



**PURIM**  
Monday, March 9th

Our celebration of Purim will take place on Erev Purim, Monday, March 9. We will begin at 5:30 PM with a potluck dinner. Temple will provide the entrée; you provide a dish to share!

Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/cupurim20> to RSVP and sign up for what you plan to bring!

Following dinner, we will gather for a fabulous Purim Shpiel, based on the popular musical, "Annie."

After the shpiel, stick around as the ETM conducts a reading of the full Megillah!

We hope you can join in celebrating this joyous festival.



Sunday, March 8th  
10:30-12:30

**MUSEUM DISPLAY**

Stop by and see the newest Purim Exhibit in the Levin Lounge

**Schedule of Services**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 6**

5:30 PM Erev Shabbat First Friday Service & Dinner

**FRIDAY, MARCH 13**

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

**FRIDAY, MARCH 20**

5:30 PM Shabbat Rocks!/Next Dor

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

**FRIDAY, MARCH 27**

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

**SATURDAY, MARCH 28**

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan

Join us for  
Shabbat.



**INTERFAITH FREEDOM SEDER**

*Sunday, March 22nd, 5:30 PM  
at Sinai Temple*

Our third Freedom Seder will draw upon the themes of the Passover holiday to explore what freedom has meant, and continues to mean, for the Muslim, Christian, and Jewish communities. We will share a festive meal with one another and use prose, poetry, and song from our faith traditions to celebrate our common desire for freedom and justice for all peoples. Please join us for this inspiring evening as we join in community and conversation to continue to build bridges of love and understanding.

Space is limited; please RSVP to reserve your spot at <http://bit.do/if seder20>.

If you have questions, please contact rabbialan@sinaitemplecu.org or 217-352-8140.



**Begins Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup>**

## From Rabbi Alan Cook's Desk



One of my favorite books is John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*. Ever since I first read it, I have appreciated the arc of the story, the character development, the vivid way Steinbeck sets the scene, and the pacing of the action. I can't remember when I last revisited it—probably some time when I was in college, but I'm sure that after that reading, when I replaced it on my shelf, I had every

intention of returning to it a few years later. Perhaps I shall soon, when my children are old enough to appreciate its messages.

Many of us have a work of art or literature that we encounter in our lives that moves us in a similar manner. We may revisit it from time to time and find it has the same hold on us as when we first discovered us. Perhaps it even momentarily transports us to a moment in time or a beloved memory.

In January, many Jews all over the world began the study of *Daf Yomi*, a daily page of Talmud (actually, Talmud pages are two-sided folios, so the daily study actually involves reading both sides). Some Sinai members have mentioned to me that they, too are undertaking this task. While I have not enrolled in any of the formal *Daf Yomi* study programs, I am attempting to keep up with the cycle by taking a few moments each day to read the page(s) in question. Believe it or not, while studying toward the rabbinate at Hebrew Union College involves an overview of Talmudic concepts, we do not read the full text cover-to-cover (a full cycle takes seven-and-a-half years, so it wouldn't fit into a five-year course of study for a Reform rabbi).

I am enjoying this page-by-page, concept-by-concept exploration of the Talmud, a seminal text in the evolution of Judaism. At the conclusion of each chapter of Talmud, the text states in Aramaic (the language of the Talmud "הדרן עליך" *Hadran Eilecha*, we shall return to you. The rabbis of the Talmudic era understood that like our favorite book or our favorite piece of art or our favorite song, the discussions and parables and legal questions addressed in the Talmud bear regular reexamination and study, for there is the possibility that each time we encounter them, we will glean new information that can inform and enrich our lives. Processing a text, however familiar it may be, through a different lens of age and time, can provide us with an entirely different perspective on the words and phrases therein.

I think the notion of הדרן עליך —we will return to you—is valuable whether applied to Talmud study or whether applied to other aspects of our lives. As we grow, our perspectives may change: that for which we once fought passionately may no longer seem relevant; a hated food might now seem tasty; an individual from whom we were previously alienated might now be a trusted friend and confidant; or a ritual we once rejected we might now find imbued with meaning.

I invite you to challenge yourself: to what will you say "הדרן עליך" to what will you apply a new perspective? Maybe it's something in your daily life; maybe it's something here at Temple. Whatever you may explore, may you find meaning and satisfaction in all of your undertakings.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Alan Cook

### COMMUNITY SEDER

Wednesday, April 8th

Cohen Hillel, 503 E. John St., Champaign, IL

The Community Passover Seder, co-sponsored by Sinai Temple and Illini Hillel, will once again be held at Hillel, 503 E. John St. on the first night of Passover, Wednesday, April 8. The Seder will begin at 6 PM, and features a Kosher-for-Passover meal, under the supervision of the Chicago Rabbinic Council (CRC).

The cost for the Seder is \$22 for community members, \$18 for students, and \$10 for children under the age of 13. Sinai Temple and Hillel are committed to ensuring that no one is prevented from attending a Seder due to

cost. If you need financial assistance in order to attend, please contact Rabbi Alan at Sinai Temple or Erez Cohen at Hillel.

Hillel is also providing Kosher-for-Passover lunches and dinners throughout the holiday; advance registration is required.

Look for more information to come for registration details and the link.

## From President Jacob Sosnoff

Dear Friends,

Not sure about you but, Purim was not that big of an event when I was growing up. I remember attending Purim carnivals at my temple during my childhood. For whatever reason making butter out of heavy cream seemed to be the most fascinating game for my brothers and I, along with our friends. For a long time I was under the impression that a Purim costume had to be of a character from the Purim story. At best it was a ho hum holiday that involved some oddly shaped cookies and makes some extra noise when Haman's name was mentioned.

This limited view of Purim has quickly faded as I have experienced Purim Champaign-Urbana style at Sinai for the last fifteen years. (I need to publically thank Harry Dankowicz for recruiting me for my first Purim shpiel at Sinai.) The vast array of shpiels that I have been fortunate enough to experience at Sinai are truly impressive. We are fortunate to be able to continue to retell this ancient story of our survival in culturally relevant ways. As a community, we have celebrated Purim with lightsabers for our Star Wars shpiel, with slicked back hair for the Grease version, and countless other pop-culture immersions. Not only do the shpiels highlight the creative talent of Rabbi Alan and numerous congregants, but they continue to demonstrate the vibrancy of our temple community. In addition to the shpiel, we also offer the traditionally chanting of the Megillah. I hope to see you at this year's Purim shpiel on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to the shpiel and reading of the Megillah, the religious school also has the rich tradition of delivering Purim

baskets to our community. Not only does this serve as a wonderful fundraiser for the religious school, but it provides a wonderful way for the younger families to connect with some of longtime members. Personally, my family has enjoyed delivering Purim baskets to Clark-Lindsey village and seeing some of our friends that we don't get to see on a regular basis. In the last few years the board of trustees has made it possible that every member family gets a basket. I am glad that we are continuing this tradition this year. If you haven't placed your Purim basket order please reach out to Rabbi Jody and place your order.

As far as temple business is concerned, during our February board meeting, the nominations committee, which will be chaired by past-president Gary Bernstein was formally approved. They are now considering candidates to fill upcoming vacancies on the board. If the nominations committee reaches out to you, please consider helping the temple continue to flourish. The renovation committee hosted the architects earlier in February and received some good news concerning the structural integrity of the library roof. The renovation committee continues to be busy planning the next steps to the process.

Cheers,

Jake

### SINAI TEMPLE FEBRUARY 2020 BOARD MEETING

- ✧ The architects, LZ, came and visited the Temple to take detailed drawings and measurements. Renovation designs continue to progress.
- ✧ Structural engineers and Mechanical/electrical/plumbing services also recently evaluated key aspects of the Temple's physical structure. This information will prove helpful to architects and making design decisions for what is needed in renovation.
- ✧ Trivia Night will take place Saturday February 22, 2020. This promises to be a fun night as well as an excellent fundraiser.
- ✧ For Religious Education, Purim is fast approaching. Please consider contributing to purchase Purim baskets, and have fun attending the Purim carnival.
- ✧ Some Temple Board members will be completing their service and time on the Board. If you have interest in contributing to the Temple by serving on the Board, please contact a Board member or the Rabbis.

**Bulletin Submission:** The deadline to submit information for the **April Bulletin is March 15th**. All submissions may be edited for length and content. **EMAIL submissions to:** Roxanna Davison, [assistant@sinaitemplecu.org](mailto:assistant@sinaitemplecu.org).

## From our Educator Rabbi Jody Cook

“When the month of Adar arrives we should increase our joy.” This phrase “mishenichnas Adar marbim b’simcha” comes from the Talmud (B. Ta’anit 29a.) and is a commentary on a verse that teaches us that we should decrease our joy during the month of Av, but increase our joy during Adar. During the month of Av, we recognize the destruction of the Temple. The commentary teaches that if one has to schedule a court date, it should be scheduled in Adar when the mazal (luck) is good rather than in Av when it is unfavorable. Adar is the time that we celebrate Purim and it leads to Pesach when we celebrate freedom. Av is a time of destruction in Jewish history.

Understanding that we should increase our joy in the month of Adar (Adar 1 was February 26), we need to ask how exactly can we do this. Joy won’t increase on its own, we can’t just sit and wait for joy to come to us—we need to engage and bring an increased sense of joy to our lives. This time of year, increasing joy can be challenging. It is cold, the sky is gray, there is ice on the ground. We are in the middle of a long stretch between winter and spring vacation (at least those of us with children in school) and many people are juggling schedules and trying to stay on top of different obligations. We might be discouraged by events we hear about on the news. Or we may be experiencing stress related to work. Some are mourning a recent death of a loved one. And through all of this, we are expected to increase the joy in our lives.

I read two different commentaries that help to explain how we can increase joy while also acknowledging sadness or challenges in our lives. The increase of joy in Adar doesn’t cancel the sorrow and pain that we may be feeling. However, we can have both joy and sorrow and that is okay. Rabbi Rachel Barenblat explains, “The ability to cultivate joy is a spiritual tool we need to be capable of wielding: not only when life is good, but even (or especially) when we feel like life is not good at all.” We need to find ways to bring good into our lives. We can’t expect that things will be good and instead need to engage in self-care to ensure that we can find happiness and joy.

Psalm 100:2 teaches us to serve God with joy. The Baal Shem Tov, one of our sages, explains that we are meant to discern the good and joyful aspects of every experience that we part of. In each moment of our lives, there can be good and bad, joy and sadness and it is our task to find the bits of joy in every moment.

I hope that February isn’t filled with gloom (particularly this year when there is a 29th day!), but if it was a challenging month, I hope that you are able to increase the joy that you feel as Adar is upon us.

### DATES TO KNOW:

#### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DATES

Sundays: March 1, 29

Wednesdays: March 4, 11, 25

**Purim Carnival:** Sunday, March 8

(NO Hebrew School or Religious School this morning)

**Purim Basket Delivery:** March 8—baskets can be picked up between 9–10 and 12:30–1:30

**Hebrew School Shabbat Service,** Friday, April 3

All Students in Hebrew School classes Alef, Bet and Gimmel are expected to participate! Details about dinner and the service will come through email.

### PURIM ACTIVITIES

**Purim Carnival**

**Sunday, March 8**

**10:30-12:30**

**Please note: No Religious or Hebrew School on March 8.**

**Pizza lunch available for purchase after 12:00.**

**Please bring cash or check to purchase punch cards for games and meals.**

**PURIM DINNER/SHPIEL**

**Monday, March 9**

**Dress in costume!**

# Announcements

## ADULT EDUCATION

**Sundays, 10:30 AM–11:30 PM**

On most Sundays when Religious School is in session, we are pleased to offer our Adult Education. Classes are open to the entire community, regardless of whether you have a student enrolled in Sinai Temple Religious School. Come grab a cup of coffee from Sinai Cafe, and enjoy learning with your friends.

## 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. Throughout 5780, we continue to explore the weekly Torah portion. Newcomers are welcome to come study with us!

## BOOK GROUP

**Monday, March 16, 7:30 PM**

The Book Group usually meets the third Monday of the month at 7:30 PM. We will be reading *There There* by Tommy Orange. Host and Facilitator: Joyce Francisco, 1505 Greyrock Ln., C. (378-8024) Contact Person: Susan Schomer (359-2938).

## 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 phone 217-367-8053 or robinfans1@gmail.com.

## VIMs

**Thursday, March 5 at 11:45 AM**

Calling all women 55 and older, come join us for lunch and fellowship at Sun Singer in Champaign. We meet the first Thursday of the month. Reservations can be made with Astrid Berkson, 356-4647.

## CHAI LUNCHEON

**Tuesday, March 3 at 11:30 AM**

Guests speakers are: Brett Kaplan, Professor in Comparative and World Literature, Alice McGinty, Award-Winning Children's Book Author and Writing Coach, and Dov Cohen, Professor of Social and Cultural Psychology.

The March lunch-and-learn will be a moderated conversation and Q-and-A session with local scholars and writers. They will talk about books and scholarly papers they have written and are in the process of writing, their process for writing and for getting inspiration, and they may share their findings, reflections and insights on society and culture.

Lunch will be served. Cost of this event is \$5.00. The moderated conversation starts at 12:00 PM.

Please RSVP by Thursday February 27, 2020. Contact CUJF office by calling (217)367-9872 or emailing [cujf@cujf.org](mailto:cujf@cujf.org). Transportation is available upon request.



At the end of January, our architects were here for two days. One of those days was spent taking measurements of every inch of the space, which are used to make the next round of designs (the “Schematic Designs”) more accurate and detailed. The other day was spent meeting with engineering consultants: a structural engineer and a mechanical/electrical/plumbing (MEP) engineer.

With the structural engineer we investigated and discussed options for the building. For example, they measured the steel beams in the pods that hold up the sliding doors to see how strong they are, which tells us what kind of options we have for new sliding doors. They also investigated how parts of the building were constructed (like the lobby, which was modified over time) and the status of the library roof. There will be a report delivered from their work.

The MEP engineer will deliver a similar report, but it will be focused on heating and cooling the space. Part of the renovation will be to improve the air flow in the Sanctuary and Pods, but we're hoping to keep the existing heat pumps that are the expensive part of the system. Their report will help us understand if that's possible, and some recommendations on how to do it.

Another activity in February was the arrival of bids by General Contractors. We are using a collaborative design process, so we're going to choose a Contractor early in the process and include them in decision-making during the designs. The goal is to avoid significant changes late in the process, and to provide a smooth transition from design into construction.

# Giving

## **BUILDING FUND**

Larry Adelston & Katherine Coyle  
Allen Avner  
Sara & Eric Benson  
Diane Gottheil  
Stephen & Anita Hamburg  
Charles & Joan Kozoll  
Margaret Saks  
Alex Scheeline & Alice Berkson  
Arthur Siegel & Marcia Monaco Siegel  
Judith Siess & Stephen Bremseth  
Mitchell & Ann Sussman  
Ira & Lynn Wachtel  
Paul & Linda Weichsel  
Inna & Vadim Zharnitsky

## **FRIENDS OF THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**

Joel & Susan Crames  
Diane Gottheil  
Art Siegel & Marcia Monaco Siegel  
Maury & Janis Topolosky

## **GENERAL FUND**

Paul & Celia Arnold, in memory of  
Sylvia Arnold and in memory of  
Samuel Jerome Arnold  
William & Phyllis Gingold, in memory  
of David Gingold  
Veronica Shavitt, in memory of Juliana  
Wertheimer Neuwirth  
Myron & Sonya Sholem in memory of  
Faye Sholem and in memory of  
Jerome Sholem

## **KITCHEN/ONEG FUND**

Allen Avner  
Stephen & Anita Hamburg  
Charles & Joan Kozoll  
Margaret Saks  
Art Siegel & Marcia Monaco Siegel  
Mitchell & Ann Sussman  
Ira & Lynn Wachtel  
Paul & Linda Weichsel  
Inna & Vadim Zharnitsky

## **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. FUND**

Diane Gottheil  
Ira & Lynn Wachtel

## **RELLIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND**

Todd Barnett, in memory of Loretta  
Dessen

## **SECURITY FUND**

Allen Avner  
Sara & Eric Benson  
Stephen & Anita Hamburg  
Charles & Joan Kozoll  
Margaret Saks  
Art Siegel & Marcia Monaco Siegel  
Mitchell & Ann Sussman  
Ira & Lynn Wachtel  
Paul & Linda Weichsel  
Inna & Vadim Zharnitsky

## **Yesod Le'Atid Development Committee**

As you know from reports from Sanford Hess and the Renovation Committee, the Yesod Le'atid, Foundation for the Future, project is moving forward with construction scheduled to begin in October. Since planning began, our vision for spaces that are more beautiful, functional, accessible, and secure has expanded. As we all understand, our concerns for security and accessibility have grown.

We announced the goal for our fund-raising when we began planning in October 2018. We set a goal of \$800,000. Through your generosity, we have pledges of \$1million. We are thankful for this commitment. Given the critical needs for a secure and accessible building, the board has approved setting our sights higher and increasing our goal to \$1.25 million.

We have reached a critical moment in the campaign. The board needs to know how much money is actually pledged in order to make the tough decisions on what we can afford and what will have to wait. I urge you to make a pledge if you have not yet done so, and to consider if you can increase your pledge.

You can find a pledge form on the website: <https://tinyurl.com/shx45z6>. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me. My email is [wynne.korr@gmail.com](mailto:wynne.korr@gmail.com).

Thank you.

Wynne Korr, Chair, Development Committee

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.

This listing only reflects donations received through mid-February. Donations received after this date will be acknowledged in future Bulletins.

## **GREEN TEAM TIP**



March 22, 2020 is World Water Day.

We're so fortunate to have excellent quality water here in east central Illinois, but worldwide, water is a critical threatened resource. Learn more about water and climate change at [www.waterday.org](http://www.waterday.org).

# Memorials

Friday, March 6

Mack Bernard Braun ( 8 Mar)  
 Sylvia Kadish Cohen (13 Mar)  
 Arthur Fagan ( 7 Mar)  
 Murray Friedman ( 9 Mar)  
 Zola Joseph Goodfriend (12 Mar)  
 Shirley L. Kaplan (15 Ada)  
 Ann Kapulskey (14 1Ad)  
 Bernard Karsh ( 7 Mar)

Sam Klugman ( 8 Mar)  
 Harriet Mildred Lavey (10 Mar)  
 Mollie Leavitt ( 9 Mar)  
 Paul Michael Mischakoff (12 Mar)  
 Abraham M. Reider (13 Ada)  
 Solon Aaron Reyman ( 9 Mar)  
 Gayle Riches (13 2Ad)  
 Eugenia Coleman Roddis (13 Ada)

Edith Sapoznik (10 Mar)  
 Ted Sher (11 Mar)  
 Hiram Gene Slottow (11 Mar)  
 Minnie Slutsky ( 8 Mar)  
 Rosetta Kuhn Victor ( 9 Mar)

Friday, March 13

James Adler (17 Mar)  
 Fritz Braunfeld (18 Mar)  
 Stanley Depper (24 Ada)  
 Sidney S. Feldman (19 Mar)  
 Bess Frankenberg (15 Mar)  
 Annette Lewis Glaser (20 Mar)  
 Rita Mae Goodman (22 1Ad)  
 Carl Greenstein (15 Mar)

Ethel Hymowitz (22 Ada)  
 Sarah Westerman Konick (15 Mar)  
 Harry Lipson Sr (20 Mar)  
 Raymond Perlov (15 Mar)  
 Pauline Lou Rabin (15 Mar)  
 Delores Jean Rosenbaum (15 Mar)  
 Daniel Terry (19 Mar)  
 Irving Weinberg (21 2Ad)

Friday, March 20

Edwin M. Banks (24 Mar)  
 Edward L. Edlitz (26 Mar)  
 Oscar Einhorn (25 1Ad)  
 Gary Fromm (23 Mar)  
 Harry Hirshenson (25 Mar)  
 Christopher Kanis (21 Mar)  
 Ben Kaufman (24 Mar)  
 Joyce Levy (22 Mar)

Charles F. Loeb (25 Mar)  
 John P. Melhado ( 1 Nis)  
 Charles Miller (26 Mar)  
 Alan Pall (22 Mar)  
 Sonya Pearlman (23 Mar)  
 Evan Gordon Sarney (25 Mar)  
 Edward I. Siegal (25 Mar)  
 Charles O. Silverman (25 Ada)

Helen Tepper (22 Mar)  
 Anna B. Vineberg (27 Mar)  
 Jerome S. Wachtel (28 1Ad)  
 Bill Wiese (21 Mar)

Friday, March 27

Rose Shore Applebaum (30 Mar)  
 Phillip Bedein (28 Mar)  
 Samuel Cossman (28 Mar)  
 John Porter Davis (29 Mar)  
 Jack Diamond ( 3 Apr)  
 Bertha Ginsburg (28 Mar)  
 Isadore Ginsburg (29 Mar)  
 Paul Karsh ( 1 Apr)

Martin H. Katz ( 4 Nis)  
 Ida Klugman (28 Mar)  
 Arthur Lerner (31 Mar)  
 Fania Levin (30 Mar)  
 Wolf Lewis ( 2 Apr)  
 Rose (Bebbe) Mandel (29 Mar)  
 Harry Miller (28 Mar)  
 Beverlee Mirell ( 1 Apr)

Anne B. Weisel ( 3 Nis)

Adding memorials to your membership record is simple. Just call the Temple office 217-352-8140 or email us at [stoffice@sinaitemplecu.org](mailto: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.

Tracy Shanholtzer | Creative Director | Owner

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### Sinai Temple Gift Shop

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

**March SPECIAL**  
**30% OFF ALL collectible and tzedakah boxes**



### 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.**  
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.

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