

Schedule of Services

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan Service

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

6:30 PM Shabbat Rocks!/Next Dor

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan Service

Thursday, February 25

Purim Service, and Megillah reading in the evening.

Further details coming soon.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

Join us for
Shabbat.



See Rabbi Jody's article on
Purim on page 6.

PURIM IS COMING!

Be Happy, It Will Soon Be Adar. That means Purim is on its way! Make plans to join us on **the evening of Thursday, February 25** for the (Online) World Premiere of our fabulous Purim Shpiel, "Little Town of Shushan," based on the musical "Little Shop of Horrors".

There will also be an Egalitarian Traditional festival service that evening, and a reading of the Megillah.

And don't forget to purchase your Purim baskets - a wonderful way to send greetings to Sinai Temple friends in celebration of the holiday!

Please watch your email in mid-February for further details about all of our Purim programming!

LITTLE TOWN



SHUSHAN

UPcoming
EVENTS

From Rabbi Alan Cook's Desk



Several weeks ago, during Shabbat evening services, we were doing an “Ask the Rabbi” session when my computer decided to spontaneously reboot, dropping me from the Zoom conversation (I promise we will schedule another “Ask the Rabbi” soon). Just before that happened, our daughter Eden was asking me what my

favorite holiday was.

As I started to say before the technical issues, Passover is one of my favorites in terms of its overall significance within our Jewish calendar. I’ll have more to say about that as it approaches. But one of my other favorites, which I think is often misunderstood, is Purim.

Purim has derived a reputation of being holiday geared toward children. One can understand that the focus on carnival games and dressing in costumes and making loud noises to drown out the name of our enemy, Haman, certainly have helped heightened the festival’s appeal among youth. But to dismiss the day entirely as being reserved for the younger crowd misses the broader significance of the day.

Purim—and the biblical book of Esther from which we glean much of the information that helps us to understand the holiday—introduces us to two significant and inspirational women. First, there’s Vashti, Ahasuerus’ queen at the outset of the story. Though little is written about her in *Megillat Esther*, and she is often cast in a negative light in retellings of the story,

she can and should inspire us in her willingness to stand up for herself. When Ahasuerus makes requests of her that she deems to be impolite and untenable, she refuses to comply. Though she is made to suffer for her outspokenness, she reminds us that we should never relinquish our opportunity to assert our personal agency.

When Esther comes along, she too asserts herself, though she goes one step further in standing up not only for her own interests but for the future of the entire Jewish people. Thanks to the urging of her cousin Mordecai, who reminds her “perhaps you were put in this position for just such a moment,” Esther embraces her responsibility, informs the king of Haman’s cruel plot, and ensures the continuity of Jewish culture and tradition.

We will have plenty of chances to be silly and have fun on Purim—see elsewhere in this bulletin for details about our celebration. But I hope you’ll also take time to reflect on the ways that you can live out Purim’s messages in your own life. How can you be like Vashti, ensuring that your unique voice is heard and maintaining your independence? And how can you be like Esther, identifying the pivotal role that only you can play in making our world a better and brighter place?

I wish you all a Chag Purim Sameach—a festive and happy Purim!

L’Shalom,
Rabbi Alan Cook

SINAI TEMPLE JANUARY 2021 BOARD MEETING

Sanford Hess provided a renovation update:

- ✧ Thanks to those who helped clean Temple in advance of renovation.
- ✧ Plans submitted to city. Ideally, we will start demolition then construction in February.

There was an update and proposal regarding the library

- ✧ There is a need to replace the old carpet. A generous donation was received to help cover the cost for new flooring.
- ✧ The library committee generated a proposal that was shared, and the board is supportive of the proposal. We will seek to find ways to revitalize the library space, possibly including adding computer.
- ✧ There is an ongoing discussion of what to do with the library book collection. Celia Arnold, Julia Rietz and Art Siegel will assist the library committee with generating ideas and solutions.

From President Jacob Sosnoff



Dear Friends,

Can you believe we are in February? I am not sure about you, but January seemed to fly by. Although thinking of all that happened on the national scene this past month (ranging from an insurrection to an inauguration) – it is probably a good thing!

As I mentioned during the annual meeting in May, the board has been meeting and reviewing the financial health of the temple. I am glad to report that we are maintaining our fiscal health. Membership pledges and fees– our main source of income are on track to reach our budgeted income. The congregation’s continual generosity coupled with reduced operating expenses has allowed the temple to maintain its fiscal standing. I am continually grateful to be part of such a generous congregation. At the moment, our dire predictions for the fiscal year seem unlikely to come to fruition.

There has been a flurry of activity related to the renovation. (Please see the update in the bulletin from Sanford Hess). To get us ready for the demolition stage, the gift shop has been emptied, the pews have been donated and the artwork has been inventoried and securely stored. (Thank you for all the *schlepers* and helpers who have helped with this preparation stage). Sanford and the rest of the renovation committee have been meeting and making decisions on the various aspects of the renovation. I am grateful for the congregation’s commitment to the renovation and am excited to see it finally start.

As the COVID-19 vaccine becomes readily available, local schools begin in-person instruction and the surrounding community has begun to open, there have been a few questions regarding “when” we will return to the building. The return to building committee as well as the board continue to discuss potential plans to reopen. The return of university students for the spring semester and concerns of COVID-19 variants are reminding us to take a cautious approach to reopening.

As so many of our celebrations have taken different forms this past year, Purim will be celebrated in a slightly different format. Regardless of the format, my family and I are looking forward to Purim. Please be on the look out for Purim basket information. As you know this program is the largest fundraiser for the religious school and dependent on our support to be successful.

Cheers,

Jake

Pews are Still Available!

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.)

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

Announcements



Bruce and Robin Goettel are delighted to announce that Charlie Mann Levin was born on January 10 in Riverdale, NY. Their first grandson weighed a very healthy 9 lbs, 3 ozs. and is 22 in. long. His loving parents are Lauren and Corey Levin and proud sister is 2 yr. old Violet.

Thank you to the congregants that helped move the Library, Gift Shop, Museum, Sanctuary and all other things large and small to prepare for the upcoming renovation:

Rabbi Jody Cook
Katherine Coyle & Larry Adelston
Jenny France
Joyce & Don Francisco
Natalie Frankenberg
Tamra & Chico Gingold
Bart Greenberger
Jessica Kopolow
Julia Rietz & Al Johnston
Datia Rosenberg
Marcia, Art, Leah & Luie Siegel



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 two classes, on Tuesdays and Saturdays at 9:30 through the Zoom website or app.

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.

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

Contact Person: Susan Schomer (359-2938).

February 15: The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane by Lisa See

GREEN TEAM TIP

How are you managing food in your household? Ideally, we should have a sufficient amount without generating waste. The possibility of major disruption in the supply chain may diminish as we move through the year, but we can always continue or institute good management practices to reduce waste.

Go through the stockpile in the pantry to use up items before purchasing more. When you do purchase, examine the packaging -- if the next item on the shelf can be recycled, consider it as an alternative for a brand without recyclable packaging.

Did you decide to make your own salad dressing, soup, or applesauce instead of purchasing cans or jars in the store? Continue with these tasty options in the post-pandemic era. Homemade salad dressing and soup can use up those stray pantry items before they expire.

Let us know about your household practices -- have they changed to reduce, reuse, and recycle? Email the GREEN TEAM at berksonalice@gmail.com

Renovation



YESOD LE'ATID
יסוד לעתיד

Foundation for the Future

Sinai Renovation Committee

February is still the goal to start construction, so by the time you read this there might work crews starting on the first phase: demolition.

Although that sounds serious, there's not much being

demolished in our project. The Bimah will be completely removed and there will be work in the pods to prepare for new partition doors. Also, most of the lights and ductwork in the ceiling will be removed – they're being replaced.

The good news in January was that the City's comments on our building plans required only minor changes.

Comments are a normal part of the review process, and they can have serious impacts on a design if parts aren't up to code – so having only small changes is a big deal.

During January our General Contractor (Felmley Dickerson) conducted the bidding for the sub-contractors who will do components of the work. (Electrical, plumbing, mechanical, ...) This is an important step, and it's in good hands with Jim Meek, the lead person from Felmley-Dickerson. Jim has been part of our process since April, so he's been part of all the discussions that went into the plans. He'll oversee all of those aspects and make sure everything fits together.

We look forward to reporting on progress in March.

Look for some pictures on the Temple's Facebook page once work begins!

Chair Sanford Hess

Development Committee

Sanford's report gives us the exciting news that after all of our preparations, the renovation is beginning in earnest! Many thanks to the generous donors who have helped to get us to this stage.

We still need to raise more funds if we are to realize certain other aspects of the project we think are important. For instance, our architects Landau| Zinder have included a design to make the bathrooms fully accessible and up-to-date. To do so will require significant additional funds beyond what has been raised to date.

As you are planning your 2021 giving, please consider the renovation. For those of you who must take required distributions from your IRAs, perhaps you can use these funds to support the campaign.

Our campaign is called Yesod Le'Atid, a Foundation for Our Future, because we are truly striving to take a holistic approach toward renovating our space to meet the needs of future generations who will find a home at Sinai Temple. Thank you for being part of this vision.

Stay safe,

Chair Wynne Korr

YESOD L'ATID RENOVATION MATCHING CAMPAIGN

We thank those who donated during our matching campaign!

Allen Avner
Laura & Anthony Bleill
Rabbis Alan & Jody Cook
Richard Cooke
Erez & Dana Cohen
Joyce Eisenstein

Sanford & Elizabeth Hess
Alan & Lynne Grusby
Stan & Joan Levy
Karen & Geoffrey Ray
Alison Rosenblum & Yonatan Kahn
David Scherba & Rebecca Swartz
Mark Spear
Jacob & Ruth Sosnoff, in honor of Rabbi Alan's birthday
Joshua & Advah Zinder



From Educator Rabbi Jody Cook

Without a doubt, Purim is the busiest time of year for me, professionally. Sinai Temple Religious School is responsible for running the annual community Purim carnival and we do our biggest fundraiser, the Shalach Manot Baskets. Over the past 11 months, we have endured significant challenges and we have also used creativity and determination to make things happen. Last March, when we put up Purim decorations, set up our carnival, assembled 300 baskets and coordinated delivery, heard the shpiel and megillah reading, ate hamentaschen and packed up the Purim carnival, I don't think any of us ever imagined that 11 months later, we would still be isolating and wearing masks and doing our best to stay safe and to keep other safe. Some of us have had COVID, some of us are still dealing with the effects of COVID, some of us know people who have died of COVID or COVID related causes. Some of us are sad that our kids are not learning in person or that we can't go to our offices or to stores. Some of us stay home as much as possible, others go out with masks. These 11 months have tested all of us in so many ways and we continue to hope that this virus will stop causing so much pain and harm.

I have thought a bit about the correlation between the 11 months that have passed and the 11 month period of mourning in Judaism. 11 months (or so) after someone dies, our tradition teaches that we move from reciting the kaddish daily to reciting it on the anniversary of the passing. 11 months is the amount of time, suggested by our tradition, that we should take to grieve. After the 11 months, we don't forget, but we can celebrate and we can participate in typical activities. It is clear that we aren't quite ready to stop wearing masks and we aren't quite ready to congregate, but as Purim rolls around, just over 11 months past the initial quarantining, we can celebrate together (but apart).

This year, we will move our Purim Shpiel and carnival online. We have had a lot of success with online services, religious school and programs and we are confident that our remote versions of the annual shpiel and carnival will be great. Recently, all Sinai Temple members received information for the Purim Basket Fundraiser. Please, if you participated in the past, participate again this year. If you have not yet supported Sinai Temple Religious School through this fundraiser, I encourage you to do so this year. This is, without a doubt, the year to send a greeting to people in our community. This year, more than ever, people in our community need to hear from friends and acquaintances. If you did not receive the mailer (or if you do not make an annual pledge to Sinai Temple) you can absolutely participate – please email Rabbi Jody for details. **Please note: Firm deadline of Feb. 15 to sign up!**

As we flip our calendars to February, we will soon be flipping our Hebrew calendars to the month of Adar – and the Rabbis teach that when Adar enters, we rejoice and have fun...so let's heed their advice and celebrate together (but apart) this year and keep looking forward to the time that we can again be in the same room!

Giving

BIRNBAUM CAMP FUND

Freda Birnbaum

BUILDING FUND

Richard Akresh
Judy Bach
Howard Berenbaum & Megan
McLaughlin
David & Mary Ann Berg
Annette & John Buckmaster
Erez & Dana Cohen
Stacy Cooperband & Wesley Jarrell
John Davis & Terri Gitler
Joli Ginsberg
Stacy Gloss & Charles Suggs
Sandy Helman
Alaina & Larry Kanfer
John & Benita Katzenellenbogen
Diana Lenik
Scott & Susan Lerner
Lilyan Levant
Jacki & Jeff Loewenstein
Robert Manaster
Arne Pearlstein & Elizabeth Stern
Karen & Geoffrey Ray
Robert & Lucy Rich
Gene & Julia Robinson
Karen Rudolph & David Donnini
Robert Silverman
Anthony & Rebecca Simmons
Robert & Marion Smith
Buddi Tepper
Monique & Michael Tsipursky
Jacob & Suzanne Woolfson

FRIENDS OF THE RELIGIOUS

SCHOOL

Erez & Dana Cohen
Robin & Bruce Goettel, in honor of the
birth of their grandson, Charlie Levin

GENERAL FUND

Freda Birnbaum
Annette & John Buckmaster, in memory of
Ralph Weinstein
Joyce Eisenstein, in memory of Marlene
Goodfriend and in memory of Gail
Dowd
Lee & Lisa Greenstein, in memory of
Orie Greenstein and in memory of
Helen Greenstein
Ben & Olga Halpern
Veronica Shavitt, in memory of Professor
Isaiah Shavitt
Myron & Sonya Sholem, in memory of
Ruth B. Ades

KITCHEN/ONEG FUND

Howard Berenbaum & Megan
McLaughlin
David & Mary Ann Berg
Annette & John Buckmaster
Richard Cooke
Sandy Helman
John & Benita Katzenellenbogen
Diana Lenik
Lilyan Levant
Arne Pearlstein & Elizabeth Stern
Karen & Geoffrey Ray
Robert & Lucy Rich

LIBRARY FUND

Ron & Leanna Cossman

MARTIN LUTHER KING FUND

David & Janet Peshkin
Dana Rabin & Craig Koslofsky
Paul & Susan Schomer

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Robin & Bruce Goettel, in honor of the
birth of their grandson, Charlie Levin

SECURITY FUND

Richard Akresh
Judy Bach
Howard Berenbaum & Megan
McLaughlin
David & Mary Ann Berg
Annette & John Buckmaster
Erez & Dana Cohen
Stacy Cooperband & Wesley Jarrell
John Davis & Terri Gitler
Joli Ginsberg
Stacy Gloss & Charles Suggs
Sandy Helman
Alaina & Larry Kanfer
John & Benita Katzenellenbogen
Scott & Susan Lerner
Lilyan Levant
Jacki & Jeff Loewenstein
Robert Manaster
Arne Pearlstein & Elizabeth Stern
Karen & Geoffrey Ray
Gene & Julia Robinson
Karen Rudolph & David Donnini
Robert Silverman
Anthony & Rebecca Simmons
Robert & Marion Smith
Buddi Tepper
Monique & Michael Tsipursky
Jacob & Suzanne Woolfson

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-January.

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.

Memorials



Friday, February 5

Marilyn E. Adleman (12 Feb)
 Allen Bach (12 Feb)
 Nora Beloff (12 Feb)
 Frances Aub Bloomfield (8 Feb)
 Sidney R. Cooperband (30 She)
 Max Creinin (28 She)
 Abram Dankowicz (9 Feb)
 Joshua Eisenstein (12 Feb)
 Lena Garber (8 Feb)
 Samuel Garber (12 Feb)
 David Gingold (12 Feb)
 Martin Glezer (11 Feb)
 Loretta Lee Goldberg (28 She)

Florence Dorothy Hamburg (12 Feb)
 Charles Hammer (6 Feb)
 Boris Isaac Katz (10 Feb)
 Jacob M. Kaufman (10 Feb)
 Ursula Rothfels Konigsberg (27 She)
 Charles A. Kulwin (11 Feb)
 Juliana Wertheimer Neuwirth (10 Feb)
 Tony Novak (8 Feb)
 Ann Brodsky Pass (8 Feb)
 Shirley S. Porton (29 She)
 Channa Reizman (27 She)
 Lionel (Rick) Romero (10 Feb)
 Sidney Rosen (6 Feb)

Frances Rosenberg (8 Feb)
 Edward Louis Roth (6 Feb)
 Faye Roth (8 Feb)
 Florence Schutz (6 Feb)
 Bernice E. Schwartz (9 Feb)
 Faye Siegal Sholem (6 Feb)
 Edward S. Talley (12 Feb)
 Florence Ethel Viscomi (29 She)
 Florence F. Weingarten (7 Feb)
 Stanley J. Wolowiec (7 Feb)
 Howard E. Zimmerman (12 Feb)

Friday, February 12

Milton Derber (19 Feb)
 Herbert Yale Ehrich (1 1Ad)
 Harriett Gore (14 Feb)
 Robert Graff (18 Feb)
 Betty Barker Greenstein (14 Feb)
 Marcus Maxwell Joffe (18 Feb)
 Edward P. Katz (2 Ada)
 Anna Klein (5 1Ad)
 Barbara Klein (17 Feb)
 Rose Adler Kuhn (14 Feb)
 Edith Levy (19 Feb)
 Marian Brenner Matzkin (16 Feb)

Gerald William Pafford (13 Feb)
 Isadore William Pearlman (14 Feb)
 Harriet Sherman (14 Feb)
 Martin Spatt (17 Feb)
 Sylvia G. Stolurow (19 Feb)
 Ruth Weinberg (5 1Ad)

Friday, February 19

Marilyn Deborah Agran (23 Feb)
 Mildred Brusiloff Appel (23 Feb)
 Hannah Freudenstein (23 Feb)
 Ann Kapulskey (14 1Ad)
 Rossie Kohen (21 Feb)
 Lloyd Kraus (26 Feb)
 Alice Kushner (20 Feb)
 Malcolm Lachman (25 Feb)
 Ruth Morton Lynx (21 Feb)
 Jenny Mandel (21 Feb)
 Leo I. Nagel (22 Feb)
 Ralph Newman (24 Feb)
 Abraham M. Reider (13 Ada)
 Gayle Riches (13 2Ad)

Eugenia Coleman Roddis (13 Ada)
 Dorothy Rosenstein (26 Feb)
 Rebecca Rous (20 Feb)
 Maurice Silver (20 Feb)
 Dora Banks Simon (23 Feb)
 Daniel L. Smith (26 Feb)
 Lillian Spivak (21 Feb)
 Stephen Nathaniel Tager (25 Feb)
 Anna Tepper (21 Feb)
 Fay Tepper (26 Feb)
 Judy Green Tupac (26 Feb)
 Louis Vineberg (26 Feb)
 Maxine Weiner (8 2Ad)
 Arthur Winakor (25 Feb)

Edith Zecher (24 Feb)

Friday, February 26

Marilyn Deborah Agran (28 Feb)
 Sakip Altay (4 Mar)
 Beverly Rosenfeld Cohen (28 Feb)
 Irving Cohen (3 Mar)
 Adam Ira Feinberg (28 Feb)
 Bernice Goldstick Hess (3 Mar)
 Orville S. Kahn (27 Feb)
 Shirley L. Kaplan (15 Ada)
 Clarence Libman (2 Mar)
 Jack Marco (4 Mar)
 David Markoff (27 Feb)
 Harry Rosenberg (27 Feb)

Aron Rosenstein (28 Feb)
 Mortimer B. Sitron (2 Mar)
 Joseph Solon (2 Mar)
 David Tepper (29 Feb)
 Irving Weinberg (21 2Ad)
 Rosalie Willis (3 Mar)