



November Bulletin 2017

Schedule of Services

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

5:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service & Dinner

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan, followed by a presentation from special guest, author Michal Lemberger

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

10:00 AM English Service

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service



THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON THESE HOLIDAYS:

Veteran's Day Friday, November 10
Thanksgiving Thursday, November 23
Thanksgiving Friday, November 24



Thanksgiving
Food Drive

Thanksgiving Food Baskets

Sinai Temple Social Action Committee, in cooperation with Stone Creek Church of Urbana, will be creating Thanksgiving food baskets for local families in need. By partnering with Stone Creek Church, over 1200 families in the Champaign-Urbana area are served.

We are asking that people bring non-perishable items such as boxed stuffing, canned yams, canned corn, 5 or 10 lb bags of potatoes.

Or you can contribute gift cards/funds for fresh items, such as milk, eggs, turkey, etc.

Please leave items in the *Box of Many Colors* located in the lobby no later than **November 12th**. You may also drop them off in the Office foyer during the week.



See pg. 5 for important facts and needs of Eastern Illinois Foodbank . . .

On Saturday afternoon, November 4th, we will welcome author



Michal Lemberger, who will speak to us about weaving modern midrash from the texts of our tradition. Michal Lemberger is the author of the story collection *After Abel and Other Stories*, which seeks to use midrash to give voice to oft-marginalized biblical women.

Ms. Lemberger's talk will follow a Shabbat morning service (10 AM) conducted by the Egalitarian Traditional Minyan. She will speak at a kiddush lunch after the service.

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

From Rabbi Alan Cook's Desk



Each November, our thoughts may turn to ideas of gratitude for all that we have. The holiday of Thanksgiving, made a national holiday by Abraham Lincoln in 1863 and formalized as the fourth Thursday in November by Franklin Roosevelt in 1941, gives us an opportunity to reflect on the goodness in our lives and the abundance of blessings that we enjoy. Hopefully, many of us can find some good in our lives for which we can be grateful: family, health, shelter, prosperity.

But of course, there are those for whom the holiday will present difficult emotions. Perhaps cherished family members are no longer present to share in celebrations, or health has been compromised, or shelter is uncertain, or sources of income stability have been threatened. For those who are enjoying abundance—whether in material goods or in love and compassion—let us be open to those in our community who need assistance in finding joy at this time.

Beyond the confines of our Sinai Temple community, we know that many throughout the world are experiencing pain. Floods and hurricane storm damage, earthquakes, wildfires, and other natural disasters have taken their toll on American citizens and on individuals throughout the world. I invite you to consider how you might open your home, your heart, or your pocketbook to assist others, and to help bless them during this holiday season. Our social action committee is collecting to provide Thanksgiving meals locally; many other wonderful charitable organizations are supporting relief efforts worldwide.

Some of the early Thanksgiving celebrations in this country may have been modeled upon our Jewish holiday of Sukkot, which also is designed to celebrate an abundant harvest. But I've always felt that Passover is the Jewish holiday that best echoes Thanksgiving. On Pesach, like on Thanksgiving, we tend to gather with family for a celebratory meal, and we tend to reflect on the events that have brought us to this point.

Pesach is designed to elicit gratitude from us toward God, for all of God's redemptive acts for our people at the moment of the Exodus and throughout our history. We celebrate this with the singing of *Dayenu*, "It would have been enough." The traditional rendering of *Dayenu* in the Haggadah is several stanzas long (much longer than that which is sung to the popular melody). It drives home a significant message: had God performed but one of these miracles for our ancestors and for us, it would have been enough. How greatly we are blessed, therefore, to have enjoyed all of God's blessings.

In a similar sense, whether our table groans with a bounty of food and is crowded with family and guests, or whether we are enjoying a simpler commemoration of the holiday, Thanksgiving calls us to recognize how much we do have, and what a great gift it is. *Dayenu*- if we only learn to count these blessings, it would be enough.

Wishing you a joyous holiday,

Alan Cook



ENGLISH SERVICE

Nearly 17 years ago, Judy and Peter Braunfeld had the creative vision to institute a service at Sinai Temple that would honor the Classical Reform tradition that they and their friends remembered so fondly. Using an updated edition of the beloved Union Prayerbook, they began leading these predominantly English-language services.

On Saturday, November 11, at 10 AM, we will hold an English service to commemorate the anniversary of this group's founding. A light kiddush reception will follow. Please plan to attend.

Bulletin Submission: The deadline for **December Bulletin** is **November 15th**. All submissions may be edited for length and content. **EMAIL submissions to:** Roxanna.Davison@sinaitemplecu.org.

The initial plans for the renovation of the sanctuary and pods, based on suggestions elicited from congregational feedback, have been visualized and displayed in the front lobby of the Temple. If you haven't had a chance to look at them yet, take a few minutes to do so (note that many of these renderings have been updated since the High Holidays). In the near future other opportunities will be provided for us to gather and discuss the plans on the table. Please watch the bulletin and email blasts for announcements of these sessions that will allow you further congregational input into the process.

The aim in the redesign of the Temple is to make it welcoming and friendly, but also a sacred space for all who come to our doors. This means making it fully accessible and comfortable to all and using what has been learned from the current design to improve on aspects that haven't worked out as well in the past.

- For accessibility, the plan is to provide ramps for those using wheelchairs or walkers or those who find climbing the stairs challenging.
- For comfort, new forms of lighting are being explored based on current medical research on how human beings react to different levels and kinds of light. Also, adjustments may be made to create a more reliable heating and cooling system to provide comfortable seating regardless of the weather outside.
- For greater accessibility and comfort, the hope is to replace the outdated audio system with one that is efficient, reliable and user-friendly.
- For greater usability, the Bimah should be able to accommodate all the people and activities that require its use during the year.

And we all want the spaces to be beautiful. Beauty, of course, is in the eye of the beholder. When the current design was created over forty years ago, it was beautiful to our membership at the time, and parts of it still appeal to contemporary eyes. But tastes and needs change, and so, too, must designs. Some features of the current design will be retained, but changing times call for changes in style in order to make our worship spaces more pleasing and meaningful to our current and future members. No design lasts forever. Probably in forty years or so, another congregational president will be writing about the need for another new design. It is the way of progress. It allows us to hold fast to our Jewish traditions while at the same time making our experience of them fresh and new.

I am excited about the possibilities in this project. When you see the announcements for the feedback sessions in either the monthly bulletin or the weekly email blasts, please plan to attend and share your thoughts and feelings.

See you in Temple!



SINAI TEMPLE OCTOBER 2017 BOARD MEETING

- ☆ There were some repairs done to the building and grounds: The cables and springs to the garage door were replaced. The total came to \$430.00 and was from the Building Maintenance Fund.
- ☆ The kitchen has been reorganized and people have found it to be easy to use.
- ☆ There is a video presentation available in the front foyer showing some of the preliminary design proposals from RATIO Architects for Sanctuary renovations. Please provide feedback on the index cards provided there; other feedback opportunities will be announced soon.

FEATURED FUNDS OF THE MONTH

Wanting to make a contribution to a Temple or Temple owned fund but need more information? Each month we will highlight two funds. One is owned and administered by Sinai Temple and the other is owned by Sinai Temple but managed and dispersed by the Champaign Urbana Jewish Endowment Funds (CUJEF).

Sinai Temple Fund

The Howard Birnbaum Camp Fund: This fund provides one merit-based scholarship annually to a Sinai Temple member enrolled in the religious School for a 2-week OSRUI camp experience.

CUJEF Fund

Joli & Donald Ginsberg Library Endowment Fund: This fund is for the purchase of books, periodicals and other media for the Sinai Temple Library.

In Deuteronomy 10:12, Moses asks the Jewish people: "What (mah) does God ask of you?" The Talmud explains that the word mah can be read as me'ah, meaning 100. The rabbinic sages suggest that what God wants (or needs) from us is for us to recite at least 100 blessings a day. 100 may seem like a number that is out of reach, but I assure you, it is well within our grasp. When examining the prayers that we might recite regularly, we notice that there are blessings of thanksgiving (i.e. we are thankful for the bread we eat), there are blessings of recognition (i.e. Avot v'Imahot) and there are petitionary blessings (i.e. asking for health). This month, many of us will celebrate the American holiday of Thanksgiving. As Americans, we are particularly mindful of our blessings once a year. As Jews, we have the challenge to be mindful of our blessings on a daily basis. It is too easy to take small, everyday

things for granted. It is too easy to forget to say a blessing before eating, to give thanks for being able to learn from others, to praise God for the beauty that is around us.

When the sages taught that we should recite at least 100 blessings a day, they did so because they knew—even hundreds of years ago, that we experience so many wonderful things in our lives. If you use a Fitbit or other step tracking device, you are familiar with the sense of pride when you reach your step goal. Imagine how you would feel if you met the goal of saying 100 blessings every day—a number that seems small compared to 10,000 steps!



November School Dates

Wednesday, Nov. 1—Hebrew School
 Sunday, Nov. 5—Hebrew/Religious School
 Wednesday, November 8—Hebrew School
 Sunday, November 12—Hebrew/Religious School
 Wednesday, November 15—Hebrew School
 Sunday, November 19—Family Education,
*No Hebrew—please watch for details
 in the weekly email blast*
November 20-28—No Classes
 Wednesday, Nov. 29—Hebrew School

Other Events

Friday, Nov. 3—First Friday Shabbat
 Saturday, Nov. 4—ETM Shabbat service
 with guest speaker
 Sunday, Nov. 5—Daylight Saving Time Ends
 Sunday, Nov. 12—Kiddush Club Pottery Painting Event
 Friday, November 17—Shabbat Rocks! and Next Dor

KIDDUSH Club Pottery Painting!

@ The Pottery Place

Sunday, November 12 from 3:00–4:30

For all Jewish families with children 8 and under
 (older siblings are welcome to attend!)

You can choose to paint a menorah, dreidel or Jewish Star dish. **Please RSVP to Rabbi Jody (educator@sinaitemplecu.org)** with the pieces you want to purchase and paint by November 1.

Order will be placed by November 3.

Cost: You pay for the pieces that you paint, we will cover the studio fee!



Dreidel—\$5
 Jewish Star Dish—\$10
 Menorah—\$15



IMPORTANT: If you are a Religious School parent and you are not receiving the weekly email blast with Religious School updates, please send an email to Rabbi Jody!

Announcements



BOOK GROUP

Monday, November 13th, 7:30 pm

The Book Group usually meets the third Monday of the month at 7:30 PM. In November, we will meet the 2nd week because Thanksgiving is during the 3rd week. We will be reading, *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry*, by Gabrielle Zevin. Host: Fran Strauss, 2308 S. Cottage Grove Ave., U. (367-1322). Facilitator: Buddi Tepper. 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. With the start of 5778 we will begin exploring the entirety of the Tanakh, not just the Torah. Newcomers are welcome to come study with us!

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** robinfans1@gmail.com or by phone at 217-367-8053.



VIMs

Thursday, November 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.

EASTERN ILLINOIS FOODBANK FACTS:

- ☆ Every dollar donated to the Foodbank provides someone in need with \$10 worth of donated food, every \$1 donated = 5 meals for families. Last year, EIF provided over 7,200,000 meals to individuals in our community.
- ☆ The Eastern Illinois Foodbank serves a 17 county area in Eastern Illinois covering just over 14,000 square miles.
- ☆ Sinai Temple collected 603lbs of food and over \$5248 for the Eastern Illinois Food Bank—enough to provide 26,923 meals for local individuals and families.



FIRST FRIDAY FEAST

Our December First Friday will take place on Friday, December 1. We'll begin with a special early service at 5:30 featuring a brand new addition to our worship music—you won't want to miss it!

Following the service, we'll join together for a delicious dinner and an opportunity to visit with all of our Sinai Temple friends. RSVPs are strongly encouraged to ensure we have sufficient food.

RSVP at <https://sinaicu.wufoo.com/forms/r11n2i7v0v6fw7/>

MEAL PUNCH CARDS

You can now pay for multiple Shabbat Rocks! and Friday Night Feasts in advance by purchasing a Meal Punch Card. You can purchase one meal or as many as you want, even for the whole year. You can purchase them through the Religious School or Temple office. The cost is \$5 per meal punch.

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

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



Mazel Tov to **Brian Goettel**, son of Bruce & Robin Goettel, on his engagement to Heather Lenhart. They are planning to be wed June 23, 2018.

Mazel Tov to **Andrea & Rabbi Klein** on the marriage of their daughter Sarah to Brendan Kearns.

Mazel Tov to **Dana Rabin** on the publication of her new book, *Britain and Its Internal Others, 1750–1800*.

Mazel Tov to **Janis & Maury Topolosky** on the birth of their granddaughter Maggie Wren Immerman on October 6th. Maggie is the daughter of Jenny and Rabbi Brian Immerman. And Mazel Tov to proud **Aunt Sara and cousins Jacob and Shira Harkins**.

Mazel Tov to **Emily Dessen** on her marriage to Stuart Lyle. Emily is the daughter of **Pat & Jon Dessen** and the granddaughter of **Loretta Dessen**.

ALPINE STERN FLOWER FUND

Daniel Klaiman, in memory of
Stephen Bauer

BUILDING FUND

Yael Gertner & Mahesh
Viswanathan

Lori Gordon

Loren & Maya Israel

Faye Jones & Joseph Taylor

Sharon Shavitt & Steven
Zimmerman

Amy Wolff & Aaron Smith

COHEN MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND

Robert & Sherry Steigmann, in
memory of Wiley Deckard, in
memory of Steven Gingold and
in memory of Elaine Avner

PAULA DECKARD FUND

Carl & Carol Belber in memory of a
wonderful, gentle man Wiley
Deckard

Natalie Frankenberg, in memory of
Wiley Deckard

Friends of Stacy Deckard, in
memory of Wiley Deckard

Charles & Joan Kozoll, in memory of
Wiley Deckard

GENERAL FUND

Jaime & Michael Barra

Sandra Hynds, in memory of David
Adam O'Connor Shoresman and
in memory of Ruth Hiller

Stanley & Joan Levy, for a speedy
recovery for Dr. Daniel

Grossman, son of Professors
Michael & Peggy Grossman

William & Lisa Lane Libman, in
memory of Elaine Avner and in
memory of Esther Steinberg

Ruth Morhaim, in memory of Wiley
Deckard and thank you to Rabbi
Alan and our lovely cantor for
making my holiday so wonderful
and special thanks to Rob Ore

Richard Pikowsky, in memory of
Harry Pikowsky

Paul & Susan Schomer, in memory
of Wiley Deckard and in memory
of Elaine Avner

HAMBURG EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FUND

Ron & Joyce Levy, in memory of
Jack Simon, in memory of
Benjamin Watts and in memory
of Doris Auslander

HIGH HOLY DAYS

Marshall Greenberg & Lee
Egherman

Irwin Noparstak, in appreciation of
the High Holy Day services

Neil Scheier, thank you for offering
this visitor a wonderfully
stimulating Rosh Hashanah
experience and for welcoming
me into your synagogue

KITCHEN/ONEG FUND

Matthew & Eleanor Fink
Yael Gertner & Mahesh
Viswanathan

William & Phyllis Gingold

Lori Gordon

Loren & Maya Israel

Charles Kahn & Jennie France

Merle Levy

Randall & Jill Rosenbaum

ROBINSON FUND

Hilda Banks, with many thanks to Ruthie
Morhaim for her wonderful help
during my recent illness.

SIEGEL SOCIAL ACTION FUND

Ronnie & Maria Horner, in memory of
Ivens & Naomi Siegel

STEINBERG SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE FUND

Merle Levy, in memory of Esther
Steinberg

*This listing only reflects donations
received through mid-October.
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)*

Mark your calendars for this year's
CHANUKAH SHOWCASE
in December!

Shop the Showcase on
Sundays, December 3rd & 10th
just in time for the first candle on
December 12th!

WATCH for the full schedule in the
December Bulletin.

MONTHLY SPECIALS ARE BACK!

We've made it through the High
Holidays season, but don't forget
that we have a holiday
EVERY WEEK . . . for the
entire month of November,
stop in and save 20% on
all things SHABBAT!
Includes candlesticks, kiddush
cups, havdallah sets, AND MORE!

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 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

Friday, November 3

Jesse Belber (9 Nov)
Louie Blockman (8 Nov)
Milton Glaser (4 Nov)
Ruth Jacobs Gordon (7 Nov)
Jenny Gottheil (10 Nov)
Andrew Mark Isserman (4 Nov)
Ruby Kanfer (7 Nov)
Martha Kaplan (17 Che)

Meyer Klorfine (7 Nov)
Joseph Lasker (5 Nov)
Sylvia Leary (7 Nov)
David F. Linowes (17 Che)
Aili Bykkonen Monahan (5 Nov)
Solomon Rosenberg (5 Nov)
Ida Rosenblum (20 Che)
Ely Rotman (15 Che)

Dorothy Silverman (15 Che)
Susie Stewart (8 Nov)
Arlen Tepper (5 Nov)
Abe H. Waxman (9 Nov)
Lisa Ellen Weichsel (18 Che)
Sylvia Zinger (20 Che)

Friday, November 10

Ann Black (16 Nov)
Eva Cutler (12 Nov)
Lawrence Martin Davis (14 Nov)
Molly Denenholz (11 Nov)
William Francisco (22 Che)
Florence Goldberg (13 Nov)
Elinor Wildstein Harris (12 Nov)
Jacob Herman (15 Nov)

Fred Hess (16 Nov)
Rabbi Isaac Neuman (17 Nov)
Molly Newman (16 Nov)
Lev Oykhberg (13 Nov)
Susan Melanie Sirkis (13 Nov)
Lawrence Weingarten (12 Nov)
Irving Weissman (12 Nov)
Reba Wolf (25 Che)

Roslyn Mae Boxerman Woolf (17 Nov)

Friday, November 17

Louis L. Bing (21 Nov)
Joseph B. Bloomfield (20 Nov)
Paulette E. Deckard (22 Nov)
Libby Goldberg (21 Nov)
Alex Goldman (23 Nov)
Helmut Heumann (22 Nov)
Reatha Hamburg Katz (22 Nov)
Jerry Keller (1 Kis)

Miriam Korogodsky (18 Nov)
Della B. Kranson (22 Nov)
Kate Kuper (23 Nov)
Rose Weinberger Levy (18 Nov)
Bernice L. Lewis (24 Nov)
Stuart S. Nagel (18 Nov)
Minnie Rosenstein (18 Nov)
Frieda Sherman (5 Kis)

William H. Sholem (24 Nov)
Bessie Siegal (22 Nov)
Melvyn Silver (30 Che)
Estelle Spelke (21 Nov)
Jacob Toby (4 Kis)
Jane P. Walter (4 Kis)
Gertrude Wolf (29 Che)

Friday, November 24

Stephen Henry Bauer (30 Nov)
Nathan Berenbaum (12 Kis)
Ruth Koller Berkson (13 Kis)
Myrtle Berenson Braun (26 Nov)
Rosa Lee Brill (29 Nov)
Julius Cohen (26 Nov)
Morton Dunn (30 Nov)
Bertel Forst (25 Nov)

Lena V. Garfinkel (1 Dec)
Morris M. Kaplan (9 Kis)
Beatrice Karan (1 Dec)
Ben Karol (30 Nov)
Rabbi Louis Kaufman (9 Kis)
Samuel Arthur Libman (26 Nov)
Harry David Nelson (1 Dec)
David Porton (12 Kis)

Ada Feinstein Roth (25 Nov)
Gerti Shalev (13 Kis)
Jennie Steinberg (8 Kis)
James Strauch (30 Nov)
Jane P. Walter (25 Nov)

Friday, December 1

Philip Applebaum (4 Dec)
Annette Sudman Baich (8 Dec)
Marshall Eggherman (16 Kis)
Sidney Feinberg (6 Dec)
Louis Nathan Glaser (2 Dec)
Morris Gottheil (3 Dec)
Sally Grusby (2 Dec)

Bernard Hymowitz (20 Kis)
Alan Birk Kuper (16 Kis)
Abraham Lapedes (6 Dec)
Fred Lewin (4 Dec)
Herbert Elsworth Lyon (5 Dec)
Isadore Meyerson (15 Kis)
Victorya Meyerson (14 Kis)

Benjamin Pearlstein (2 Dec)
Isaiah Shavitt (8 Dec)
Arthur Allen Telcser (17 Kis)

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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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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Daylight Savings Time ends



Sunday, November 5th

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