

3104 W. Windsor Road ✦ Champaign, IL 61822 ✦ (217) 352-8140 ✦ www.sinaitemplecu.org

Schedule of Services

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

6:30 PM Shabbat Rocks! / Next Dor
7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

SINAI TEMPLE'S CHANUKAH CELEBRATION 2020

FREE IMPROV COMEDY SHOW WITH THE

L.A. TKES!

While we are unable to gather in person for our Chanukah celebration, we've still got a fantastic program planned.

Sunday, December 13 (Third Night of Chanukah)

Our friends at Michaels' Catering are putting together a fantastic Chanukah-themed menu that you may wish to order and enjoy as we celebrate Chanukah together. Please watch your email blast for further details, or visit Michaels' at <https://michaelscateringevents.com>

At 6:45 PM Central, join us on Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84178137829> (note special password: 8Nights) for a Chanukah candle lighting with some songs and brief stories.



At 7:30 PM Central, we'll move to YouTube for an original improv comedy sketch show featuring a cast of talented Jewish performers. Check out their impressive credits at <https://tinyurl.com/latkescomedy>

While we are pleased to offer this program at no cost, we do ask for pre-registration so that we know how many people to anticipate. When you preregister at this link: <https://sinaicu.wufoo.com/forms/zn7ni000938652/>, you will receive an email response with the YouTube link for the comedy portion of the show.

It's an evening of Chanukah fun and laughter you won't want to miss! A true Chanukah miracle!

(While improv comedy is unpredictable by its nature, the show is anticipated to be appropriate for the entire family).

Sinai Temple Gift Shop

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

*The Gift Shop is open by appointment only.
Please contact Jessica Kopolow at 417-8699 or jessicakopolow@yahoo.com*

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

Friday, December 25

Friday, January 1



From Rabbi Alan Cook's Desk



While we've been at home for the past several months, limiting our outings and our interactions with others as we take precautions against COVID-19, our family has enjoyed increasing our movie consumption (I imagine many of you have been doing the same). One film that our entire family

enjoyed was the 1977 Disney film, *Pete's Dragon*. The climax of the film takes place in a coastal town in Maine. Pete's new friends and protectors are lighthouse keepers there, and a storm surge has extinguished the flame in the lighthouse. Elliott the dragon must use his fire-breathing power to rekindle it before approaching ships find themselves in danger.

In a sense, this movie reminds me a bit of Chanukah. One of the foundational *mitzvot* of Chanukah is the notion of *pirsum ha-nes*, publicizing the miracle. So grateful are we for God's blessings—not just the fact that the oil lasted for eight days, but also the overall victory of the Maccabean army over the oppression of the Syrian-Greeks—that we seek to advertise it to the entire world. So we are encouraged to display our *chanukiyot*, as long as we can safely do so, in our windows or wherever we can share the light with our friends and neighbors.

In this manner, the *chanukiyah* does act like a lighthouse beam. It says (at least to those "in the know"), that a safe haven exists, that the light shining forth from our Chanukah candles projects light and safety and hope and blessing into the world. As many have noted, it is hardly an accident that many forms of religious and cultural expression have holidays and festivities celebrating light that fall amid the darkness of winter (Chanukah, Kwanzaa, Diwali, etc.). During the months when the world feels cold and foreboding, when literal and

metaphorical danger may lurk among the shadows, we kindle lights to affirm that we are in control, that God has granted us the opportunity to make a difference, to dispel the darkness, to bring blessing and opportunity.

This year, we will not convene in person to share latkes and bask in the glow of the lights of our multiple *chanukiyot*. But we will still have the opportunity to mark the holiday as a community (please see elsewhere in this bulletin for details). Though the windows in which we share our Chanukah lights this year may face inward to Zoom rather than outward to our neighborhoods, we nonetheless know that we are fulfilling the *mitzvah* of *pirsum ha-nes*: bringing love and brightness to others, spreading the joy of the holiday, and affirming that even in times of challenge and adversity, hope can and does endure.

The entire Cook family wishes you a happy and healthy Chanukah, and a [secular] new year filled with many blessings.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Alan Cook

THE END OF THE CALENDAR YEAR IS FAST APPROACHING. All donations to Sinai Temple postmarked on or before December 31, 2020, will be credited to your account for the 2020 tax year. In January, the office will mail out IRS contribution letters for all deductible contributions made during 2020. If you have not yet made a pledge for FY2020-21, it would be greatly appreciated. Knowing how much people plan to donate helps us meet our budgetary goals. We wish you and your family a joyous New Year!

From President Jacob Sosnoff

Dear Friends,

I hope you had a good Thanksgiving – although I am sure it different than past. Thinking about how our Thanksgiving was unique this year – made me realize how our Thanksgiving celebrations have become heavily interwoven with the temple community over the last 15 years. We missed out on the Shabbat rocks Thanksgiving celebration. Having 20 plus kids and their parents have a thanksgiving feast the Shabbat before Thanksgiving followed by rocking out with Larry and Jessica– always was one of my yearly highlights. This year there was no heading out to Crystal Lake park to run/walk in the turkey trot – with some of our more active Jewish friends. (Although Ruth did manage to get a social distanced trot in with a good friend). The last several years we have had the pleasure of being invited to various temple friend’s houses for t-day celebrations. Yet this year we stayed home and stayed safe. Despite staying home we were still influenced by our temple family and inspired to make a turkey Challah—thanks, Shira Epstein for the inspiration! Although listing all the events/activities that we missed this year is slightly depressing, it also highlights how special and welcoming the temple community is. I am thankful for such a wonderful community. I am looking forward to the possibility of celebrating Thanksgiving in person next year.

I think the vast majority of us are thankful that the election cycle has reset. Some of us may be more excited about the outcomes of various elections than others. Last week the temple board had a serious conversation concerning the importance of the Temple being open and inclusive to all political viewpoints. The board reiterated our commitment to open dialogue and that as a community we are strongest when we allow our diverse ideas to be openly shared. I feel privileged to have a safe place where I can hear well thought out and articulate views even when they may differ from my own. I am

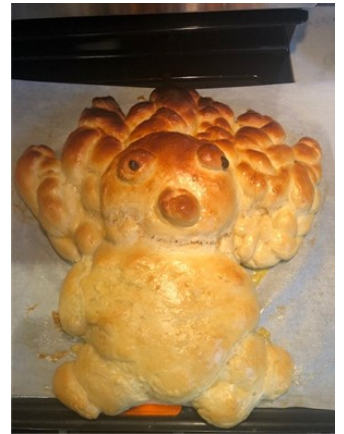
thankful that the congregation is politically diverse and accepting of different viewpoints.

I am also thankful that we live in such a generous community. Did you hear about the matching gift opportunity for the renovation? Due to the generosity of an anonymous donor, gifts to the Yesod Le’Atid – Foundation for Our Future- will be tripled! Feel free to go to <https://sinaitemplecu.org/foundation-for-the-future-donation-form/> to make a donation or you can simply mail a check to the temple office. Maybe it would be a nice Hanukah gift for your favorite temple president ;)

Lastly, I want to wish everyone a happy Hanukah. It starts on December 10th! I am looking forward to the various virtual Hanukah celebrations that will be popping up and hope to see you (at least virtually) in the near future.

Cheers,

Jake Sosnoff



Zev Sosnoff's (age 7) Turkey Challah – inspired by Shira

SINAI TEMPLE NOVEMBER 2020 BOARD MEETING

The building has benefited from recent necessary repairs, including to the roof and gutters, after this year's storms that caused damage.

The Temple's Homeland Security grant has received needed federal regulatory approvals. Plans are being made to upgrade necessary fire and alarm panels and to install closed circuit security monitoring.

The Board met with Alice Berkson and Allen Avner of the Cemetery Committee to discuss long-term plans regarding real estate assets owned by the Temple as Jewish land for member burials.

Temple renovation planning continues as does important fund raising. Architect drawings are in the works and will be passed onto city regulators for required approval before work can commence for renovations. Both Renovation and Development committees are hard at work and making important progress for the renovation of Temple spaces.

Bulletin Submission: The deadline for **January Bulletin** is **December 15th**. All submissions may be edited for length and content. **EMAIL submissions to:** Kathy Douglas, stoffice@sinaitemplecu.org.

Yesod Le'Atid Match

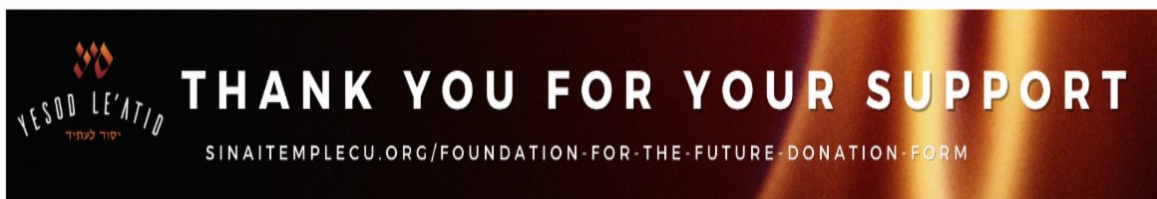


As you'll see referenced throughout the bulletin, exciting progress is being made on Sinai Temple's Yesod Le'Atid-Foundation for Our Future renovation campaign.

There is an exciting challenge for the Sinai Temple community: An anonymous donor has made an amazing offer: all new or increased pledges and gifts made to the Yesod Le'Atid-Foundation for Our Future renovation campaign from today until the end of the calendar year will be double- matched. Your gift, therefore, has 3x the impact! For instance, if you donate \$180, Sinai Temple receives \$180 from you and \$360 from our donor, for a total impact of \$540!

Your generosity will bring us closer to achieving our vision—any gift is greatly appreciated!

Donate online by clicking here, <https://sinaitemplecu.org/foundation-for-the-future-donation-form/> or send your pledge to the Temple office.



Announcements

ADULT EDUCATION & TORAH STUDY

Please check the Monday email blast to access Adult Education and the Torah Study. Both are online at this time.

BOOK GROUP

December 21

The Book Group usually meets the third Monday of the month at 7:30 PM.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic we will be meeting via Zoom until it is again safe to meet in person. An email with the Zoom link will be sent the morning of the meeting. If you wish to participate, and are not a regular book group attendee, please email nataliefr@comcast.net

Contact Person: Susan Schomer (359-2938).

December 21: The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson

GENTLE CHAIR YOGA

For those who would like to do chair yoga, online, with Robin, while in your home, please contact her at robinfans1@gmail.com.

She is leading one class on Tuesdays from 9:30 to 10:20 through the Zoom website or app.

The Green Team

GEOTHERMAL URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

We've been able to learn about solar power opportunities here in Champaign-Urbana through a series of hour-long events -- perhaps you will recall we hosted a Solar Power Hour at Sinai Temple during the summer of 2019.

Grow Solar is expanding and now you can learn about geothermal energy opportunities in our area through free virtual events they host. This cost-effective method can bring about a further reduction in our reliance on fossil fuels. More information is available at <https://www.growsolar.org/geothermal-urbana-champaign/>. You are encouraged to sign up for virtual events in December and January.

Interested in Green Team activities? Send an email to berksonalice@gmail.com -- we welcome your ideas!



By the time you're reading this bulletin in December, we are hoping to have our final construction drawings submitted to the City for permit review, with a goal to start construction in February - and an ultimate goal to complete the work by the High Holidays in 2021!

Through the Fall, there have been a series of meetings to refine the design and trim costs wherever possible. For example, a recent change was to NOT replace the windows on the North and South sides of the Sanctuary. An earlier plan was to re-locate the stained glass, and allow more natural light to come through the windows. The stained glass is a treasured part of the temple's history, and there was always the hazard that it could be damaged while taking it down -- that made this decision easier than most. We are still planning to add large additional windows high up on both the North and South walls for more natural light.

Recently we've been focused on more specialized parts of the renovation, like the sound system and the pod doors. It's exciting to get down to this level of detail and planning. Sometimes there's a ripple impact of changes. The new pod doors will have better soundproofing, but are also heavier (and yet, much easier to move than the current ones!) The structural engineer told us we need more support, so there will be some additional bracing added to the beams the walls hang from. Through all of these discussions, our General Contractor has been right there -- and we are thrilled that he's in these discussions from the beginning. We're very thankful to have found such a great partner in Jim Meek, from Felmley-Dickerson.

Ultimately, we hope to balance to balance the renovation between a beautiful worship space and the less exciting - but still important - changes needed to make that space safe, secure, and accessible.

Chair Sanford Hess

Giving

BUILDING FUND

Peter & Judy Braunfeld
Adrenne Dietchweiler
Stephen Downie & Deborah Katz-
Downie
Susan & Michael Roughton
Judith Siess & Stephen Bremseth
Anthony & Penelope Soskin
Mitchell & Ann Sussman
Elliot Weinberg & Rosalind Faiman
Weinberg

FRIENDS OF SINAI TEMPLE

Gary & Fraeda Porton

GENERAL FUND

Ellen Jacobsen-Isserman, in memory of
Andrew Mark Isserman
Gayle & Ira Kopin, in memory of Dr Eli
B. Mandel
Linda & Alan Kurtz, in memory of
Marlene Goodfriend
Gary & Fraeda Porton, in memory of
Marlene Goodfriend, in honor of
Jacob Harkin's Bar Mitzvah and in
honor of the wedding of David
Kaplan & Leigh Gershman
Robert & Sherry Steigmann, in memory
of Marlene Goodfriend

HAMBURG EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FUND

Frona & Ted Kahn, in honor of the birth
of their grandson, Micah Taylor
Kahn

KITCHEN/ONEG FUND

Adrenne Dietchweiler
Susan & Michael Roughton
Anthony & Penelope Soskin
Elliot Weinberg & Rosalind Faiman
Weinberg

LIBRARY FUND

Natalie Frankenberg, in memory of
Henrietta Schwartz
Kate Dyani Swan, in memory of
Henrietta Schwartz

SECURITY FUND

Peter & Judy Braunfeld
Adrenne Dietchweiler
Stephen Downie & Deborah Katz-
Downie
Susan & Michael Roughton
Anthony & Penelope Soskin
Mitchell & Ann Sussman
Elliot Weinberg & Rosalind Faiman
Weinberg

YESOD LE'ATID

Hilda Banks, in memory of Marlene
Goodfriend
Carl & Carol Belber, in honor of Rabbis
Jody & Alan Cook for their
continuing hard work in organizing
holidays, services and other
educational activities, especially at
this time, and in memory of Marlene
Goodfriend
Meredith Belber
Natalie Frankenberg, in memory of Vera
Korry
Edward & Nancy Tepper, in memory of
Gail Dowd



Don't Forget to donate to the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Program Fund.

If you would like to contribute to this worthwhile and local cause, please make your check payable to Sinai Temple and indicate MLK Fund in the memo line.



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.

Memorials for December

Friday, December 4

Annette Sudman Baich (8 Dec)
Da'vid Efergan (21 Kis)
Doris Dorman Feinberg (9 Dec)
Sidney Feinberg (6 Dec)
Sara Goldring (21 Kis)
Ida Gorodetsky (24 Kis)
Judith Harrison (24 Kis)
Lily Helman (23 Kis)

Bernard Hymowitz (20 Kis)
Norma Klein (10 Dec)
Abraham Lapedes (6 Dec)
Ethel Lesht (9 Dec)
Minnie Lipson (11 Dec)
Helen Wollstein Loeb (10 Dec)
Herbert Elsworth Lyon (5 Dec)
Sarah Rubinstein (9 Dec)

Rose Sapoznik (11 Dec)
Isaiah Shavitt (8 Dec)
Peter James Stolurow (11 Dec)

Friday, December 11

Rebecca Rubenstein Blockman (18 Dec)
Gilford Currier (17 Dec)
Harriet Mae Davis (12 Dec)
Frances Dessen (18 Dec)
Florence Zibel Dooley (18 Dec)
Frieda Forst (18 Dec)
Pesselle Rothenberg Friedman (2Tev)
Jewel Berenson Friend (12 Dec)
Jacob Benjamin Hamburg (15 Dec)

Phillip C. Katz (18 Dec)
Joseph Kuhn (15 Dec)
Natalie Yawitz Levy (16 Dec)
Marilyn Libman (16 Dec)
Joseph Linowes (26 Kis)
Morris Olefsky (18 Dec)
Rose L. Prince (16 Dec)
Judith Rosencranz (15 Dec)
Shirley Senoff (27 Kis)
Demitri B. Shimkin (26 Kis)

Sylvia Siegel (30 Kis)
Hyman Simon (18 Dec)
Jack Aaron Simon (17 Dec)
Albert Leland Stern (16 Dec)
Ethel Bower Stern (17 Dec)
Mary Elizabeth Stone (12 Dec)

Friday, December 18

Ruth B. Ades (23 Dec)
Jack Birnbaum (25 Dec)
Rosa B. Bower (19 Dec)
Ethel Depper (5 Tev)
Morris Dessen (24 Dec)
Rabbi Benjamin M. Frankel (21 Dec)
Lilia Gaptov (22 Dec)
Jean Eva Ginsberg (25 Dec)
Arthur Golub (22 Dec)
Helen S. Golub (25 Dec)

Frada Green (21 Dec)
Evelyne J. Helgesen (23 Dec)
Audrey Rezits Huber (21 Dec)
Bobbie Rudolph Kulwin (25 Dec)
Jewel Kurland (19 Dec)
Sally Levitt (20 Dec)
Joseph Levy (19 Dec)
Robert Marshak (23 Dec)
Sandra Molasky (5 Tev)
Clare Herman Perkel (20 Dec)

Sadie Rudnick (22 Dec)
Alice Rauh Scheeline (23 Dec)
Yetta Schneider (21 Dec)
Jeanette Schomer (10 Tev)
Leah Schwartz (10 Tev)
Ida John Terry (22 Dec)
Ralph Weinstein (6 Tev)
Charles A. Wolff (19 Dec)

Friday, December 25

Joseph C. Aub (30 Dec)
Adrienne Merkel Berenbaum (29 Dec)
Rosalyne Bernstein (30 Dec)
Nathan H. Cohen (28 Dec)
Bette Jane Dunn (27 Dec)
Abe Egherman (16 Tev)
Nata Fleys (28 Dec)
Janice Greenberger (27 Dec)

Belle Halpern (1 Jan)
Elsa Klaiman (1 Jan)
Rachel Korman (14 Tev)
Ruth Lasker (28 Dec)
Jeanette Cohen Levy (1 Jan)
Leo Lewis (30 Dec)
Dr Isaac Morhaim (16 Tev)
Isaac Reyman (27 Dec)

Sidney Sinow (31 Dec)
Sadie Yavner Small (13 Tev)
Isaac Tepper (1 Jan)
William J. Weiner (16 Tev)

Friday, January 1

Nancy Abelmann (6 Jan)
Walter H. Abelmann (6 Jan)
Sylvia Arnold (4 Jan)
Morton A. Blum (8 Jan)
Johanna Braunfeld (3 Jan)
Abraham Braverman (20 Tev)
Boris Brotherson (4 Jan)
Sylvia Bursztyan (23 Tev)

Ruth Herman Garfinkel (3 Jan)
Fanny Goldberg (7 Jan)
Stanley Gordon (4 Jan)
Milton Gorodetsky (24 Tev)
Ruth Manis Kahn (8 Jan)
Dena Linado (4 Jan)
Ruth A. Robinson (7 Jan)
Mildred Nandel Senn (8 Jan)

Maybelle Solon (3 Jan)
Babette Bloch Stern (6 Jan)
Sol Tax (4 Jan)
Nellie Gertrude Terry (8 Jan)
Harry A. Topolosky (2 Jan)
Florence K. Weinberg (8 Jan)
Frieda G. Wollstein (5 Jan)