

Schedule of Services

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

5:30 PM First Friday Erev Shabbat
Service followed by dinner

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service, honoring
the memory of Dr. Martin
Luther King, Jr.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON THESE DAYS:

Monday, January 1
New Year's Day

Monday, January 15
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER,
please call ahead for office & event
closings and watch for email updates.

SNOW

*Happy
New
Year*

*Rabbi Alan Cook
Rabbi Emeritus Norman Klein
Rabbi Emeritus Isaac Neuman Z"l*

**2018
January**

Special Martin Luther King, Jr. Shabbat Service

January 12th



Join us for a special Shabbat evening service at 7:30 PM as we honor the memory and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We are pleased to welcome for a return engagement special guest musicians Chris Vallillo and Rocky Maffit, joined by Larry Adelston. Music for the evening will be based on Chris' CD "Oh Freedom! Songs of the Civil Rights Movement."



33rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Service of Celebration



**Sunday, January 14, 2018
5:00 PM to 7:00 PM**

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts
Foellinger Great Hall
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 College, University of Illinois, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities. This year we honor the memory of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with Reverend Dr. Charlie Dantes' keynote address and music from the community choir.



From Rabbi Alan Cook's Desk

As Rob Ore mentions in his president's article, the 74th Biennial convention of the Union for Reform Judaism was a wonderful opportunity for prayer, learning, reflection, and networking. Among many inspiring speakers who shared insights with the attendees throughout the conference was Rabbi David Stern. Rabbi Stern is president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and serves a congregation in Dallas, Texas.

Rabbi Stern told an anecdote about his childhood: his father, Rabbi Jack Stern (z"l) was also a rabbi, and one evening the family was entertaining guests from the congregation. David and his sister, five year old Elsie, were dressed in their fancy clothes and were expected to be on their best behavior. As they sat down to the meal, Jack Stern asked Elsie to recite the *Motzi*, which she did quite capably. Then, Jack beamed sweetly at his daughter and asked, "And when do we say *Motzi*?" Elsie replied, "When we have company!"

Rabbi David Stern went on to weave this story into a wonderful reflection about what it means to "have company." He opined that in synagogue life, it behooves us to behave as though we always have company. We should constantly strive to put our best foot forward, and to present ourselves (acting as ambassadors of our congregation) in the best possible light. As Rabbi Stern pointed out, "company" in this case means not only companionship, though certainly we value all those who share in the vision of Sinai Temple and choose to "come along for the ride." Company implies that because of that shared vested interest in the future of our community, we owe

it to ourselves and to others to support and strengthen programs, even if we personally will not partake of them or directly reap their benefits.

Rabbi Stern's remarks (which you can find transcribed online at <https://urj.org/blog/2017/12/06/we-have-company-rabbi-david-sterns-address-urj-biennial-2017>) focused on the needs of Jewish youth today. But the need for individuals in our community to understand that they have company, (and, in turn, to be understood by others) extends far beyond our young people. To paraphrase Rabbi Stern, anytime someone is feeling lonely, or alone, or underappreciated, "we are going to say, "You have company." We will say it to newcomers in our midst; we will say it to our longtime members who may feel that they no longer recognize many of the faces who frequent Sinai Temple programs. We will say it to those who are bereaved and mourning; we will say it to those who are celebrating a *simcha* and rejoicing. This is what makes us a sacred community, and unless we realize that each of us has hopes and needs that are intertwined with those of our "company," we cannot be our best selves.

In this New Year, let us each resolve to remember that we always have company, and to be on our best behavior for them. Let us each continue to work to make Sinai Temple the friendliest synagogue "Amid the Alien Corn."

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Alan Cook

FEBRUARY FIRST FRIDAY FEAST

Join us on February 2nd for our First Friday Feast. We will start at 5:30 pm service featuring music from our new band, "Shir Electricity" and followed by a delicious Shabbat dinner with all of your Sinai Temple friends. All for only \$5 per person.

Please RSVP to:

<https://sinaicu.wufoo.com/forms/s1p2drka005m813/>
or call the Temple office at 352-8140, so that we can plan to have enough food. We hope to see you!

If you are able to assist Rabbi Alan with food preparation or setup for this meal, please contact him at rabbialan@sinaitemplecu.org

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

If you celebrate a birthday or anniversary in January, please join us at our services on **Friday, January 12th 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!

From the Board

I had the honor and pleasure of attending the 74th Biennial of the Union of Reform Judaism held recently in Boston. Accompanying me from our Temple were Rabbi Alan Cook and Toni Lachman, but there were also about 6,000 Reform Jews from congregations large and small from across the U.S. and Canada and around the world. It was a power-packed few days of worship, speeches and meetings that both inspired and informed. It made me realize that our community extends far beyond the limits of our Temple walls.

The twice-daily full plenary sessions we attended were inspiring! They had distinguished speakers drawn from the fields of religion, politics and the arts with messages that united us as Jews and as human beings. Especially moving were the Friday night and Saturday morning Shabbat services we shared with all 6,000 attendees. But there were also smaller sessions designed to allow us to explore and discuss particular aspects of Jewish life and thought, as well as Temple organization and management. I learned from these sessions that we are not alone in the challenges we face at Sinai Temple. Other temples have Boards of Trustees, officers, committees and volunteers, all trying to help their congregations grow and prosper as people and as Jews. Presenters shared with the group issues they have faced in their home temples and some remedies they have tried, which

we may be able to apply in our own congregation. I was particularly struck by how many other congregations have pursued social action initiatives so similar to ours, particularly in forming interfaith alliances with local mosques and churches. Other temples have even hosted interfaith seders at Pesach just as we did last year! It is exciting to know how widespread these efforts are and how many Jews in our movement have seen the wisdom of forming such alliances.

This all gives truth to a phrase used by one of the plenary speakers, Rabbi David Stern: “We have company.” Attending the Biennial showed me how many things unite us with others in our movement. Truly, we are all in it together! If any of these aspects of the Biennial intrigue you, you can check them out at <https://urj.org/blog/2017/12/11/reliving-urj-biennial-speeches-video-and-more>. If you like what you see, you might want to consider attending the next Biennial, December 11–15, 2019, which will be held at McCormick Place in Chicago.

See you in Temple!

Rob Ore

SINAI TEMPLE DECEMBER 2017 BOARD MEETING

- ✧ Motion to accept the membership in Sinai Temple of the Weinstein family—Russell, Arielle and daughter Beatrice. Passed unanimously.
- ✧ Motion to update power for Temple HVAC and to install smoke detectors. These repairs cannot wait until the renovation. Passed unanimously.
- ✧ Rabbi Alan and Rob Ore reported on the URJ Biennial they had just returned from.

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).

EINHORN GARDEN FUND

This fund provides for the maintenance of the Einhorn Garden, which is the garden area immediately adjacent to the North pod

MILTON & ANNETTE GLASER CONCERT FUND

This fund is used for concerts of Jewish music, usually every other year.



From our Educator

[The Torah compares humans to trees] because, like humans, trees have the power to grow. And as humans have children, so trees bear fruit. And when a human is hurt, cries of pain are heard throughout the world, so when a tree is chopped down, its cries are heard throughout the world. ~ Rashi

Within the first few verses of the Torah, we learn that the environment—all that surrounds us—is of great value. Humans are not mentioned until the 6th day of creation. Commentaries suggest that the first humans could not survive without the sun, vegetation and water. We have a good understanding of the basic needs of people, and it is clear that without warmth from the sun and oxygen from plant life, we could not live. Further study of the text teaches us that there is another reason that God waited until day 6 to add humans to the sequence of creation. We were created at the end of this project in order to teach us to value the land, the sun, the trees, the fish, the animals and the water. We need to understand that we are not more important than the rest of creation. When we understand the significance of the environment and when we understand that our lives depend on its continued existence, then we can do our part in creation to ensure that the delicate balance is maintained.

On the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shevat (Tu B'shevat), we celebrate a wonderful Jewish holiday that shares its name with the date. Tu B'shevat is known as the Birthday of the Trees. A minor festival, the original observance of Tu B'shevat included bringing a fruit offering to the Temple. In the 16th century, the Kabbalists (mystics living in the city of Tzfat) created a new ritual—the seder—modeled after the traditional

Pesach seder. Bringing offerings of fruit to the Temple meant making a sacrifice. Jewish people were expected to make a sacrifice as a way to show thanksgiving and appreciation to God. Today, we are also expected to make sacrifices and to offer thanksgiving to God, but in different ways than our ancestors. Study of the opening piece of text, a commentary written by Rashi, teaches us that we have an obligation to protect our environment from harm.

This year, prepare for Tu B'shevat and make the day a special day. Find a ritual that is meaningful to you and your family and celebrate this day with the Jewish world. Choose a new fruit to eat, have a conversation about how trees help us, make a list of ways things that you can do to lessen your carbon footprint, take a moment to thank God for the many fruits that you eat and for the resources, including fruit, that you get from trees. Tu B'shevat begins on the evening of January 30 and ends at sundown on January 31. We will have a seder at Hebrew school on January 31 as well as a KIDdush Club seder on Sunday, January 28.



Religious School: January 21, 28

Hebrew School: January 17, 21, 24, 28, 31

Other Events:

January 5—First Friday Shabbat

January 7—Family Ice Skating Event

January 19—Shabbat Rocks! and Next Dor

January 28—KIDdush Club Tu B'shevat Seder

ANNUAL FAMILY ICE SKATING EVENT



January 7, 2018

1:30-4:00 PM

Illini Rec Ice Arena

Cost is \$5 per person (with or without skate rental)

When you arrive, please find Rabbi Alan or Rabbi Jody to pay and to get your bracelet.

Snacks will be provided

Grab your friends for an afternoon of skating fun!

If your child is under the age of 12, please plan to have a parent onsite during the event.

Please RSVP to Rabbi Jody (educator@sinaitemplecu.org) By January 5th and include the number of skaters!

Announcements



BOOK GROUP

Sunday, January 14th, 2:00 pm

The Book Group usually meets the third Monday of the month at 7:30 PM. However, for January and February we will be meeting on Sundays. We will be reading, *The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper*, by Phabdra Patrick. Host & Facilitator: Natalie Frankenberg, 3705 Marjorie, C. (390-4168). 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, January 4th 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.



Sinai Temple is having a Trivia Night!

Get your table reserved now because seating is limited!

When: Saturday, February 17th, at 7 PM. The program will begin promptly at 7:15 sharp!

Where: Sinai Temple, North and South Pods

Prices:

A table of 8 for \$96.

A single seat for \$12.

Category Sponsorship is \$125. There are 10 categories with 10 questions each.

Sponsorship and a Table of 8 for \$200.

It is BYOB but soft drinks will be provided.

Each table is asked to bring a dessert (or two) to share. There will be more information to come concerning food, prizes, and categories.

Please contact Bart Greenberger at 217-597-1357 or email Bart at bart.greenberger@yahoo.com if you want a table or a sponsorship. You can also call the office with the information, 352-8140.

ONEG VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We have several dates available listed below for anyone interested in serving as an Oneg Host(ess) for our Temple Services.

February 23	Erev Shabbat Service
March 9	Erev Shabbat Service (Birthday Oneg)
March 16	Erev Shabbat Service
April 13	Erev Shabbat Service (Birthday Oneg)
May 18	Erev Shabbat Service
May 25	Erev Shabbat Service

Join us for
Shabbat.



To sign up, please email Roxanna Davison at assistant@sinaitemplecu.org

Giving

BUILDING FUND

Richard & Ilana Akresh
Brenda Lerner Berg
Anne Heiles
Hagit Itzkowitz
Stephen & Kathryn Marshak
John & Bette vanEs
Arielle & Russell Weinstein

GENERAL FUND

Hilda Banks, in memory of Sybelle
Timberlake
Lee & Lisa Greenstein, in memory of
Orie Greenstein
Veronica Shavitt, in memory of
Professor Isaiah Shavitt
Myron & Sonya Sholem, in memory
of Bessie Siegal

KITCHEN/ONEG FUND

Ronald Dolgin & Jean Clarkson
Stephen Downie & Deborah Katz-
Downie
Anne Heiles
Anthony & Penelope Soskin
Kenneth Stolarsky & Andrea Beller
John & Bette vanEs

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Anna Skorupa & Doug Friedlander, in
gratitude on behalf of us and our
family for blessing us with a bris &
pidyon haben while in Champaign

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Richard Cooke, in memory of Kate
Kuper

TRADITIONAL MINYAN FUND

Sheila & Murray Baumgarten, in
honor of our sister Wynne Korrr

*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.*

Sinai Temple Gift Shop

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

JANUARY SPECIAL

20% off all Mezuzot
and Wall Art

Please Note: The Gift Shop will be closed during the Religious
School Winter Break and will resume normal hours on Wed., Jan. 17th

REGULAR HOURS OF OPERATION

Sundays 9:00 AM–12:30 PM

(during Religious School)

Wednesdays 4:00 PM–5:30 PM

But we are ALWAYS open by APPOINTMENT.

Email: natalief@comcast.net or call Natalie Frankenberg (390-4168),
Jessica Kopolow (417-8699) 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.

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

Memorials

Friday, January 5

Nancy Abelman (6 Jan)
Walter H. Abelman (6 Jan)
Jacob Berland (11 Jan)
Morton A. Blum (8 Jan)
Abraham Braverman (20 Tev)
Sylvia Bursztyn (23 Tev)
Tamar Gershoni (23 Tev)
Fanny Goldberg (7 Jan)
Milton Gorodetsky (24 Tev)

Herbert Gruenstein (9 Jan)
Ruth Manis Kahn (8 Jan)
Hattie Freudenstein Kaufman (11 Jan)
Viola Koenigsberg (9 Jan)
Fred Ore, Sr. (6 Jan)
Ruth A. Robinson (7 Jan)
David Rous (12 Jan)
Mildred Nandel Senn (8 Jan)
Babette Bloch Stern (6 Jan)

Nellie Gertrude Terry (8 Jan)
Florence K. Weinberg (8 Jan)
Philipp G. Weisskopf (9 Jan)
Herman Weissman (12 Jan)

Friday, January 12

Vivian Adelston (19 Jan)
Lillian Berland (18 Jan)
Louis P. Fiedler (16 Jan)
Julian Frankenberg (13 Jan)
Harold Goldberg (16 Jan)
Mort Heller (27 Tev)
Alfred Heumann (16 Jan)
Alma Mautner (18 Jan)
Cecelia Klein Pearle (28 Tev)

Aaron Rosenberg (13 Jan)
Henry W. Schwartz (19 Jan)
Edward Arnold Shapiro (2 She)
Irving Siegel (28 Tev)
Chester P. Siess (14 Jan)
Marvin Phillip Steinberg (26 Tev)
Jessica Tager Underberg (15 Jan)
Mary E. Zakem (27 Tev)

Friday, January 19

Herman Bernstein (20 Jan)
Howard Birnbaum (23 Jan)
Lillian Schuster Braun (6 She)
Tanya Estrin (23 Jan)
Heini Halberstam (25 Jan)
David Krakower (5 She)
Isaac Kuhn (21 Jan)
Samuel Lachman (24 Jan)
Matthew Mischakoff (23 Jan)

Lillian Radeloff (21 Jan)
Abraham H. Reizman (4 She)
Harry Sherman (26 Jan)
Mathlia Zimmerman (20 Jan)

Friday, January 26

Abraham Adler (2 Feb)
Adolph A. Adler (2 Feb)
Alan David Berenbaum (27 Jan)
Benjamin Davis Braun (31 Jan)
Elwood L. Fabert (2 Feb)
Dorothy Finkin (2 Feb)
Sarah Frydman (1 Feb)
Zelda Ginsberg (2 Feb)
Orie Earl Greenstein (28 Jan)

Mollie Herman (27 Jan)
Iosif Ionin (1 Feb)
Mischa Mischakoff (1 Feb)
Louis Rudolph (29 Jan)
Rosalie Goodfriend Rudolph (30 Jan)
Morris Sapoznik (30 Jan)
Samuel Shmikler (30 Jan)
Jerome J. Sholem (31 Jan)
Samuel Small (12 She)

Louis Spelke (27 Jan)
Ruth Weinberg Strauss (27 Jan)
Pearl Seltzer Sweital (30 Jan)
Ruth Waxman (28 Jan)
Sam Weingarten (27 Jan)
Helen Kuhn Wiese (2 Feb)
Lida Kuhn Wolff (27 Jan)

Adding memorials to your membership record is simple. Just call the Temple office 217-352-8140 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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RETURN 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 and to society at large.

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Begins the evening of January 30 and ends January 31



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