## Schedule of Services

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2**
5:30 PM  First Friday Erev Shabbat
Service followed by dinner

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3**
10:00 AM  Religious School Service

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9**
7:30 PM  Erev Shabbat Service

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10**
10:00 AM  Egalitarian Traditional Minyan

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16**
5:30 PM  Shabbat Rocks! / Next Dor
7:30 PM  Erev Shabbat Service

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23**
7:30 PM  Erev Shabbat Service

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24**
10:00 AM  Egalitarian Traditional Minyan

**Friday, March 2**
5:30 PM  First Friday Erev Shabbat
Service followed by dinner

## Purim Event

**THE GREATEST SHOWMAN**

Please join us for our annual celebration of the 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 continue with the always entertaining Shpiel. This year’s Shpiel is based on the recent movie “The Greatest Showman.” We encourage you to see it so that you can appreciate all of the music in our Shpiel. After the Shpiel, the fun continues as the ETM hosts a brief service and program in which you can hear the whole Megillah! So 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**
*(all times are approximate)*

- **5:30–6:15 PM** Dinner
- **6:15–6:30 PM** Purim Parade
- **6:30 PM** Purim Services/Shpiel—This year’s theme is *The Greatest Showman*
- **7:30 PM** Service with singing, celebration & Megillah reading led by the Egalitarian Traditional Minyan

**FOOD ITEMS REQUESTED**

Please RSVP online for the food dish you will bring and how many will attend on our SignUp Genius at [www.SignUpGenius.com](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0F4AAFAE2EA1F58-purim2]. 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 also are looking for volunteers to assist with setup and cleanup, to make the evening run smoothly.

**SUGGESTED DONATION**
- $5/per person with food donation
- $15/family with food donation
- $10/person or $25/family without a food donation

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

**OFFICE HOURS:**
Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM–4:00 PM

3104 W. Windsor Road,
Champaign, IL 61822
(217) 352-8140
[www.sinaitemplecu.org](http://www.sinaitemplecu.org)
From Rabbi Alan Cook’s Desk

The month of February is designated as African-American History Month. In the United States, and in a handful of other countries, the month serves as an opportunity to reflect upon the important achievements of the African American community in contributing to our nation. Some would advocate that it also serves to encourage us to be mindful of the ongoing struggle for equality for African Americans and other minority populations.

Officially taking the time to pay tribute to African American accomplishments has its origins in “Negro History Week” which was announced for the second week in February by historian Carter G. Woodson, working with the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. In launching this commemoration, Woodson wrote, “If a race has no history, it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated. The American Indian left no continuous record. He did not appreciate the value of tradition; and where is he today? The Hebrew keenly appreciated the value of tradition, as is attested by the Bible itself. In spite of worldwide persecution, therefore, he is a great factor in our civilization.”

Aside from Woodson’s admiration of our people’s history in his writings, there are other factors that encourage us to awareness and observance of this month (officially promulgated by President Ford in 1976) within the Jewish community. For one thing, People of Color are increasingly finding a place within the Jewish community; gone are the days (if they ever existed) when all Jews could be described according to a singular genetic archetype. Equally important, however, is the recognition that all minority populations in this country have experienced similar journeys and face similar challenges. We are stronger when we recognize and celebrate the shared narrative that unites the Jewish community and the African American community (along with other minority communities).

The month of February coincides with our lectionary calendar in such a fashion that the Torah readings throughout the month contain the Ten Commandments and other important laws of our tradition. Of course, one of the most significant teachings contained therein—a theme that resonates throughout the Torah—reminds us never to mistreat the stranger, for we recall that we have experience, having ourselves been strangers in the land of Egypt. The Hebrew word for stranger, ger, can also mean outsider—one who is not accepted fully into society.

It is an unfortunate truth that despite our country’s lofty aspiration to build a society wherein “all [individuals] are created equal” and seen to be “endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights,” that there have been those who have been deemed by some to be less equal than others. Let us be inspired, during February’s African American History Month, and throughout the year, to continue to celebrate minority populations and to ensure that our nation live up to its promise of “liberty and justice for all.”

L’Shalom,
Alan Cook

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MARCH FIRST FRIDAY FEAST

Join us on March 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/sdzyb30huoqgo/ 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.

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BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

If you celebrate a birthday or anniversary in February, please join us at our services on Friday, February 9th 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!
It may be hard to believe amid the cold weather we’ve been having that Purim is just around the corner! Purim is one of my favorite Jewish holidays. I think of it as a kind of cross between Halloween and Groundhog Day: On the one hand, it is a time to dress up and play, and on the other hand, it is an early harbinger of Spring, coming as it does just 30 days before Pesach. Of course, it is also a serious commemoration of an important event in Jewish history: The prevention of the killing by Haman of all the Jews in Persia by the intervention of Esther, as related in the Book of Esther. Even when we retell the story each year in a different, whimsical way, the significance shines through. Our celebration this year takes place on February 28. Come and join the revels—dinner, Purim Shpiel and Megillah reading, all beginning at 5:30. As part of the celebration, you can send Purim greetings—Shalach Manot—to those both in and outside the Temple community, thanks to the Religious Education Committee. See your letter from the Temple for details!

We continue to move closer to renovating our sacred and social spaces in the Temple. As I’ve related in previous letters, the Board hired Ratio Associates to create a schematic design for the renovation. Now, we have convened the Temple Renovation Committee, whose charge is to gather ideas and designs that have been used by other temples to augment and flesh out Ratio’s designs and help us accomplish our goals. The committee ultimately will make recommendations to the Board for the project. The Development Committee is also meeting to develop a framework for how our community can raise the needed funds for the renovation project. Be on the lookout for announcements of general congregational meetings which will provide avenues for everyone to offer feedback on this project. All involved want to do their due diligence to ensure that that this redesign serves our congregation well into the future. The pacing may seem very deliberate, but I am confident it is leading us to a beautiful and exciting finished product. If you decide you’d like to contribute to the project ahead of official fundraising efforts, you can make a donation to the Arthur Robinson Fund.

Sinai Religious School is back in full swing. I’d also like to remind you of the First Friday Services. Those of us who have been coming to these services regularly have noticed how much their popularity has increased, even in spite of the weather that has occasionally been inlement! If you have friends who have not yet attended a service at Sinai, or who have not been active recently, why not invite them to a First Friday? It is a wonderful opportunity to meet other congregants and enjoy one of Rabbi Alan’s gourmet dinners. Finally, our first major fundraiser of the New Year will take place on Saturday, February 17. It will be a Trivia Night, your opportunity to test your knowledge and memory, have some delicious treats, and spend quality time with your friends, while also providing financial support to the Temple. If you haven’t already done so, I urge you to make your reservation as soon as possible. You can contact Bart Greenberger or the Temple office for further details. I think it will be a lot of fun for everybody!

See you in Temple!

Rob Ore

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).

NEUMAN GARDEN FUND
This fund provides for the maintenance of the Neuman Garden, the garden situated between the two wings of the Religious School.

SISTERHOOD MYRON KORRY CONFIRMATION EDUCATION FUND
This fund is used for a religious experience for the annual confirmation class.

Bulletin Submission: The deadline for March Bulletin is February 15th. All submissions may be edited for length and content. EMAIL submissions to: Roxanna Davison, assistant@sinaitemplecu.org.
At the very end of the month, we will begin the celebration of Purim. So many people enjoy this holiday because we dress up in costumes, make noise, eat sweets and have a party. It is a great excuse to break out the Halloween costume you may have purchased in October (and a great reason to take advantage of post-Halloween sales). The story follows the trope that characterizes Jewish existence—we are oppressed and then we overcome the oppression. This is certainly a reason to celebrate and give thanks to those who fought for freedom and a compelling reason to continue to fight for justice today.

Initially, the heroine of the story, Esther, hides her identity. Her name actually shares root letters with a Hebrew word nistar which means “hidden”. Esther does not tell King Achashverosh, her husband, that she is a Jew. Mordecai tells her to keep this part of her identity a secret as a way to secure her place in the kingdom. It is probably the case that each of us has masks that we hide behind. Our circumstances determine how freely and openly we can share who we are. Do you act the same whether you are at home or at a work function? Do you greet people you know exactly as you greet people you are meeting for the first time?

A second figure is hidden from the Purim story. God is not mentioned in the Biblical text and commentary suggests that it is because God is hidden, rather than absent. We glean from this the need to search for God in all spaces and places. It may seem that God is present when we are at Shabbat services, lighting Hanukkah candles or at a Passover seder because we are aware of the Jewish context. With a bit of searching, it is possible that you might find God at a basketball game, while playing at a park or at a birthday celebration.

This year, when you put on your Purim costume, consider the other masks that you wear, when you wear them and why you wear them. Celebrate being you and realize that everyone you know has masks that they wear too.

Please don’t forget to participate in the Purim Basket Fundraiser! Help support Sinai Temple Religious School and share the joy of Purim with friends, acquaintances and family!

**FAMILY INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

I am looking forward to seeing how YOU will help Sinai Temple Religious School! This time of year is filled with projects and I NEED every family in the school to help out. Your participation is essential and appreciated.

Please watch for sign ups for the following:

1. Teacher Appreciation Shabbat (oneg treats)
2. Purim Basket Assembly
3. Purim Basket Delivery
4. Purim Carnival Station

Thank you in advance. I look forward to working with you!
Announcements

BOOK GROUP
Sunday, February 18th, 2:00 pm
The Book Group usually meets the third Monday of the month at 7:30 PM. However, for February we will be meeting on Sunday. We will be reading, The Summer Before the War, by Helen Simonson. Host & Facilitator: Buddi Tepper, 304 E. Holmes, U. (367-4152). Facilitator/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.

Sunday, May 6th, 2–4 PM
A Spring-into-health Fundraiser
Join us to reinvigorate your body, mind and spirit through meditation, yoga, tai chi and massage. RELAX AND REFRESH.

VIMs
Thursday, February 1st 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.

Thank You Volunteers!
Sinai Temple members made over 500 lunches total for the men's shelter. Thank you to everyone who donated time, money, and labor to make this project a success. We are the first group to have provided a bag lunch including fresh fruit, vegetables, and protein. Most groups have historically given boxes of granola bars. I've heard that the men at the shelter were very pleased to receive fresh food.

Please remember that the shelter is always in need and happy to take donations of food.

Thanks again
Social Action Committee

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

FEBRUARY SPECIAL
20% off all Mezuzzahs and Wall Art

REGULAR HOURS OF OPERATION
Sundays 9:00 AM–12:30 PM
(during Religious School)
Wednesdays 4:00 PM–5:30 PM
(during Hebrew School)

But we are ALWAYS open by APPOINTMENT.
Email: nataliefr@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.

2018 MAH JONGG CARDS
The 2018 Mah-Jongg cards will be available in April. If you would like to order one, please email nataliefr@comcast.net and include how many you want.
The deadline for placing your order is March 2nd.
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.

HOWARD BIRNBAUM CAMP FUND
Freda Birnbaum, in memory of Howard Birnbaum
Elisa Birnbaum

BUILDING FUND
Melissa & Timothy Cronin
Lilyan Levant
Jacki & Jeff Loewenstein
Leslie & Gary Mason
Dana Rabin & Craig Koslofsky
Annette Schoenberg
Art & Marcia Siegel
Christine & Frank Stephens, in memory of Sybelle Timberlake

GENERAL FUND
Hilda Banks, in memory of Eva Rosenfield
Annette & John Buckmaster, in memory of Ralph Weinstein
Garth Gersten & Janet Bercovitz, in memory of Eva Rosenfield
Michael & Peggy Grossman, in honor of the Congregation for its support of Daniel Grossman
Tania Ionin & Timur Oikhberg, in memory of Lilia Gaptov
Gayle & Ira Kopin, in memory of Dena Linado
Judy Lachman & Toni Lachman, in memory of Mal Lachman
Stanley & Joan Levy, in honor of the marriage of Deborah Helman to Wayne Hayes
Ruth Morhaim, in memory of Dr. Isaac Morhaim, in memory of Ruben Meyerson and in honor of Joyce Eisenstein’s birthday
Amy Novak, in memory of Tony Novak
Diane & Rob Ore, in memory of Eva Rosenfield
Judith Siess & Stephen Bremseth, in memory of Chester Siess

Myron & Sonya Sholem, in memory of Ruth Ades
Maury & Janis Topolosky
Mark Strauss & Tana Willaredt

HAMBURG EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FUND
Ron & Joyce Levy in memory of Elaine Feinher, in memory of James Sullivan, and in memory of Thomas Watts

FRIENDS OF THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND
Deborah Katz-Downie & Stephen Downie

KITCHEN/ONEG FUND
David & Mary Ann Berg
Melissa & Timothy Cronin
William & Reva Egherman
Eugene Greenberg
Joli Ginsberg
Jacki & Jeff Loewenstein
Leslie & Gary Mason
Barbara Orden
Arnie Pearlstein & Elizabeth Stern
Michelle Perry
Dana Rabin & Craig Koslofsky
Harry Rosenberg
Buddi Tepper
Ira & Lynn Wachtel

LIBRARY FUND
Henrietta Schwartz & Susan Brim, in memory of Abraham Lapedes

MILTON & ANNETTE GLASER CONCERT FUND
Cellie & Ira Lebenson, in memory of Eva Rosenfield

RABBI’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
Michael & Peggy Grossman, in honor of the Congregation for its support of Daniel Grossman

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND
Christine & Frank Stephens, in honor of Rabbi Jody and the Religious School staff

ROBINSON FUND
Rabbi Norman & Andrea Klein
Gene & Julia Robinson
Margaret Saks, in support of the Temple and its importance to the community
Paul & Susan Schomer

SENIOR MEMBER FUND
Carol & Yoram Mizrahi, in memory of Eva Rosenfield

SHABBAT SINGERS FUND
Rudi & Judi Laufhutte, in memory of Gary Fromm

SIEGAL SOCIAL ACTION FUND
Nancy & Ed Tepper, in memory of Eva Rosenfield

TRADITIONAL MINYAN FUND
Garth Gersten & Janet Bercovitz
Michael & Peggy Grossman
Sara Hymowitz
Amy Wolff & Aaron Smith

DR. MARTING LUTHER KING, JR. SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Marc & Frances Ansel
Mildred Barnett
Harold & Nancy Diamond
Ann Einhorn
Natalie Frankenberg
Diane Gottheil
Frances & Mitchell Harris
Roberta Heumann
Paula Kaufman
Charles & Joan Kozoll
Benjamin LeRoy & Jessica Zinger
Emily Levin
Bernice & Laurence Lieberman
Leslie & Gary Mason
Lee & Evan Melhado
Joan Miller
Rob & Diane Ore
Richard Pikowsky
Gary & Fraeda Porton
Dana Rabin & Craig Koslofsky
Bruce Reznick & Robin Sahner
Julia Rietz & Al Johnston
Richard & Jacqueline Ross
Alexander Scheeline & Alice Berkson
Paul & Susan Schomer
Sharon Shavitt & Steven Zimmerman
Marc & Avigail Snir
Anthony & Penelope Soskin
Edward & Nancy Tepper
Judith & Steve Ullom
John & Bette van Es
Michael & Lila Vodkin
Barry & Linda Weiner
Ehud & Janie Yairi
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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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.
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.