

Virtual Annual Meeting

7:30 PM, Sunday, May 31, 2020

- ∴ Please mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting of Sinai Temple.
- ∴ Review materials including the 2020/21 budget will be available by May 21.
- ∴ We will be conducting the meeting via Zoom, and will offer options to participate by phone and by computer. Please watch your weekly email for details. Prior to the meeting, please join us for a fun game of Jewish trivia, suitable for all ages. Information about joining the game will also be found in your weekly email.

Slate of Candidates

Officers:

Secretary: Ben Hankin

Treasurer: Art Siegel

Trustees

Celia Arnold

Lilyan Levant

Carmen Glezer



Last month we reported that we were interviewing general contractors for our project, and now we're happy to announce that the Board, following our recommendation, decided to hire Felmley-Dickerson as the general contractor (GC) for our project. Felmley-Dickerson is a firm headquartered in Bloomington, IL with an office in Champaign – and the president (who made their pitch) is a Champaign resident. The firm has experience in town (Busey Executive Center in downtown Champaign, the UIUC Law Library) and with religious institutions (several churches in Bloomington). They also were the firm who did the Sinai renovation in the 1990s that created the Davis Chapel and the North classroom wing and the Temple office – although the management has changed entirely since those days.

Our process is to hire the GC while we're still in the design process, which will now move into a higher gear. This way the contractor is a participant in the planning and design, a process that can avoid issues by keeping the designs more realistic and avoiding late cost overruns. The next steps in the process are a review of the contract with the GC by our attorneys and going back through the designs at a finer level of detail. This is the second of three sets of designs – and the third set will be the final ones that are submitted to the City for approval, so a lot of important decisions will be made soon!

Sanford Hess

From Rabbi Alan Cook's Desk



As we enter the secular months of late April (when I write this) and May (when you will receive this), on the Hebrew calendar we find ourselves straddling the months of Iyar and Sivan. This puts us in an interesting place, for this period finds nearly as many “civil” Jewish holidays (holidays created after the Torah and Talmud were written) as “traditional” holidays.

Currently, we are in the period in which we count the Omer. Historically, this time provided a mnemonic framework leading from the barley harvest on Passover to the wheat harvest fifty days later on Shavuot. I won't go into the intricacies of the omer period here, but the traditional highlights have been the 33rd day (Lag B'omer) which is a traditional day for picnics and bonfires, and of course the culminating day of the omer counting, Shavuot, which celebrates the giving of the Torah.

In the 20th century, however, the contemporary rabbinate found a need and desire to add additional observances to the calendar, marking key moments in modern history. So the very end of Nisan was set aside as “Yom HaShoah,” paying tribute to the memories of those who perished in the Holocaust. The beginning of Iyar was marked by Yom HaZikaron, a day of remembrance for those who have fallen defending Israel; and by Yom HaAtzma'ut, the celebration of Israel's independence. These so-called civic observances only deepen and enhance our understanding of what it means to be a Jew—responding to the historical practices of our ancestors while also considering how contemporary events continue to shape our lives.

And we continue to grow, adapt, and respond to the times. According to the internet, on the secular side of the calendar, various authorities have proclaimed that in May we should observe such festivities as Star Wars Day on May 4 (“May the Fourth be with you”) and Limerick Day on May 12 (A rabbi who lived in Champaign/ Sat down at his desk to complain:/ “My deadline is tight/ don't know what to write/ So I'll just keep wracking my brain.”)

Additionally, we are told that May is National Bicycle Month, National Hamburger month, and Jewish American Heritage Month. Whether you decide to observe any of these days, or whether your family creates their own creative commemorations, I hope that you find meaningful and enjoyable ways to pass the time.

The Hebrew Bible records 150 Psalms, most of which are ascribed to King David. However, Psalm 90 is said to be the work of Moses. Whoever the actual author is, he concludes the psalm with a reminder that is apt for this time: “*limnot yameinu ken hoda, v'navi l'av chochma*- Teach us, O God, to make every day count, so that we may continue to grow wise in heart.”

Celebrate each moment, make each day count, and may we all grow wise together.

B'Shalom,

Rabbi Alan Cook

SINAI TEMPLE April 2020 BOARD MEETING

The Board approved the slate of candidates who agreed to serve on the Board next year. These individuals will be voted upon by the Congregation at the upcoming Annual Meeting. These include: Ben Hankin (Secretary), Art Siegel (Treasurer), Celia Arnold, Lilyan Levant and Carmen Glezer (Trustees).

Members wrote and submitted a grant to Department of Homeland Security to provide funds for enhancing security at the Temple.

For the Renovation, Felmley-Dickerson was voted on and approved as the General Contractor for the project. The contract with them will be reviewed.

Board discussed the Temple's budget for next year. Given uncertain times due to the COVID-19 pandemic, various budget options are being considered and reviewed. Presently, the Temple is doing well financially, although it is anticipated that challenging financial times may occur in the next year.

The Temple's Annual Meeting is set to take place May 31.

From President Jacob Sosnoff

Dear Friends,

How are you? We are entering our second month of sheltering in place (not that everyone needs a reminder). I hope you are all adjusting to our new normal and establishing a shelter-in place routine.

Did you attend a virtual seder or other Passover celebration? I will admit I was not excited about having a virtual seder. I could not fathom how the virtual environment could replace the joy and togetherness of a “real” seder. Yet, when it was all said and done, it was a fulfilling experience. Perhaps the best was being able to celebrate Passover with extended family – although singing Chad Gaya virtually with my Framily (friends who we consider family) was a very close second. Normally due to geographical distance between my extended family, my Passover interaction with my family is limited to a few phone calls and well wishes. (True to form my family has an uncanny skill of calling at the most inopportune time). Yet, this year due to pandemic, my brother and his family and Ruth, the boys and I were both able to “host” my parents – despite the fact that we live ~1800 miles apart. Not only could we share my parents, but the virtual setting allowed us to visit with my Aunt and Uncle who I don’t see enough and my cousin and his family from Panama (who we haven’t seen in years!). These experiences – although unexpected – highlight the importance of adapting and maintaining our community ties.

I am grateful that we live in a community that has focused on maintaining social ties during a time of social distancing. This last weekend, my family and I participated in a birthday parade along with a drive by wake. It was clear that having folks show their love simply by driving by and waving – (sometimes leaning out of the moon-roof) was beneficial to all involved. If you get a chance to be involved in some of these local parades – I suggest you do. Are there any new activities or experiences that you are doing during our extended shelter-in place?

If you are looking for something new and a way to support the temple community, the religious school is looking for community members to help teach in the school. Given the possibility that University of Illinois students and consequently several of our teachers will not return in the fall, the religious school is eager to involve the community. Keep in mind with the (relatively) new elective course structure of the religious school only a few week commitment is necessary. Feel free to reach out to Rabbi Jody to discuss potential topics of interest.

Talking about new experiences, our annual meeting will be like no

other. At the moment we are planning on having a virtual meeting and we will share the details as they get ironed out. The board postponed the meeting to May 31st to give us more time to plan for its delivery. Regardless of the format, at the annual meeting we will be electing our new officers and trustees as well as discussing the temple’s finances and approving the budget. We are fortunate that Art Siegal has agreed to another term as treasurer, Ben Hankin has agreed to continue as secretary and Lil Levant has agreed to serve another term as trustee. They will be joined by Carmen Glezer and Celia Arnold as trustees. I am grateful to have a great slate of nominees for this year.

In addition, to electing the officers and trustees we will also discuss the financial health of the temple. I am glad to report that this fiscal year we are projected to have a balanced budget. The fiscal strength of the Temple is due in large part to the generous support of the congregation. This last year in addition to strong support of membership pledges, we have brought in more funds to the building fund and supported various security upgrades with funds from the security fee. Your generous support of the temple also allows us to continue to provide innovative programming and a dynamic religious school.

Unfortunately, given the COVID-19 pandemic this coming year is not expected to be as financially rosy. Indeed, the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) has suggested to expect a 10-30% reduction in income due to the pandemic. The board has worked diligently to put together a fiscally sound budget given these trying times. In general we are reducing spending across the spectrum and utilizing obligated funds when appropriate. Given the uncertainty in planning for the next year, the finance committee will revisit the budget quarterly to optimize our fiscal health.

Despite the uncertainty and tendency for a gloomy outlook, it is important to keep in mind that the temple, as well as our community, has weathered numerous challenges before. I see no reason that we will not continue to rise to the occasion. Although the temple and religious school are physically closed for at least another month, I want you to rest assured that that the temple is here for you. We are continuing to monitor the phones and email. If you need anything, please reach out by calling 217-352-8140 or emailing (president@sinaitemplecu.org).


I look forward to “seeing” you at our annual meeting!

Stay Healthy!

Cheers,

Jake

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).



Giving

BUILDING FUND

Shira & Dan Epstein
Michael & Sheri Langendorf
Leslie & Sherrie Levy
Alison Rosenblum & Yoni Kahn

GENERAL FUND

Robert Greenstein, In appreciation for providing notices of family yahrzeits
Judy Lachman, in memory of Hermine Ruth Lachman
Myron & Sonya Sholem, in memory of Leon Ades

KITCHEN/ONEG FUND

Shira & Dan Epstein
Leslie & Sherrie Levy
Alison Rosenblum & Yoni Kahn

SECURITY FUND

Shira & Dan Epstein
Leslie & Sherrie Levy
Alison Rosenblum & Yoni Kahn
Judith Siess & Stephen Bremseth

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-April. Donations received after this date will be acknowledged in future Bulletins.

Memorials

Friday, May 1	Laura Moore Avner (4 May) Bertha Craven (5 May) Beverly J. Cronin (4 May) Edward Dessen (8 May) Della Faiman (9 Iya) Carolyn Kuhn Feffer (7 May) Herbert E. Francisco (8 Iya) Agha-Jan Gahvari (13 Iya) Abraham Gerald Ginsberg (5 May)	Donald M. Ginsberg (7 May) Morton S. Glaser (8 May) Abraham Goldberg (6 May) William Arthur Graff (6 May) Philip Horwitz (3 May) Blair Bernard Kling (2 May) Sara Lewis (8 May) Simon Litman (7 May) Mariane Tager Melnikoff (8 May)	Jacob Royce Nathan (13 Iya) Sarah Braudes Olefsky (7 May) Edith Pincus (4 May) Norman Stanley Rosenzweg (4 May) Naomi M. Siegel (4 May) Seymour Sudman (2 May) Pauline Evenson Tager (5 May) Manie Tepper (5 May)
Friday, May 8	William Adelston (9 May) Samuel Agran (12 May) Doris Denburg (11 May) Sonia Doppelt (9 May) Becky Glaser (11 May) Peter Korogodsky (15 May) Ernest W. Lane (12 May) Harry David Levenson (12 May)	Samuel Lenik (15 Iya) Adele Lipson (15 May) Pearl Miller (10 May) Beverly Newman (11 May) William Edward Perkel (12 May) Sidney P. Radeloff (12 May) Lee E. Roland (10 May) Lillian G. Stauffer (11 May)	Amelia Alpiner Stern (12 May) Herman Edward Waisvisz (9 May)
Friday, May 15	Ruth B. Barker (17 May) Barbara Ann Berg (17 May) Abe Blockman (21 May) Henry Jacob Blum (16 May) Morris Garfinkel (17 May) Edythe Klavans Goodman (19 May) Alice Grossman (17 May) Mildred Hirshenson (18 May)	Lila Ziven Katz (22 May) Armin H. Koller (17 May) George Miller (21 May) Bernard Regardie Perry (26 Iya) Jack Rothenberg (18 May) Sarah Savran (23 Iya) Harold Morris Schomer (26 Iya) Flora Sholem (22 May)	David Jacob Waisvisz (21 May) Sophie Weinberg (22 Iya) Morris Zimmerman (21 May)
Friday, May 22	David Ralph Berkson (24 May) Doris Sweital Brody (23 May) Estelle Brotherson (26 May) Addie Bernstein Cohen (25 May) Jack Goodfriend (24 May) Bessie S. Greenspon (29 May) Edwin Harlib (5 Siv) Rhunette Haywood (29 May) Frank Helman (29 Iya)	Ethel Herman (29 Iya) Shirley Muriel Kalmanson (6 Siv) Rachel Lewis (26 May) Wynn Mason (26 May) Ethel Lydia Olson (26 May) Martin Pierce (29 May) Maxine Pombert (28 May) Rose Lillian Lipman Rigberg (24 May) Lillian Sherman (26 May)	Marie Simon Simonson (29 May) Moses Guy Soskin (25 May) Minnie Stern (23 May) Blanche Berland Sudman (24 May) Marjorie Katz Weiser (1 Siv)
Friday, May 29	Susan Linowes Allen (9 Siv) Trudy Averbuch (2 Jun) Zelda Trenner Derber (30 May) Burton H. Fagan (4 Jun) Lucille Koenigsberg (30 May) Katherine Schlesinger Koller (1 Jun) Alvin Konick (5 Jun)	Stephen Kotok (2 Jun) Gertrude S. Kushner (1 Jun) Ida Libman (5 Jun) Hortense (Moritz) Mischakoff (2 Jun) Ruby Carol Ginsberg Miskie (2 Jun) Esther S. Mittleman (1 Jun) Marion Sherman (2 Jun)	Hyman F. Simonson (3 Jun) Robert Arlen Swartz (12 Siv) Emilio Weiss (30 May)

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.