First Friday Feast
We will have a very special Interfaith Seder on Friday, April 7th, 5:30 pm. We will welcome friends and neighbors from the Central Illinois Mosque and Islamic Center and from the First Mennonite Church. We will begin at 5:30 pm for a special Seder and meal that will tell the story of Passover by reflecting on humanity's ongoing struggle to attain peace and freedom for all people. Drawing from our tradition and the faith traditions of our guests, we will share in food, song, prayer, and dialogue. Please note, the seder will take the place of our regular Shabbat worship this evening. There will still be opportunity for mourners to recite Kaddish.

Community Seder
Rabbi Alan will once again be conducting a seder for the community on the second night of Passover, Tuesday, April 11th, 5:30 pm at the UIUC Cohen Hillel, (503 E. John St.) All are welcome, so bring your friends and family! Please RSVP at https://sinaicu.wufoo.com/forms/m11uhcwm0cmgnwu/.

Yom HaShoah
Please join us for the Yom HaShoah Commemoration Service on Sunday, April 23, at 7:30 pm. Our guest speaker will be Marvin A. Sweeney. Dr. Sweeney is Professor of Hebrew Bible at the Claremont School of Theology and Professor of Bible at the Academy for Jewish Religion, California, where he teaches courses in Hebrew Bible and the History of Judaism and Jewish Thought. His topic will be: “Two Jews Confront the Unspeakable: Reading Isaiah and Esther After the Shoah”

See pg. 6 for information on “Through Their Eyes” Holocaust exhibit April 23rd–26th.

Passover Showcase
in the Levin Lounge

FOR ONE DAY ONLY!

Sunday, April 2nd,
9:00 AM-2:00 PM

We will have everything you need to observe and celebrate Passover! From Seder plates and matzah trays to hostess gifts and Afikomen prizes, we’ve got you covered!

Schedule of Services

FRIDAY, APRIL 7
5:30 PM  Interfaith Seder

SATURDAY, APRIL 8
10:00 AM   Egalitarian Traditional Minyan

TUESDAY, APRIL 11
10:00 AM   Egalitarian Traditional Minyan
5:30 PM   Community Seder at UIUC Cohen Hillel

FRIDAY, APRIL 14
7:30 PM   Erev Shabbat Service

TUESDAY, APRIL 18
10:00 AM   Egalitarian Traditional Minyan

FRIDAY, APRIL 21
5:30 PM   Shabbat Rocks! / Next Dor
7:30 PM   Erev Shabbat Service

SUNDAY, APRIL 23
7:30 PM   Yom HaShoah Commemoration Service

FRIDAY, APRIL 28
7:30 PM   Erev Shabbat Service
By this point, I am sure that everyone is aware that since the beginning of 2017, Jewish Community Centers and other Jewish institutions across North America have been the targets of bomb threats and other terrorist attempts to intimidate. Some facilities have had to repeatedly evacuate out of an abundance of caution. Thankfully, none of the calls thus far have proven truthful, and there have been no injuries. And we are grateful that, as of this writing, nothing has been directed against any institution in our local Jewish community. But we dare not be lulled into a false sense of complacency. As Gary Bernstein notes in his president's article, we are currently evaluating all of our security procedures to ensure that we are proactive and prepared.

Later this month, as we sit around our seder tables and tell the story of the Exodus, we will recount Pharaoh's cruelty to our enslaved ancestors. The text of the haggadah reminds us, “Not one enemy alone has stood against our people in an effort to destroy us. Rather, in every generation an adversary arises, attempting to strike us down. But the Holy One, Blessed be God, helps to save us from the hands of the oppressors.” We are encouraged to be vigilant, but also to have hope and faith that, in the end, we will prevail.

But the haggadah also reminds us that our destiny is intertwined with the destiny of others. As we recite the Ten Plagues, we pour out wine from our glasses, diminishing the sweetness of our celebration as we recall the Egyptians who lost their lives as our ancestors were achieving their freedom. We recite, “Let all who are hungry come and eat,” which I believe speaks not only for those who may be enduring physical hunger, but also those who seek spiritual nourishment, and those who hunger for acceptance and self-fulfillment.

So as we celebrate this festival of our freedom and embrace pride in the stories of our Jewish past, so too let us redouble our efforts to ensure that our people and our heritage thrive well into the future. As we stand for our own rights, so too let us stand with our friends and neighbors in the Muslim community, in the LGBTQ community, in the African-American and Latino communities, in immigrant and refugee communities, and in all those communities who find that their minority voices are not always heard. Let us amplify their calls for freedom and rights alongside our own, for only when all are free can we be free.

I wish you a joyous and meaningful Passover.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Alan Cook

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SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE

May 5th–6th, 2017, Sinai Temple is pleased to welcome Dr. Gary Zola as our Steinberg scholar-in-residence. Dr. Zola is the Executive Director of the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati, Ohio and a renowned scholar of Jewish-American history.

Our weekend will begin on Friday, May 5th, with a special early Shabbat service at 5:30 pm. Following our worship, we will gather for our First Friday Feast (please RSVP for the dinner at http://sinaicu.wufoo.com/forms/m12mlw01r1rk3r). Dr. Zola will speak on "Lincoln and the Jews."

On Saturday, May 6th at 10 AM, there will be a Shabbat morning service conducted by the Egalitarian Traditional Minyan. Rabbi Alan and Dr. Zola will offer a joint Dvar Torah. A kiddush luncheon will follow the service, after which, Dr. Zola will lead a study session on George Washington's letter to the Jews of Newport, Rhode Island.

Saturday evening, we will gather at 7:30 PM for havdalah and a dessert reception. Dr. Zola will speak on Jews and Civil Rights.

All events are open to the entire community and appropriate for all ages. This weekend is made possible by the Steinberg Scholar-in-Residence fund at the Champaign-Urbana Jewish Endowment Fund.

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM DISPLAY

The Sinai Temple Museum proudly presents this year's Holocaust display in the Levin Lounge. It will be an exhibit of artwork by Agnes Matjinsky Pal, a renowned metalsmith from Edwardsville, IL, and a Holocaust survivor. Her work explores the relationship of the creative act of artmaking as a vehicle for healing and remembrance. The exhibit begins on April 15th and runs until the end of June.
March and April are busy times of the year for our community. Winter is receding and spring has been knocking on the door most of this year. Many of us will be getting outside soon and working on gardens and general home improvements. Additionally, Sinai Temple’s Building committee is considering a Spring Clean up day at the end of April (watch your email for more information). I hope that many were able to take advantage of the academic calendar break to get some needed rest and rejuvenation that only time away can provide. While my family was not able to get away, I thoroughly enjoyed the CUTY led Friday night service and the Purim celebration. Thanks again to Rabbi Alan for his creative spark that makes each year’s Purim play a fun adventure. I would like to thank the all-volunteer Purim Players cast (and crew) for helping bring to life Rabbi Alan’s creations, even if it is only for one performance.

As of this writing, the nominating committee has begun its work to fill upcoming vacancies on the Board of Trustees. As I mentioned last month, if you receive a request from the committee, I urge you to seriously consider the honor and the request. The committee is looking for people that they believe can continue to strengthen and advance the needs of our Jewish community.

The finance committee has also begun (and should be finishing up shortly) its work in sending a budget to the board for its approval. As has been the case for many of the past years, we have many great ideas on ways to spend the limited funds with very little discretionary funding available. As in years past, we will do our best to use your membership money as responsibly as possible, while still providing for the needs of our community.

In addition to working on the budget, the board has also been discussing the distressing state of affairs happening in the world. Several temple staff members and the chair of the building committee have met with local law enforcement to review our emergency procedures and to identify additional measures that we can take to ensure the safety of the community. The board will continue to discuss the recommendations and will identify the best ways to move forward. I want to assure you that, as of this writing, we have not been the recipients of any threats and have no reason to believe that we are in imminent danger. We wish to review our protocols so that we can be proactive instead of reactive.

In the coming days, we will be celebrating Passover with family and friends. At Sinai’s April First Friday Feast (4/7), we will welcome friends and neighbors from the Central Illinois Mosque and Islamic Center and from First Mennonite Church for a special Seder and meal that will tell the story of Passover by reflecting on humanity’s ongoing struggle to attain peace and freedom for all people. I hope you can join us for this and/or the community seder on April 11th at Hillel. Please follow the links in the email to RSVP.

Chag Sameach!

Gary Bernstein
Passover Resources

Spring is here (I think/hope) which means Pesach/Passover is coming soon! I know that planning a seder, preparing food that is kosher for Passover, cleaning the home, pulling out seder plates made at Religious School, finding the haggadot and chopping the apples is a lot of work—but it pales in comparison to the work that our ancestors did in Egypt. We have an obligation on Passover to retell the story of the Exodus, to remember the struggle of our ancestors, to acknowledge God freeing them from slavery and to welcome strangers into our homes. There are many ways to bring these mitzvot to your seder table and to engage the participants. Pesach is an incredible teaching opportunity and there are wonderful resources and ideas that can be incorporated into your seder, turning it into the learning experience that it should be.

Perhaps you will:

1. Have a make your own charoset bar—have dried fruits and nuts set out and let people make their own creation. Or make several different charoset recipes for participants to taste.

2. Set the table to look like the Israelites are crossing the sea—blue runners on the sides, white or brown in the middle. Complete the look with dolls or action figures walking through the center.

3. Play Seder Bingo—make Bingo cards with seder elements. If a word is mentioned during the seder, mark it!

4. Turn a part of the seder into a discussion about current events. What would it be like to be a refugee today? What are things that plague our world now? Mitzrayim (Egypt) means “narrow”—what is an experience that made you feel confined?

Stir up your seder with more ideas from:
http://reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/passover-pesach
http://www.reformjudaism.org/creative-ideas-your-passover-seder
https://www.templerodefshalom.org/passover-stir-up-your-seder/

To all who participated in the Purim Basket Greeting Project! We had our most successful year yet!
BOOK GROUP
Monday, April 17th at 7:30 PM
The Book Group usually meets the third Monday of the month at 7:30 PM. We will be reading, The Shepherd’s Life: Modern Dispatches from an Ancient Landscape by James Rebanks. Host and Facilitator: Ann Sapoznik, 308 Yankee Ridge Ln., U. (367-5256). We will be choosing new books in May, so if you have any suggestions, please email nataliefr@comcast.net 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, April 6th 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.

New Member Spotlight on
The Noven Family

Martin and Rebekah Noven, along with 7-year-old Daliah and 5-year-old Asher, moved to Champaign from Chicago in December 2016. Martin's mother, Monica, also moved with them to Champaign from Evanston.

Martin is the Executive Director of the State Universities Retirement System (SURS). Rebekah is a stay-at-home mom. The family joined Sinai Temple to be a part of the Reform Jewish community in their new town, and provide their children with an opportunity to gain a Jewish education.

When asked about their favorite Jewish holiday, the parents deferred to the kids, who like Hanukkah and Passover for the gifts and food.

In their leisure time, Rebekah runs marathons and does a lot of baking; Martin likes to exercise and read political biographies. Daliah is an avid reader and plays the violin. Asher loves doing construction projects and going on outdoor adventures.

2017 ANNUAL BENEFIT & RAFFLE for the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen
Wednesday, April 19th
3:30–6:00 PM
Silvercreek Restaurant
402 N. Race, Urbana

A SPRING GROUNDS CLEANUP DAY will be held on April 30th from 10:00 AM-12:30 PM. We are looking for volunteers to help clean up the Temple grounds, raking, mulching, pruning, etc. If you are able to help, please bring your gloves, rakes and brooms.

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Giving

BUILDING FUND
Larry Adelston & Katherine Coyle
Erez & Dana Cohen
Stacy Deckard
Bart & Pamela Greenberger

FRIENDS OF THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
Diane Gottheil
Konrad & Barbara Heuvers, in memory of Malcolm McKenzie McClure for the Teaching of Hebrew
Bernice & Laurence Lieberman
Dana Rabin & Craig Koslofsky
Susan & Paul Schomer

GENERAL FUND
Peter & Caroline Coulston, thank you for all you do.
Joyce Nagel Eisenstein, with thanks to all who sent me a Purim Basket
Minna Friedman, in memory of Murray Friedman
Robert Greenstein, in appreciation of yahrzeit reminders
Annette Karsh, in memory of Bernard Karsh and in memory of Paul Karsh
Gayle Kopin, in memory of Jenny Mandel L & S Solomon, in memory of Marvin Glezer
Lionel & Patricia Wheeler, in memory of Martin Glezer

KITCHEN/ONEG FUND
Annette & John Buckmaster
Stacy Deckard
William & Eileen Kohen
Judy Lachman

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
Christina Graham
Ruth Morhaim, Thank you to all who sent me a Purim Basket.

ROBINSON FUND
In loving memory of Helen Levin by Emily Levin & Susan Levin Dillbeck

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

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

Passover Showcase on
Sunday, April 2nd—ONE DAY ONLY
SEE THE FRONT PAGE FOR ALL THE DETAILS!

Ready for Passover?
Let the Sinai Temple Gift Shop help!
Stop in each day to see our Daily Specials.

Sun., April 2 9:00 AM–2:00 PM
Tue., April 4 6:00–8:00 PM
Visit us at Hillel for CUJF’s Passover Fair
Wed., April 5 4:00–6:00 PM
Thur., April 6 10:00 AM–1:00 PM
Sun., April 9 9:00 AM–1:00 PM

Interested in volunteering?
Email Jessica Kopolow at jessikopolow@yahoo.com

Upcoming B’nai Mitzvah
Rachael Finke, May 27th

REGULAR HOURS OF OPERATION
Sundays 9:00 AM–1:00 PM
(during Religious School)
Wednesdays 4:00 PM–6:00 PM
(during Hebrew School)

We are ALWAYS open by APPOINTMENT. Email: nataliefr@comcast.net or call Natalie Frankenber (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.

Exhibit “Through Their Eye”....

Will be displayed at Sinai Temple in the Davis Chapel on Sunday, April 23rd through Wednesday April 26th.

Students from several area schools: Franklin Middle School, International Prep Academy, Barkstall Elementary and Next Generation will display their various artwork on the Holocaust.
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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<th>Friday, April 7</th>
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<td>Isidore Brill (29 Apr)</td>
<td>Blair Bernard Kling (2 May)</td>
<td>Manie Tepper (5 May)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Misha Bursztyn (4 Iya)</td>
<td>Celia Berman Kulwin (30 Apr)</td>
<td>David Uzrad (5 Iya)</td>
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<td>Bertha Craven (5 May)</td>
<td>Ethel Urzit Marcus (29 Apr)</td>
<td>Rose Weissler (4 Iya)</td>
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<td>Beverly J. Cronin (4 May)</td>
<td>Ida Levine Markoff (30 Apr)</td>
<td>Theodore H. Zimmerman (1 May)</td>
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<td>Bertha Rabinowitz Diness (30 Apr)</td>
<td>Edith Pincus (4 May)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Della Faiman (9 Iya)</td>
<td>Norman Stanley Rosenzwog (4 May)</td>
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</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.