

# January

## 2021

SINAI  
TEMPLE

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

3104 W. Windsor Road ✦ Champaign, IL 61822 ✦ (217) 352-8140 ✦ [www.sinaitemplecu.org](http://www.sinaitemplecu.org)

## Schedule of Services

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 1**

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 8**

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 9**

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 15**

6:30 PM Shabbat Rocks!/Next Dor

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service, MLK Service

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 22**

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 23**

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 29**

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

Join us for  
Shabbat.



## 36th Annual Dr. MLK, Jr. Service of Celebration

Sunday, January 16, 2020, 7:00 PM

Watch for online details in the Weekly Email Blast.

On Saturday evening, January 16, at 7 PM Central, Sinai Temple will join with several other congregations throughout North America to offer a

live-streamed concert with the musical group The Afro-Semitic



Experience. The Afro-Semitic Experience is a band of African-American and Jewish-American musicians who are dedicated to preserving, promoting and expanding the cultural and musical heritage of the Jewish and African Diaspora. The January 16

concert will honor and celebrate the memory and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The group is planning a thoughtfully curated program that includes music from the Civil Rights era, Dr. King's favorite gospel songs and original songs centered around the themes of peace, unity and community.

**THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED:**

**Friday, January 1**

**Monday, January 18**



**Bulletin Submission:** The deadline to submit information for the **February Bulletin is January 15th**. All submissions may be edited for length and content. **EMAIL submissions to:** [Kathy Douglas, stoffice@sinaitemplecu.org](mailto:stoffice@sinaitemplecu.org).

## *From Rabbi Alan Cook's Desk*



It seems that every January, I write a bulletin article either heralding the approach of the secular New Year or talking about the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as we prepare to commemorate his birthday. Both of these are significant milestones and certainly worthy of recognition. But in an effort to be creative this year, I took to Wikipedia. Reading up on holidays and observances that fall in January, I discovered that the last Monday in January (January 27 this year) has been proclaimed “Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day.”

Bubble Wrap is one of those products that is a “proprietary eponym.” That is, one company, the aptly named “Sealed Air Corporation,” owns a trademark on the name “Bubble Wrap,” but it is so synonymous with that product that even lookalike products not manufactured by the copyright holder are still generally known by that name. The product was invented in 1957, and the company was incorporated in 1960. A radio station in Bloomington, Indiana, appears to have introduced the “holiday” in 2001.

Most of us have known the satisfaction of sitting down with a sheet of Bubble Wrap and methodically popping each bubble. There is something about the exercise that is calming and re-focusing (I don’t know about you, but for me, the larger air cushions that now insulate many packages from Amazon and other shippers just don’t offer the same satisfaction). There are even phone apps that strive to re-create the experience virtually.

But if you’ll permit me to coin a metaphor here, I think that Bubble Wrap can serve as a symbol for the reality most of us are experiencing as we each have responded to the challenges of living within the COVID-19 pandemic. We have striven to protect ourselves and those in our immediate circles from the dangers of the virus by staying closer to home, wearing our masks, and maintaining distance from one another. All of these have been, and continue to be, important and worthy precautions that are consistent with scientific recommendations and have been shown to have limited community spread. But we must ensure that our bubbles of protection, while they insulate against the illness, do not isolate us from the important connections that so enrich our lives.

Sinai Temple continues to be a vibrant community. We continue to share in one another’s simchas, and to lift up one another in times of hardship. We continue to create moments

of holiness as we learn and pray together and enjoy one another’s company, even if we are physically distanced from one another. And we look forward to the day when it will be safe to fully pop all the bubbles, to rid ourselves of the insulating barriers that have kept us apart over the many months of the pandemic, and to come together in celebration.

Until that moment arrives, I pray that we all will stay safe and healthy. I wish you a very happy secular New Year. May 2021 bring health, happiness, and blessing for us all.

L’Shalom,

Rabbi Alan Cook



# From President Jacob Sosnoff

Dear Friends,

I hope you had an enjoyable Hanukah. Were you able to join in one of the Temple's Hanukah celebrations? There were several – at least 8! Despite all of the offerings, somehow my family didn't manage to make it to any of the zoom celebrations. Yes I know considering that I am the temple president, this is slightly embarrassing. I am sure I could come up with a few good excuses for our lack of attendance: 1) another zoom call after a day of zoom calls; 2) the boys were busy playing with their new Hanukah toys; 3) I was busy playing with the boys' toys; or 4) some of us ate a lot of latkes and fell asleep early. All of these excuses have a ring of legitimacy. The important thing is not how legitimate these excuses may or may not be, but rather regardless of my/our participation, I know that Sinai Temple, Rabbi Alan and Rabbi Jody are here for us and will welcome us with no judgement at the next zoom event! I am grateful to be part of such a vibrant and welcoming Temple community.

Given the vast pandemic-associated challenges that we have all faced this year, I think it is worthwhile to highlight our accomplishments in spite of these challenges. I came up with a top ten list – in no particular order...

Here is my year in review –

1. Rabbi Alan masterfully provided and led countless services online
2. Rabbi Jody and the Religious School quickly and seamlessly moved to a virtual delivery
3. Bonus: the Religious School is utilizing a curriculum specifically designed to be used virtually and during this pandemic
4. High Holidays in PJs (I know some of you did ;)
5. Drive-by ice cream sandwiches for Shavout
6. Celebrating several B'nai Mitzvahs in an unique virtual environment
7. Received a \$100,000 homeland security grant to increase the Temple's safety infrastructure
8. The great deal of renovation progress—Sanford Hess and his committee have done an excellent job – thank you all for your commitment and efforts.

9. Sitting on the back patio in my comfy clothes and enjoying a glass of wine during Shabbat services
  10. The Development Committee raising over \$1 million for the renovation—Wynne Korr and her committee have done an excellent job and we thank them for their efforts and expertise.
  11. Finishing 2020 with a matching funds for the renovation
- Looking over the past year there has been a lot a lot of good happening at Sinai Temple. I am eagerly awaiting to see what 2021 has in store.

Happy New Year friends,

Jake

## SINAI TEMPLE DECEMBER 2020 BOARD MEETING

The Board is happy to welcome Jen Lask as a new member to our Temple community. Please join the Board in welcoming Jen Lask to Sinai Temple.

Temple renovation planning continues to go well, as detailed drawings have been made and presented to the city for permitting approval. Temple members have been cleaning and organizing Temple spaces in advance of the upcoming renovation project anticipated to begin in the next few months.

A clarification with respect to burials. Spaces in the Jewish sections at Mount Hope Cemetery are available for all members of the Champaign-Urbana Jewish community.

Reports from key committees show the Temple's operations continue to progress well. Financially the Temple is doing fairly well and tracking the expected budget projections. Religious Education has also done well the first half of the year with virtual programming, schooling and social hang-outs.



# Announcements

## BOOK GROUP

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](mailto:nataliefr@comcast.net)

Contact Person: Susan Schomer (359-2938).

January 18: Our Endless Numbered Days by Claire Fuller

## 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](mailto:robinfans1@gmail.com).

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



Paul and Linda Weichsel are delighted to announce the engagement of their son, Joshua Lev Weichsel, to Ms. Emily Flesch, originally of Duluth, Minnesota. After their graduation from law school in 2018, they accepted clerkships at the Minnesota Court of Appeals. The following year Joshua was awarded a Federal clerkship for the Northern District of Indiana. Both are now practicing attorneys in the Twin Cities, Joshua at Ballard Spahr LLP and Emily at Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services. The wedding will be held in May of 2021, in St. Paul, where they currently reside.

Maval Tov to Ben Rougton who recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Ben is the son of Susan and Mike Rougton. For his eagle Scout project, Ben built and donated a bench to the Sinai Temple Playground.

## MARTIN LUTHER KING SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Mark Ansel  
Allen Avner  
Carl & Carol Belber  
Elaine Bruner  
Harold & Nancy Diamond  
Ann Einhorn  
Joyce Nagel Eisenstein  
Natalie Frankenberg  
Walter & Eleanor Feinberg  
Mitch & Kim Fisher  
William & Phyllis Gingold  
Stephen & Anita Hamburg  
Frances & Mitchell Harris  
Ellen Jacobsen-Isserman  
Paula Kaufman  
Julia Kling  
Warren Lavey & Holly Rosencranz  
Ira & Cecile Levenson  
Roger & Angie Marsh  
Leslie & Gary Mason  
Faye Lesht & Joyce Meyer  
Lee & Evan Melhado  
Joan Miller  
Barbara Orden  
Rob & Diane Ore  
Gary & Fraeda Porton  
Richard & Jacqueline Ross  
Bruce Reznick & Robin Sahner  
Alex Scheeline & Alice Berkson  
Myron & Sonya Sholem  
Art Siegel & Marcia Monaco  
Anthony & Penelope Soskin  
Bette & John van Es  
Michael & Lila Vodkin  
Barry & Linda Weiner

# Announcements

## 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 (417-8699) to  
schedule an appointment.



## Interested in owning a piece of the Temple?

As we prepare for the renovation of the sanctuary, the old pews are ready to go. They served our congregation well for forty years, and still have more life in them. Some pews need minor repairs, but generally they're in good shape. With a mix of sizes, they provide many different configurations. We have 27 Red Cloth Pews - 16 small (7 feet) and 11 large (10.5 feet)

They are yours for the taking. If you feel like making a donation that would be greatly appreciated Must pick up and remove. (They are heavy.) Some of the furniture from the Levin Lounge is also available.

Contact Art Siegel or Kathy Douglas to arrange a time to get into the Temple.

## Green Team Tip

With the secular new year upon us, perhaps you have resolved to pare down the contents of your closets, work spaces, and other areas of your home. Along with selling goods through ads and internet lists, you're probably familiar with local charities that accept donations of household goods.

If you look a little further, some internet platforms have space for describing goods that could be given to an individual looking for that item, and folks can request a specific item. One of these websites is [freecycle.org](http://freecycle.org), which has listings for Champaign-Urbana. There are also such listings on [nextdoor.com](http://nextdoor.com), and a Facebook group called Buy Nothing Champaign County IL.

If you take a little bit of your time, you can extend the usefulness of the household goods. A new item won't be purchased, and it will take longer for the item to eventually reach the landfill. Reuse is a great way to go green!

Do you have more Green Team ideas? Get in touch with Alice Berkson at [berksonalice@gmail.com](mailto:berksonalice@gmail.com)



# Yesod Le'Atid

## YESOD LE'ATID יסוד לעתיד

Foundation for the Future

December was a busy month for the renovation. In quick succession, two versions of the construction drawings were created. First there was a "90% version", which we reviewed carefully with the General Contractor and used to make some small adjustments. For example, down to the level of detail of where outlets would be located on the East wall. After that feedback was absorbed, a final version of the drawings was submitted to the city for permit review on December 21<sup>st</sup>. The city will review the drawings and possibly request changes. At the end of their approval process, they will issue building permits, which are necessary to begin construction. We are still targeting a February start for that work.

Another stage in the process has also begun: our General Contractor has begun taking bids from sub-contractors for specialty work like Electricians and Heating/Cooling. Each of these is bigger than you might expect! Electrical work includes also the Audio-Visual components, so that will include all of the microphones, speakers, video-cameras, and screens. (Given how successful online services have been during the pandemic, we're making sure that there's an ability to broadcast services from the Sanctuary after we're back in the building.) Heating & Cooling work involves an almost complete re-do of the way the air is spread throughout the Sanctuary and Pods. Better air dispersal will give us more effective control, but doesn't require replacing the heat pumps with a different system.

Finally, with so many of the core construction components defined, in January the SRC will be turning its attention to some of the final details – like the type of chairs, colors for the finishes, and selection of the furniture pieces (for example, in the Levin Lounge).

We are looking forward to an exciting 2021, and we hope that future updates might even have pictures to show the construction progress.

Sanford Hess

### Yesod Le'Atid Development Committee

Our Sinai Temple community continues to exemplify strength and caring in the face of the challenges of 2020. Especially noteworthy was the end of the year match for the Yesod Le'Atid campaign. Thanks to all of you and the match donors, we brought in \$172,201 in new funds and pledges. We rock!

Though our match challenge has concluded, fundraising efforts continue. Every dollar contributed continues to move us closer to realization of our vision.

See you in 2021 in our enhanced spaces.

Wynne Korr

### YESOD L'ATID RENOVATION MATCHING CAMPAIGN

We thank those who donated during our matching campaign!

Larry & Katherine Adelston  
Sara Benson  
Andrew & Tamarra Bernstein  
Gary and Tonya Bernstein  
Samuel & Judy Bernstein  
Peter & Judy Braunfeld  
James Brubaker  
Judith Checker  
Sena Cooper & Howard Gerwin  
Carol Cornell, Linda Siegel & Gail Goldfarb; in honor of Wynne Korr's birthday  
David Dorman & Barbara Jones  
Ann Einhorn  
Bill & Reva Egherman  
Dan & Shira Epstein  
Joyce & Don Francisco  
Natalie Frankenberg  
Melissa Frydman  
Garth Gersten & Janet Bercovitz, in memory of Terry Fear & in honor of Rabbi Alan's birthday  
Carmen & Jeffrey Glezer  
Diane Gottheil, in memory of Vera Korry & Mira Hamburg  
Robin & Bruce Goettel  
Bart & Pamela Greenberg  
Michael & Peggy Grossman  
Frances & Mitchell Harris  
Sandy Helman  
Tania Ionin & Timur Oikhberg  
Richard & Judith Kaplan  
Debra Karplus  
Paula Kaufman  
Rabbi & Andrea Klein  
Miles Klein  
Toni Lachman  
Ben & Jessica LeRoy  
Faye Lesht & Joyce Meyer  
Emily Levin  
Stanley & Joan Levy  
Jacki & Jeffrey Loewenstein  
Leslie & Gary Mason  
Amy O'Dell & Lee Deville  
Rob & Diane Ore, in honor of Rabbi Alan's birthday  
Julia Rietz & Al Johnston  
Mark & Ann Sapoznik  
Alex Scheeline & Alice Berkson  
Paul & Susan Schomer  
Sara Schwebel  
Art Siegel & Marcia Monaco  
Vitaliy & Anna Soloveychik  
Anthony & Penelope Soskin  
Ken Stolarsky & Andrea Beller  
Mark Strauss & Tania Williardt  
William & Francis Strauss  
Buddi Tepper  
Maury & Janis Topolosky  
Stacy & Jason Trager  
Bette & John van Es, in memory of Vera Korry

# Giving

## **BUILDING FUND**

Brenda Berg  
Peter & Judy Braunfeld  
Ann Einhorn  
Tamra Gingold  
June Gronik  
Shawn Hannan & Brittney Hanson  
Tania Ionin & Timur Oikhberg  
Faye Jones & Joseph Taylor  
Stephen & Kathryn Marshak  
Richard & Shirley Newman  
Rob & Diane Ore  
Elyse Rosenbaum & Robert Smith  
Paul & Susan Schomer  
Myron & Sonya Sholem  
Ron & Yuko Toby  
Ira & Lynn Wachtel  
Vera Waisvisz

## **EGALITARIAN TRADITIONAL MINYAN**

Ann Einhorn, in honor of Jacob Harkin's Bar Mitzvah  
Ira & Lynn Wachtel, in memory of Edward Wolff

## **EINHORN GARDEN**

Ann Einhorn

## **GENERAL FUND**

Lee & Lisa Greenstein, in memory of Orie Greenstein and in  
memory of Helen Greenstein  
Shawn Hannan & Brittney Hanson  
Laurel Miller, Senior Chanukah Bags  
Myron & Sonya Sholem, in memory of William Sholem, in  
memory of Bessie Siegal and in memory of Ruth B. Ades

## **FRIENDS OF THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**

Amy O'Dell & Lee Deville

## **KITCHEN/ONEG FUND**

Ann Einhorn  
Tamra Gingold  
June Gronik  
Tania Ionin & Timur Oikhberg  
Faye Jones & Joseph Taylor  
Richard & Shirley Newman  
Elyse Rosenbaum & Robert Smith  
Paul & Susan Schomer

## **MUSIC FUND**

Ann Einhorn

## **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**

Ann Einhorn

## **SECURITY FUND**

Brenda Berg  
Peter & Judy Braunfeld  
Ann Einhorn  
Tamra Gingold  
June Gronik  
Shawn Hannan & Brittney Hanson  
Tania Ionin & Timur Oikhberg  
Faye Jones & Joseph Taylor  
Stephen & Kathryn Marshak  
Richard & Shirley Newman  
Rob & Diane Ore  
Elyse Rosenbaum & Robert Smith  
Paul & Susan Schomer  
Myron & Sonya Sholem  
Ron & Yuko Toby  
Ira & Lynn Wachtel  
Vera Waisvisz

## **SIEGEL SOCIAL ACTION**

Ellen & Thomas Swengel

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 January

Friday, January 1

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

Friday, January 8

Aaron Averbuch (10 Jan)  
Jacob Berland (11 Jan)  
Harry Burack (29 Tev)  
Julian Frankenberg (13 Jan)  
Mariette Gahvari (14 Jan)  
Mort Heller (27 Tev)  
Hattie Freudenstein Kaufman (11 Jan)  
Viola Koenigsberg ( 9 Jan)

Cecelia Klein Pearle (28 Tev)  
Aaron Rosenberg (13 Jan)  
David Rous (12 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)

Philipp G. Weisskopf ( 9 Jan)  
Herman Weissman (12 Jan)

Friday, January 15

Vivian Adelston (19 Jan)  
Samuel Jerome Arnold ( 9 She)  
Lillian Berland (18 Jan)  
Herman Bernstein (20 Jan)  
Lillian Schuster Braun ( 6 She)  
Harry Burack (19 Jan)  
Louis P. Fiedler (16 Jan)  
Harold Goldberg (16 Jan)

David Krakower ( 5 She)  
Isaac Kuhn (21 Jan)  
Alma Mautner (18 Jan)  
Lillian Radeloff (21 Jan)  
Abraham H. Reizman ( 4 She)  
Henry W. Schwartz (19 Jan)  
Herbert L. Shapiro ( 7 She)  
Mathlia Zimmerman (20 Jan)

Friday, January 22

Alan David Berenbaum (27 Jan)  
Howard Birnbaum (23 Jan)  
Tanya Estrin (23 Jan)  
Orie Earl Greenstein (28 Jan)  
Heini Halberstam (25 Jan)  
Mollie Herman (27 Jan)  
Samuel Lachman (24 Jan)  
Samuel Lachman (24 Jan)  
Matthew Mischakoff (23 Jan)

Louis Rudolph (29 Jan)  
Harry Sherman (26 Jan)  
Samuel Small (12 She)  
Louis Spelke (27 Jan)  
Ruth Weinberg Strauss (27 Jan)  
Ruth Waxman (28 Jan)  
Sam Weingarten (27 Jan)  
Lida Kuhn Wolff (27 Jan)

Friday, January 29

Abraham Adler ( 2 Feb)  
Adolph A. Adler ( 2 Feb)  
Benjamin Davis Braun (31 Jan)  
Elwood L. Fabert ( 2 Feb)  
Dorothy Finkin ( 2 Feb)  
Sarah Frydman ( 1 Feb)  
Phyllis Terry Gillies ( 3 Feb)  
Zelda Ginsberg ( 2 Feb)  
Abetta L. Helman (22 She)

Michael Herman (22 She)  
Iosif Ionin ( 1 Feb)  
Herman Lewis ( 4 Feb)  
Mischa Mischakoff ( 1 Feb)  
Rosalie Goodfriend Rudolph (30 Jan)  
Morris Sapoznik (30 Jan)  
Samuel Shmikler (30 Jan)  
Jerome J. Sholem (31 Jan)  
Pearl Seltzer Sweital (30 Jan)

Rufina Vyshedskaya ( 3 Feb)