

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

December 2022



Chanukah Party

Join us on the first night of Chanukah (**Sunday, December 18**) as we welcome Chanukah as a congregation! We begin at **5:30 PM** with a delicious dinner. We'll provide an entrée and latkes; we encourage participants to bring an accompanying dish to share.

Please sign up at: https://tinyurl.com/CUChanukah22 if you plan to attend, and let us know what you plan to bring!

Following dinner, we'll light the Chanukiyah, play some fun games for a chance to win some prizes, and have some other fabulous surpris-



You are encouraged to bring your own Chanukiyah and candles to light along with us. Feeling creative? Design and build your own Chanukiyah and bring it with you! Prizes will be awarded!

The cost of this event is \$8 per person, which helps us to defray expenses. No family is required to pay more than \$30.



Sinai Temple Hanukkah Showcase

Sinai Temple Gift Shop Chanukah Showcase Sundays, December 4th & 11th, 2022 9:00am-1:00pm

Get ready for great deals on everything you and your family need to celebrate Chanukah!
Stock up on hostess gifts, candles, and chocolate gelt...
Add a beautiful new menorah to your collection...
Decorate your home with lights, banners, and more...
Grab dreidels for your kids' classmates...

And don't forget something special for your pets!
Watch for more info about special discounts in your weekly email!

Schedule of Services

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

5:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service & First Friday Dinner

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan Service

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

5:30 PM Shabbat Rocks!
7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, DECEMBER 24

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service





On Sunday, November 20, Rabbi A. James Rudin will be knighted by Pope Francis as a Knight of Saint Gregory, in recognition of his work in strengthening Catholic-Jewish relations. He will

become the eighth Jew in history to be knighted by the church, and the fourth rabbi.

Rabbi Rudin was the longtime Director of Interreligious Affairs for the American Jewish Committee, and it was through that work that he forged a relationship with the Vatican. But earlier in his career, from 1964 to 1968, Rabbi Rudin served as the rabbi of Sinai Temple. He would later marry his wife Marcia (nee Kaplan), who was from Champaign.

Rabbi Rudin's well-deserved honor underscores the other tremendous rewards, often intangible, that are reaped when we extend hands in friendship to our neighbors of other faiths. We can and should be proud of our congregation's position at the forefront of interreligious activity and dialogue in our community. Our long affiliation with the Interfaith Alliance of Champaign County has enabled us to establish important friendships and allyships with Christian, Muslim, Baha'i, Pagan, and other faith communities. They, in turn, have partnered with us for education, worship, and social justice programs, and we have stood with one another in times of rejoicing and times of sadness.

When we isolate ourselves and only engage with the beliefs and practices that are familiar to us, we fail to appreciate the full complexity of human understanding and experience. By reaching out hands and hearts to others to forge bridges of understanding, cooperation, and collaboration, we defuse the clouds of mistrust and suspicion that plague our society, and strive to make the world a brighter and more welcoming place.

During the winter season, we celebrate a diverse group of holidays, from Diwali to Chanukah to Christmas to Kwanzaa to Yule to so many others. We pray that our friends of other faiths and backgrounds may find joy in their celebrations, as they wish us joy and gladness in ours (be sure to see the announcement elsewhere in this bulletin of Sinai Temple's gala Chanukah celebration!). As each of these festivals of light unfold for the practitioners of their respective traditions, we pray that that their broader metaphor and meaning will be appreciated as well—that light and hope will break through the darkness of this season, illuminating our world and blessing us all.

We extend a hearty Mazal Tov to Rabbi Rudin, and pray that many will be inspired by his example to embrace interfaith collaborations and work for a better future.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Alan Cook







Teen Trivia Night

Sunday, December 11th, 7-9PM For teens in CU (8th-12th Grade)

No cost to register, but please bring a package of new men's socks, new mittens and/or hats to donate to local organizations to distribute to people in need.

To sign-up: You can form a "team" (6-8 participants) or register as an individual/small group and be paired with other teens to make a complete team.

RSVP by emailing Rabbi Jody Cook (educator@sinaitemplecu.org).
Registration will be limited to 10 tables (80 participants).

Snacks and soda will be provided!

Event planned by Sinai Temple Youth Group Members

The Band's Visit at the Virginia Theater

The Israeli movie "The Band's Visit" plays one time at the Virginia Theatre on **Wednesday**, **December 14 at 7 PM**. Tickets are \$7.

In the movie, eight Egyptian musicians wind up stranded for a night in a small town in Israel's Negev Desert. It is "...both a clever, subtle slice-of-life comedy, and poignant cross-cultural exploration." (Rotten Tomatoes) Improbably, it is now a Broadway hit, too, winning a Tony award for Best Musical. (Watch the movie and you'll see how improbable a choice it was!)

Released in 2007, "The Band's Visit" played at Ebertfest in 2008 and writer/director Eran Kolirin was there in person at the Virginia Theatre. After the December 14 screening, we will play the original post-film Q&A with Eran Kolirin, recorded at Ebertfest 2008.

This event is part of the Virginia's Arthouse Experience series, and will be hosted by curator Sanford Hess.





December Book Group

The Book Group meets on the second Sunday of each moth at 2:00PM

Sunday, December 11th: The Silent Patient

by Alex Michaelides

Facilitator: Cyndi Smyser

We meet in a hybrid format, both in person in the Sinai Temple Library and via Zoom. The Zoom link is provided for those who are outside the C-U area.

RSVP's required by the Friday, December 9th to nataliefr@comcast.net

Sinai Temple Gift Shop

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

The Gift Shop is now open by appointment & during Sinai Temple Religious School Hours!

Please contact **Jessica Kopolow** to set up an appointment. You can reach her by phone at **417-8699** or email at **jessicakopolow@yahoo.com**

Cash or checks are always welcome. Credit cards accepted for charges over \$25. We now accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover, using SQUARE.

Gentle Chair Yoga

Tuesdays at 9:30 AM—ONLINE

For those who would like to do chair yoga, online with Robin Goettel while in your home, please contact her at robinfans 1@gmail.com.







BUILDING FUND
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A Donation was made to the Sinai Temple Archive Project by Virginia France & Charles Kahn



December Memorials

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