**Interfaith Picnic**

**Sunday, August 6th at 4 PM**

Join members of the Interfaith Community at the Large Pavilion at Crystal Lake Park in Urbana on Sunday, August 6th from 4 PM to dusk as we enjoy a potluck picnic, games, music, and more.

This is a family-friendly event, and all are welcome as we get to know our neighbors from different faith communities. Please RSVP at http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a4daeb2caaff2-interfaith.

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**Blood Drive**

**Sunday, August 20th**

Did you know when you give one pint of blood you are saving 3 lives? The Sinai Temple Social Action Committee will host a blood drive on Sunday, August 20th from 9 AM-1 PM in the Davis Chapel. Please e-mail Leanna Cossman at cossmanfamily@yahoo.com to pick a time slot.

To ensure the safety of blood donation for both donors and recipients, all volunteer blood donors must be evaluated to determine their eligibility to give blood. (every person has to have a finger stick before donating) The final determination will be made on the day of the donation at the blood drive. If you were deferred from donating in the past, you may be able to donate again.

Please email stsac@gmail.com if you are interested in joining the Social Action Committee.

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**PLEDGE FORM TIME**

You should have received your annual pledge packet in the mail recently. Please take some time to consider what you can do to support Sinai Temple financially. We ask that you fill out and return your pledge forms by August 15th. Please also consider paying into the Building Fund if you haven’t yet fulfilled your obligation. This summer we had two emergency expenditures for building repairs, showing that our aging Temple needs more and more tender loving care, and your contribution to the Building Fund will help to ensure its survival well into the future.

In addition to the financial pledge form, the packet includes a request for sponsors for Friday night onegs and Saturday ETM Kiddush luncheons. If you are able to help out, it would be much appreciated. If you’re not sure how to host an oneg, you can contact the Temple Office for details.

If you’re looking for extra opportunities to be involved in Temple life, how about being on a committee? You can check out the possibilities on our website at http://www.sinaitemplecu.org/index.php/about-us/committees

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**Schedule of Services**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 4**

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 5**

10:00 AM Julia Cronin Bat Mitzvah

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 11**

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 12**

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 18**

5:30 PM Shabbat Rocks! / Next Dor

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 25**

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 26**

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan

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Please email stsac@gmail.com if you are interested in joining the Social Action Committee.
The time that I spend at Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute each summer always energizes and inspires me. As members of the segei, visiting faculty, Rabbi Jody and I each have an opportunity to work closely with a particular eidah (camper unit). We have formal responsibilities that pertain to leading services, teaching Hebrew, and designing and executing limmudim—daily lessons on a particular Judaic theme that has been selected for each eidah for the summer. But we also get to spend quality time with the chanichim (campers) at other activities throughout the day: mealtimes, swimming, free time, athletics, and other programming. This allows the campers to see that Jewish professionals are “real people” also. These moments, not specifically designed to be Jewish in nature, are often where the most profound connections are made.

I’ll share just two examples from this summer.

Shabbat at camp represents a break from routine. Starting Friday evening, and continuing throughout the day on Saturday, much of the structure of the camp schedule falls away. For instance, chanichim are not required to attend breakfast on Saturday morning. This means that by the time lunch is served at 12:30, many of the campers are quite hungry. This was the case on the first Shabbat, as Rebecca, a fourth grader, and some of her friends, was waiting in line with Rebecca, a fourth grader, and some of her peers to find this holiness of holiness, call it what you will, is all around us. May we each be inspired by Rebecca, Mason and their peers to find this holiness everywhere.

Shabbat at camp represents a break from routine. Starting Friday evening, and continuing throughout the day on Saturday, much of the structure of the camp schedule falls away. For instance, chanichim are not required to attend breakfast on Saturday morning. This means that by the time lunch is served at 12:30, many of the campers are quite hungry. This was the case on the first Shabbat, as Rebecca, even in her wildest, most ridiculous, hunger-fueled moment, to think about even her creative play within a Jewish context.

The second incident happened on the second Shabbat afternoon while swimming in the lake. I asked a group of boys to please stop splashing me. They asked why, and I jokingly replied, “I don’t want to get wet.” One of the boys said, “But you’re in the lake.” “Exactly,” I said continuing to tease them a bit, “I’m in the lake…if I wanted to get wet, I would be in the water.” Then Mason, another one of the boys, answered, “The lake is made of water. And sand….And Judaism.”

Indeed, the lake is made of Judaism. Every place at camp is made of Judaism—from Rebecca’s lunch line, to the lake, to “Bayit Hill” where we sit and watch fireworks on the Fourth of July. Camp awakens in the chanichim the realization that Judaism, God, sparks of holiness, call it what you will, is all around us. May we each be inspired by Rebecca, Mason and their peers to find this holiness everywhere.

B’Shalom,
Alan Cook

From the Rabbi’s Desk

For High Holidays 5778, we are pleased to welcome Cantor Jennifer Seeger to the bimah. Cantor Seeger will join Rabbi Alan in leading our community Erev Rosh Hashanah service, as well as the Reform services on the first day of Rosh Hashanah, and the Reform services for Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur. Cantor Seeger is working with Rabbi Alan and with Music Director Martha Alwes to design a musical program for our worship that will combine classic melodies with contemporary tunes. Her engaging voice will encourage all to join in singing.

Cantor Jennifer Seeger grew up in Minneapolis, MN, where she was inspired by her cantor, Barry Abelson of Temple Israel. In 1994, Cantor Seeger received a Bachelor of Music in Music Education and vocal performance from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. She went on to receive a Masters degree in Sacred Music and Investiture as Cantor from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Jerusalem and New York. From 1998-2001 Jennifer served as cantor of Temple Israel in Omaha, NE before moving back to her home to serve Mount Zion Temple as the congregation’s first co-cantor. Jennifer worked at Mount Zion from 2001-2007 when she left to be full-time mom to her children, Charlie and Meredith. From 2001-2016, Jennifer served Temple Beth El of Knoxville, TN, as their High Holy Day cantor. Jennifer is currently filling in as cantor of Bet Shalom congregation in Minnetonka, MN, and is thrilled to now join Sinai Temple for their High Holy Day worship.

Cantor Seeger will participate in our High Holiday worship in lieu of the wonderful professional choir that has graced our services for many years. The choir is still scheduled to be with us for Selichot worship, which will take place on Saturday, September 16th.
I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer! Summer is a time for family activities, travel, vacations, reunions and other celebrations. It’s also when our kids get to go to camp and experience the particularly vibrant forms of Judaism that camps provide. We hope they will bring back with them what they’ve learned to energize our entire community!

Although some Temple activities tend to wind down a bit in the summer, there are also many that actually increase, such as b’ni mitzvah. We have had—and continue to have—several this spring and summer. B’ni mitzvah have always been among my favorite Jewish celebrations, both because they are so joyous, bringing the whole congregation together, and because they signify in concrete terms the transfer of our Jewish heritage from one generation to the next—l’dor va dor. The light that sparkles in our kids’ eyes when they are reading from the Torah is something I never get tired of seeing. I hope you’ll take advantage of the opportunity to experience one or more of these special shabbatot yourselves.

We’ve also had some excitement this summer of a not-so-pleasant nature, but we’ve weathered the storms and come out of the experience stronger and more confident:

**Temple doors.** One of our large front doors came off its hinges just before Memorial Day, and we were forced to replace both the doors and adjacent windows as quickly as possible. This was finally accomplished on July 13. The new doors are a big improvement in ease of function and should also save us money in heating and cooling in the future. Thank you to everyone for your patience while we were effecting repairs, and thank you to the Building Committee for coordinating the effort!

**Classroom water damage.** We had a serious leak in two of the Religious School classrooms that was traced to a faulty pipe behind the wall between the classrooms. The pipe has been replaced and the damage to the wall and floor have been repaired. The classrooms should be ready for normal use again in the fall.

While our rabbis have been taking time out from their normal schedules to be involved in activities at Camp OSRUI in Wisconsin, Toni Lachman and Alex Scheeline each led a Friday night service in July. We thank them for their dedication and service to the congregation. I’d also like to thank all the wonderful musicians who have filled in for Martha Alwes during her illness. We send our thoughts and prayers to Martha in hope that she will be feeling much better very soon! Refu’ah shleima!

See you at Temple!

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**SINAI TEMPLE JUNE 2017 BOARD MEETING**

- The Board voted unanimously to accept the application for membership of Scott Friedman. Welcome to Sinai, Scott!
- The Board had an electronic vote on the replacement of the front door to the Temple, which had become unusable.
- Art made the MOTION that we forgo getting a second quote for the door replacement and instead proceed immediately to accept the proposal from Bacon & Van Buskirk for $6260, which includes replacing the two window panes to the east of these doors. We recommend authorizing the Temple to pay up to $6300 for the replacement, the funds to come from the Building Obligated Fund, as a part of the FY18 budget.
- The Board voted to update the Purchasing Policy, in the event of any emergency. The current purchasing policy would remain the same, with the addition of "In the event of an emergency that compromises the safety and well being of the Temple and/or its occupants and requires immediate repair (e.g., an entryway door falling off its hinges), the purchasing policy is superseded, and the approval of one (1) officer and the building committee chair (or his/her designee) is all that is required to authorize the expenditure”.
- Art made the MOTION that we make an additional donation of $500 for next years FY2018 funds for Habitat for Humanity builds, to help offset the expenditures of homes already built, but not entirely paid for by contributions from subscribing congregations.
- The Building Committee for Sanctuary Renovation has gotten bids from two different companies. Bart Greenberger made the MOTION that we accept the bid from Ratio. We will be asking them to come up with a design plan that we can bring to the congregation.
- Rabbi Alan working with an ad-hoc cantorial search committee has selected and invited a Cantorial Soloist, Jennifer Seeger, to participate in the Reform Minyan Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services this fall. He will finalize financial and logistical arrangements soon. The expenditure had been previously approved as part of the FY18 Budget.
- Art Siegel reported a meeting he had with representatives of Hillel in which both groups expressed a desire to have closer cooperation between us. As a start, we will begin listing activities at Hillel in our weekly email blasts and announcements from the bimah.
- Rabbi Jody reported the school year ended with a family picnic. She also reported on an intergenerational baking event at the Temple called “L’Dough va Dough.” The event was a great success and produced many baked goods that will be frozen and used for onegs without sponsors.
I hope everyone is enjoying their (HOT) summer! Religious School Registration is right around the corner. I am looking forward to another year of engaging young learners. Registration is a family focused event—so come for PANCAKES, REGISTRATION and BLOOD DRIVE!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2017

9:00–11:00  Registration and Pancake Breakfast (details below)
9:00–12:00  Blood Drive (watch your weekly blast for sign up information)

CUTY invites you to our 3rd annual PANCAKE BREAKFAST!

This event is open to the community. The breakfast will include pancakes (with a variety of toppings and add-ins), fresh fruit, coffee, tea and juices.

COST: $8/person or $25/family—pre-registration or $10/person or $30/family at the door

If you plan to eat pancakes, please RSVP to Ben and Jess LeRoy (sinaitempleyouth@gmail.com) by August 18th. RSVP is not required but will help to ensure we have enough food! If you RSVP by August 18th, you will pay the pre-registration fee.

Funds raised will be used to support our wonderful YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Sinai Temple currently accepts cash or check for payments.

Back To School Gathering
Meet-Up to celebrate Back to School/End of Summer

Saturday, August 12
6:00 PM

Hessel Park Pavilion, Playground and Splash Pad

Bring a picnic dinner. Drinks and dessert will be provided. We will do Havdallah around 8:30 for those who are interested in marking a separation between Shabbat and the rest of the week and between the summer and school year!

Please RSVP to educator@sinaitemplecu.org by August 10th.

Friends are welcome!!!
**Announcements**

**Mazel Tov**

Peggy & Michael Grossman announce with pleasure the birth of their granddaughter Elise Palaby Grossman on July 14th. Proud parents are Aaron & Charnella, other family members include not-so-thrilled big sister Kenna and thrilled uncle Daniel Grossman.

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**Grace Adelston Bat Mitzvah**

**Saturday, September 2**

Grace Adelston will be called to the Torah on Sept. 2, 2017. Grace is entering 8th grade at Jefferson Middle School, where she plays clarinet in band, and has performed as a chorus member in school musicals. She also plays piano and ukulele. At home, she enjoys playing computer games and cuddling her cat, Bitty.

For her Bat Mitzvah project, Grace is raising money for the Champaign County Down Syndrome Network; she is selling “warm fuzzies,” and this October, she will walk in the Buddy Walk in Urbana, as she did last year. Grace wants to stop bullying, and to support people with special needs.

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**Julia Cronin Bat Mitzvah**

**Saturday, August 5th**

Julia Rose Cronin will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, August 5th, at 10:00 AM. She is the daughter of Melissa and Tim Cronin of Savoy, IL. Julia is the granddaughter of Susan Rodman of Lincolnwood, IL, Seymour and the late Barbara Ferdman of Glencoe, IL, and the late Vincent and Beverly Cronin of Champaign, IL. Julia will begin eighth grade at Jefferson Middle School this fall. In addition to her studies, Julia enjoys listening to music, discussing politics and recently has discovered boxing. Julia has attended Sinai Temple Religious School since she was three years old, as well as attending two summers at Olin Sang Ruby Union Institute (OSRUI) and two summers at Gan Israel through CHABAD.

For her Mitzvah project, Julia is raising awareness, funds and volunteering for Hope Meadows in Rantoul, IL. Hope Meadows is an innovative, intergenerational residential community; a five-block small-town neighborhood on 22 acres, where children adopted from foster care find permanent and loving homes, as well as grandparents, playmates and an entire neighborhood designed to help them grow up in a secure and nurturing environment. Residents belong to one of three groups often at risk of being marginalized in American society — kids caught in the child welfare system, families that adopt children with special behavioral and emotional needs, and retirees who are seeking continued purpose in their daily lives. Hope Meadows has experienced hard financial times and accommodating an expanding mission. Julia’s compassion and drive for advocacy has made this Mitzvah project a perfect fit.

Julia and her parents want to thank Rabbi Alan Cook, her tutor Dana Cohen, Temple educator Jody Cook, and all of the Sinai Temple Religious and Hebrew school teachers, as well as the Champaign Urbana Jewish community who have become an extended family and have helped her prepare for this very important moment in her and her family’s lives. Julia, her parents, and her sister Hannah invite the congregation to join their family and friends to worship Saturday morning at 10:00 AM. A brunch will follow the service. Responses are not required but would be appreciated: jrcmitzvah@gmail.com
BUILDING FUND
Richard Cooke
Laine & Matt Entin
Shira & Dan Epstein
Jeffrey & Carmen Glezer
Sheryl Goldberg
Kazuko Goodman, in memory of David Goodman
Stephen & Anita Hamburg
Darin & Tracy Henigman
Loren & Maya Israel
Vicki Jones
Brian & Jacque Kahn
Lisa Sherrin Margolin
Barbara Orden
Diane & Rob Ore
Julia Rietz & Al Johnston
Judith Siess & Stephen Bremseth
Jacob & Ruth Sosnoff

CONDOLENCE FUND
Elliot & Pamela Young, in memory of Barak Rosenshine

PAULA DECKARD FUND
Hilda Banks, in memory of Esther Steinberg

FRIENDS OF THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND
Kazuko Goodman, in memory of David Goodman

GENERAL FUND
Brenda Lerner Berg, in memory of Burton Fagan and in memory of Rosalia Treuman
Carl & Carol Belber, in memory of Esther Steinberg
Judie Checkers
Clifford Kulwin, Dwight, TT and Joan, in memory of Esther Steinberg
John Davis & Terri Gilter, in memory of Esther Steinberg and in memory of Elaine Avner
Bill & Reva Egherman, in memory of Esther Steinberg and in memory of Barak Rosenshine
Ann Einhorn, in memory of Esther Steinberg and in memory of Elaine Avner
Ada & Jack Fishman, in memory of Elaine Avner
Diane & Joseph Giardina, in memory of Esther Steinberg
Kazuko, Yael and Kai Goodman, in memory of David Gordon Goodman
Sarah Baker Hansman, in memory of Esther Steinberg
Stanley & Joan Levy, in memory of Esther Steinberg and in memory of Elaine Avner
Amalie Sholem Frankel, in memory of Esther Steinberg
Myron & Sonia Sholem, in memory of Harry Siegel, and in memory of Lois E. Mecklenberger, and in memory of Esther Steinberg
Jean Smith, in memory of Esther Steinberg
Ira & Lynn Wachtel, in memory of Elaine Avner
Daniel & Karen Yarosh, in memory of Esther Steinberg

KITCHEN/ONEG FUND
David Dorman & Barbara Jones
Jeffrey & Carmen Glezer
Charles & Joan Kozoll
Lisa Sherrin Margolin
Diane & Rob Ore
Arne Pearlstein & Elizabeth Stern
Judith Siess & Stephen Bremseth
Jon & Kathryn Weisbaum

LIBRARY FUND
Hilda Banks, in memory of Elaine Avner
Kazuko Goodman, in memory of David Goodman

MUSIC FUND
Charles & Joan Kozoll, in memory of Esther Steinberg

PRAYER BOOK FUND
Gene & Julia Robinson, in memory of Elaine Avner

RABBI’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
Frank Adleman, in memory of Howard Schutz
Garth Gersten & Janet Bercovitz, in memory of Ronald Gersten and in memory of Davida Stotland
Faye Lesht & Joyce Meyer, with gratitude L & P Moskowitz
Alexander Scheeline & Alice Berkson
Jacob & Ruth Sosnoff

STEINBERG SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE FUND (CUJEF)
Bill & Reva Egherman, in memory of Esther Steinberg
Ira & Cecile Lebenson, in memory of Esther Steinberg
Faye Lesht & Joyce Meyer, in memory of Esther Steinberg
Douglas & Janet Nelson, in memory of Esther Steinberg
Marcia & Bruce Skalare, in memory of Esther Steinberg
Ira & Lynn Wachtel, in memory of Esther Steinberg

SIEGEL SOCIAL ACTION FUND
Thomas & Susan Hoeger, in memory of Esther Steinberg
Ronnie & Maria Horner, in memory of Ivens & Naomi Siegel
Russell & Denise Myers

TRADITIONAL MINYAN FUND
Gene & Julia Robinson, in memory of Esther Steinberg
Richard & Judith Kaplan, in memory of Esther Steinberg and in memory of Elaine Avner

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

**LOOKING AHEAD . . .**

First Friday Feast Resumes  
Fri, Sept 1st

Grace Adelston Bat Mitzvah  
Sat, Sept 2nd

Labor of Love  
Mon, Sept 4th

HIGH HOLIDAYS -  
Be looking for the High Holiday Schedule in the mail

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