several years) had a particular time frame in mind. I don't recall what it was, but all of us objected to his rationale. In our view, the Jewish calendar is so packed with activity and holidays that it would be difficult to identify any portion of the year as "down time."

In my fourteen years in the rabbinate, I can

affirm that my classmates' assertion has proven true. I say that not to whine or complain; I appreciate that there is always something to which we can look forward. For much of the year, as soon as one holiday or occasion is completed, we are already anticipating future events.

This is particularly true in March and April (Adar and Nissan on the Hebrew calendar). Though Purim and Passover commemorate events from two entirely different points in our history; though the festivals are assigned different levels of importance by the rabbis; though the customs and foodstuffs and mood associated with each holiday could not be more disparate; if we look closer, we see that Purim and Passover, at their essence, resonate with similar themes that we would do well to consider.

In the case of Purim, we are familiar with the antagonist, Haman, who in many ways becomes an archetype for Jewish enemies throughout history. Haman is said to be a descendant of the tribe of Amalek, which first troubles the Israelites shortly after the exodus and then returns during the reign of King Saul, serving as a partial catalyst to the demise of his dynasty. The rabbis draw upon this genealogical tradition and remind us that in every age we must remain alert, lest we encounter another Amelikite who would seek to destroy us.

This vigilance carries through in the story of Passover and the exodus. We are

reminded that we must continue to tell the story of the redemption in every generation, so that we do not take our freedom for granted. As a passage in our prayer book Mishkan Tefillah reminds us, "wherever we go, it is eternally Egypt." In other words, we will always encounter people and places that constrict us, that try to prevent us from reaching our true potential. We must resist these Pharaohs and push back against these narrow places.

That is not to say that Purim and Passover are about reliving past victimization and licking our wounds. No, they are about finding hope and courage even in difficult situations. Whether you resonate with the actions of Esther in the *megillah*, Moses and Aaron standing before Pharaoh, or Nachshon (who the *midrash* tells us was the first to wade into the Sea of Reeds, causing it to part), there are plenty of figures from whom we can draw inspiration. As Mordecai tells Esther, "And who knows whether you have been put here for a moment such as this?" (Esther 4:14). Each of us has a role to play in continuing the Jewish narrative, in lifting up Jewish pride. May this lesson from our forthcoming holidays serve as inspiration to us all.

B'Shalom,

Rabbi Alan Cook

April First Friday Feast—A Special interfaith Seder

In 1969, following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rabbi Arthur Waskow organized a "Freedom Seder," drawing together the Jewish community and the African American community to explore shared narratives of oppression giving way to freedom.

On Friday, April 7, at 5:30 PM Sinai Temple will open its doors to members of the Central Illinois Mosque and Islamic Center and members of First Mennonite Church to share in a Seder inspired by Rabbi Waskow's work. We will share a meal, songs, readings, and prayers from our various traditions as we work to strengthen the bonds between our faith communities. Please note that this program will take place in lieu of formal Shabbat worship that evening, though we will sing the Mi Shebeirach prayer for those in need of healing, and will join with mourners to recite kaddish.

There is no cost for this program, though donations are welcomed. Space is limited, so you are asked to RSVP in advance to https://sinaicu.wufoo.com/forms/m1cz1xl818sgo4y/

Note: Our second-night community seder will be held at Hillel on Tuesday, April 11. Watch for RSVP details in your email and in next month's bulletin.

Birthday & Anniversary Blessings

If you celebrate a birthday or anniversary in March, please join us at our services on

Friday, March 10th 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!

President Gary Bernstein

From the Board

As our calendar turns to March/Adar, we begin to think about the festival of Purim. I've heard many people refer to this as the "Jewish Halloween". I will leave the telling of the story of Purim to our rabbis; however, I saw this as an opportunity to reflect on the past and the future.

For me, Purim is more than just about dressing up in costume, eating hamantaschen, sending Purim baskets to friends and family, and watching the Purim Spiel. Purim is a time to celebrate with our community. This Jewish holiday reminds us of a time when our ancestors were able to thwart the evil plan of a "person in power" and continue to thrive as a community. While the story of Purim focuses on the actions of a few people, it was the actions of many that allowed for the community to survive. The story of Purim is the reminder of the power of action by a group of community members that can change the course of history.

Our community, as I have mentioned previously, is one of the strengths of Sinai Temple and of Champaign-Urbana-Savoy. The Sinai Temple community has some formal positions (such as Rabbi, Board Officer, or Board members) as well as many other volunteer positions. It is vitally important to both the Sinai Temple community and the larger Jewish community of Champaign-Urbana-Savoy, that each of us participates and supports the community. It is through our participation that we help to shape and grow the community and provide direction.

In the coming weeks, members of the Sinai Temple Nominating committee will be working to fill Sinai Temple board vacancies. If you receive a phone call from the nominating committee I urge you to seriously consider the honor and the request. I say that this is an honor in that a group of your fellow community members feel that you have important contributions to make to the betterment of our community. Additionally, even if you don't receive that phone call, we have many volunteer opportunities that you can contribute to. Each one is vitally important to our community. The best way to better and strengthen our community is to get involved. It does not need to be an every week or every month activity.

Returning now to Purim, I hope to see you at our community celebration of this holiday. You can dress up (or not) and attend/ volunteer at the Religious School Purim Carnival or the Purim Spiel. Rabbi Alan has another great script written for our enjoyment with a new and unique twist on an old story.

Also, our Purim basket project/fundraiser can probably use volunteers to help fill the baskets as well as deliver the baskets. Helping to fill and/or deliver the baskets doesn't need to take more than a few hours in total spread out over a few days. This is another opportunity where many hands make for less work. If you are able to volunteer, please contact Rabbi Jody.

Chag Sameach, Gary Bernstein

SINAI TEMPLE FEBRUARY 2017 BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting is March 13. The April meeting has been rescheduled from April 10 to April 17, due to Passover.

***** New Member applications.

Two applications were received.

Mark Hertzman and Ikuku Asaka.

Martin and Rebekah Noven.

Both families were approved.

- The Nominating Committee for 2017 has been selected, (see information on this page for further details). It will be chaired by Susan Schomer. The Board representatives are Dan Kopolow, Loren Israel, Art Siegel. Non-Board members are Carol Belber, Richard Newman, and Ruth Sosnoff who have also agreed to serve on the committee.
- Finance Committee approved spending up to \$1,000 to repair a leak in the roof in the library. This will come from the Building Fund.

2017 SINAI TEMPLE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The 2017 Nominating Committee will slate candidates for the following offices to be voted on at the Annual Meeting on May 21st.

- Trustee (3 positions each serving a 3 year term)
- Vice President/President Elect (2 year term)
- Financial Secretary (2 year term)

If you are interested in a position or would like more information about the positions, please contact Rabbi Alan, Gary Bernstein, or a member of the Board or Nominating Committee as follows:

Non-Board Members:

Susan Schomer (chair) Carol Belber Richard Newman Ruth Sosnoff

Board Members:

Loren Israel Dan Kopolow Art Siegel

From our Educator

Several months ago, I led part of a family education program based on a "four corners" exercise. The program, which was in close proximity to Halloween, encouraged parents and children to consider how much time, energy, thought and even money they devote to preparing for certain holidays. For most, dressing up, cooking special foods and decorating were priorities for celebrating holidays. Many agreed that they spent more time planning for Halloween, 4th of July, New Years, etc. than they did for some of the Jewish holidays.

When trying to schedule things outside of

Sinai Temple, people I work with comment on how many holidays we have. With the exception of one month (Cheshvon), there are no Hebrew months without a holiday— Shabbat not included, of course. And Cheshvon is known as "mar Cheshvon" or bitter Cheshvon because there are not holiday observances. Personally, I love the abundance of special days—even though it does make scheduling activities a challenge for our family. I get to make a big deal about things like eating fruit (we tried ugli fruit this year—alternatively named UNIQ fruit), wearing costumes (take advantage of after

Halloweens sales for Purim), a week of fried foods, bonfires, cheesecake on Shavuot and more. And with each holiday observance, we discover a little bit more about Judaism and strengthen our connection to our heritage. The month of Adar started on February 27 and that means Purim is near. I can't wait to see kids and parents dressed in costumes, to hear groggers "rashing" and to nosh some hamentaschen!

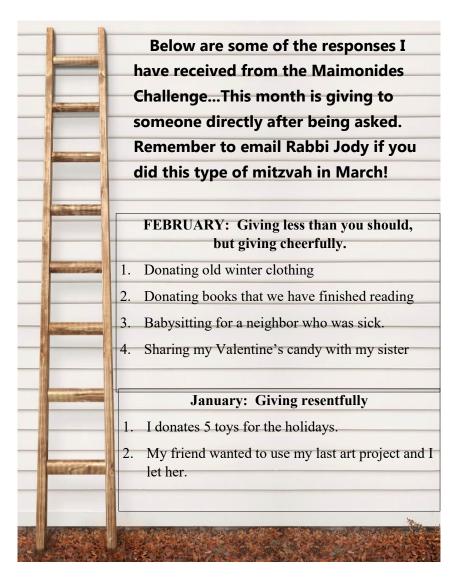
Mishenichnas Adar Marbim B'Simcha — When the month of Adar arrives we should increase our joy!



Religious School: March 5 Hebrew School: March 1, 5, 8, 15, 29 No School: March 12 (Daylight Savings AND Purim Carnival), March 19–27—Spring Break

OTHER EVENTS:

Sunday, March 5—Purim Basket Delivery Saturday, March 11—Purim Shpiel /Dinner Sunday, March 12, 11:00-1:00—Purim Carnival Friday, March 17—Shabbat Rocks!/Next Dor Friday, March 31—Gimmel/Dalet Family Shabbat (dinner, service and oneg)



Announcements

Chico Gingold Wilson Bar Mítzvah



Chico Gingold-Wilson will be called to the Torah on Saturday, March 18, 2017, as a Bar Mitzvah.

If you know Chico, then you know that he is one of the most hard working and out going young people that you will ever meet. He gets along with everyone, and his smile brings instant joy to those around him. Chico has been playing competitive soccer in the Illinois Futbol Club for several years, and he is one of the most strategic and aggressive players on his team. He has played viola for 3 years and sings in the Urbana Middle

School Honors Choir and is often featured as a soloist. Chico enjoys dancing, dirt bike riding and hanging out with his two brothers, Darian and Johnie.

For Chico's mitzvah project, he is raising money for the Champaign-Urbana Humane Society by putting together small music concerts featuring his musical friends and himself. Chico knows the importance and value in taking care of furry friends, as he has 3 pets from the Humane Society, and a grandma who would give her last cent for her dogs. With great pleasure, Chico's mother Tamra invites you to join him and his family for this festive occasion.

New Member Spotlight on Matt Entin and Laine Towey



Matt Entin and Laine Towey moved to the community in May of 2016. Matt grew up in Glencoe, a suburb of Chicago, and Laine is originally from Pittsburgh.

Matt is a Senior Writer at Volition in downtown Champaign. Laine works remotely from home for GE as a Digital Writer and Editor.

The couple joined Sinai Temple when Laine was in the middle

of her conversion, and they wanted to get involved with the Jewish community in Champaign-Urbana. They identify with the Reform movement. When asked about their favorite Jewish holiday, Matt's answer was, "Passover, can't beat a good Seder!" When not at work, they enjoy hiking, traveling, cooking, reading and eating at ethnic restaurants.

First Friday Feast March 3, 2017

At 5:30 PM there will be an abbreviated Shabbat Service, at which we will welcome students from the Reform community at UIUC Hillel, with special musical guest Mark Hafter. Following the service, we will join together for a delicious Shabbat dinner prepared by Rabbi Alan and others and an opportunity to spend time with all of our Sinai Temple and Hillel friends. Please RSVP by March 1st, by clicking here or call the Temple office, so that we may ensure sufficient food quantities. (An appropriate donation would be \$5.00 per person)

BOOK GROUP

Monday, March 20th at 7:30 PM

The Book Group usually meets the third Monday of the month at 7:30 PM. We will be reading, *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Blackman. Host and Facilitator: Joyce Francisco, 1505 Greyrock Ln., Champaign. (378-8024). 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—RESUMING MARCH 21ST 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 <u>robinfans1@gmail.com</u> or by phone at 217-367-8053.

VIMs

Thursday, March 2nd 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.

Giving

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

ALPINER STERN FLOWER FUND

Stanley & Joan Levy, in memory of Stephen Bauer

BUILDING FUND

Robert & Lauren Boucek Anne Heiles Bernice & Laurence Lieberman, in memory of Joe Rotman Martin & Rebekah Noven Elizabeth Weiss Inna & Vadim Zharnitsky

PAULA DECKARD FUND

Wiley & Jeannine Deckard, from the Deckard Family

FRIENDS OF RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Carol & Carl Belber Dov Cohen & Andrea Agular, in appreciation of the Rabbis Cook Joyce Nagel Eisenstein Jennie France & Charles Kahn Joan Friedman & Charles Blair Minna Friedman Phyllis & Bill Gingold Joli Ginsberg Frances & Mitchell Harris Benita & John Katzenellenbogen Joan & Charles Kozoll Linda & Alan Kurtz, in honor of our grandchildren, Lillyanna, Logan & Lawson Kurtz Toni Lachman Cecile & Ira Lebenson Diane & Rob Ore Elizabeth Oyler & Michael Finke Fraeda & Gary Porton Marcia & Art Siegel Ruth & Jake Sosnoff, Isaac, Malachi & Zev, in honor of Rabbi Jody and the rest of the Religious School Educators, "Thanks for all the marvelous work you do!" Fran & Bill Strauss Buddi Tepper Judy & Stephen Ullom Bette & John van Es

GENERAL FUND

Gary & Tonya Bernstein, in memory of Herman Bernstein Martin & Lanell Greenberg Eugene Yefim & Yana Grinberg, in memory of Yefim Grinberg Anne Heiles, in memory of Matthew Mischakoff M & J Luedke, in memory of Stephen Bauer Leslie & Gary Mason, in memory of Elsa Klaiman, mother of Linda Bauer Veronica Shavitt, in memory of Juliana Wertheimer Neuwirth Dvora Tager, in memory of Ruth Tager,

Stephen Tager, Pauline Tager, Marcus Tager, Jessica Underberg, Marianne Melnikoff, Florence Reyman, Isaac Reyman and Solon Reyman

KITCHEN/ONEG FUND

Robert & Lauren Boucek Anne Heiles Martin & Rebekah Noven Elizabeth Weiss Inna & Vadim Zharnitsky

LIBRARY FUND

Henrietta Schwartz & Sue Brim, in memory of Henry & Bernice Schwartz

MUSIC FUND

Anne Heiles, in memory of Mischa Mischakoff Ruth Morhaim, in memory of Dr. Isaac Morhaim, in memory of Karyn Israel and in memory of Kate Kuper Gene & Julia Robinson, in memory of Kate Kuper

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Toni Lachman & Judy Lachman, in memory of Malcolm Lachman

SINAL TEMPLE GIFT SHOP March Specials

Put some "kitsch" in your kitchen! All in-stock Kitchenware is 20% OFF! Includes bakeware, aprons, glassware, mugs and more

Mark your calendars **NOW** for this year's Passover Showcase on **Sunday, April 2nd—ONE DAY ONLY** (All Gift Shop profits go to support the Religious School)

Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah

Chico Gingold-Wilson, March 18th Rachael Finke, May 27th

REGULAR HOURS OF OPERATION

Sundays 9:00 AM-1:00 PM (during Religious School)

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.

Memorials

Sakip Altay (4 Mar) Mack Bernard Braun (6 Mar) David S. Choldin (6 Mar) Arthur Fagan (7 Mar) Murray Friedman (9 Mar) Bernard Karsh (7 Mar) William Klaiman (6 Mar)	Sam Klugman (8 Mar) Harriet Mildred Lavey (10 Mar) Mollie Leavitt (9 Mar) Jack Marco (4 Mar) Nissim Morhaim (7 Ada) Solon Aaron Reyman (9 Mar) Edith Sapoznik (10 Mar)	Minnie Slutsky (8 Mar) Ruth Marieke van Es (6 Mar) Rosetta Kuhn Victor (9 Mar) Maxine Weiner (8 2Ad) Colonel Uzi Yairi (6 Mar)
James Adler (17 Mar) Sylvia Kadish Cohen (13 Mar) Bess Frankenberg (15 Mar) Zola Joseph Goodfriend (12 Mar) Carl Greenstein (15 Mar) Shirley L. Kaplan (15 Ada) Ann Kapulskey (14 1Ad)	Sarah Westerman Konick (15 Mar) Paul Michael Mischakoff (12 Mar) Raymond Perlov (15 Mar) Abraham M. Reider (13 Ada) Gayle Riches (13 2Ad) Eugenia Coleman Roddis (13 Ada) Delores Jean Rosenbaum (15 Mar)	Ted Sher (11 Mar) Hiram Gene Slottow (11 Mar)
Edwin M. Banks (24 Mar) Fritz Braunfeld (18 Mar) Stanley Depper (24 Ada) Oscar Einhorn (25 1Ad) Sidney S. Feldman (19 Mar) Annette Lewis Glaser (20 Mar) Rita Mae Goodman (22 1Ad) Ethel Hymowitz (22 Ada)	Christopher Kanis (21 Mar) Ben Kaufman (24 Mar) Harry Lipson Sr (20 Mar) Lynne Muller (24 Mar) Alan Pall (22 Mar) Sonya Pearlman (23 Mar) Charles O. Silverman (25 Ada) Helen Tepper (22 Mar)	Daniel Terry (19 Mar) Irving Weinberg (21 2Ad) Bill Wiese (21 Mar)
Rose Shore Applebaum (30 Mar) Phillip Bedein (28 Mar) Samuel Cossman (28 Mar) John Porter Davis (29 Mar) Edward L. Edlitz (26 Mar) Bertha Ginsburg (28 Mar) Isadore Ginsburg (29 Mar) Harry Hirshenson (25 Mar)	Martin H. Katz (4 Nis) Ida Klugman (28 Mar) Arthur Lerner (31 Mar) Fania Levin (30 Mar) Charles F. Loeb (25 Mar) Rose (Bebbe) Mandel (29 Mar) John P. Melhado (1 Nis) Charles Miller (26 Mar)	Harry Miller (28 Mar) Evan Gordon Sarney (25 Mar) Edward I. Siegal (25 Mar) Anna B. Vineberg (27 Mar) Jerome S. Wachtel (28 1Ad) Anne B. Weisel (3 Nis)
Jack Diamond (3 Apr) Joshua David Gottheil (4 Apr) Jennifer Hodges (1 Apr) Paul Karsh (1 Apr) Clara Kaufman (10 Nis) Adam Koslofsky (4 Apr) Hermine Ruth Lachman (7 Apr)	Irma Lipson (4 Apr) Abraham Loeb (4 Apr) Beverlee Mirell (1 Apr) Woodrow Pearlman (6 Apr) Sonja Robinson (10 Nis) Nina Nelson Seidenberg (4 Apr) Lenore Levy Simon (6 Apr)	
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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.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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



Would you like to help sponsor our Bulletin? Contact Kathy in the Temple office for more information! 8 Sinai Temple Bulletin March 2017 ~ Adar/Nisan 5777