let there be LIGHT

CHICAGO SINAI CONGREGATION
In English, when a new book enters existence, we simply say, “It’s published”. Sometimes we use an idiom, along the lines of “The new Margaret Atwood is finally in print,” or, in more librarian terms, “the updated Dictionary is now in circulation”. Hebrew itself has no single word for “publish”; in fact, the only way to talk about a book’s publication in Hebrew is by idiom. The Hebrew phrase for printing a book is hotzaah la-or, literally meaning a new book “has been brought into the light”.

This is a long way of explaining that, by the time you read this bulletin, our newly updated and revised prayerbooks ([siddurim]) will be published. On Friday night, December 6th, we will worship from our new Chicago Sinai Congregation Union Prayer Book III for the very first time. Especially for those of us involved in its preparations and editing, it seems fitting to celebrate that our new [siddurim] are finally coming into the light. It is this story of our UPB III being brought into the light of publication that I want to share with you.

Four years ago, we learned that we were running out of copies of our current Sinai Edition, Revised of the Union Prayer Book. We had just enough books on hand for shabbat worship, but no more volumes available either for sale or for gifts to members of the congregation. We had the choice of spending the proceeds of the previous prayerbook on a new print run, or reinvesting in a new edition. Either way, we knew that if we were to embark on a minimum print run of thousands of books, we were committing ourselves for ten years to whatever decision we made. Given that, roughly, a ten year span separated the first and second versions of our prayerbooks, it seemed fitting that we invest in a new edition that continued our liturgical evolution even as we preserved our past.

In preparing for this new UPB, we did take our time. Two years ago, I taught an extended adult education course on the structure and messages of our prayer service so that we could all be better educated on the history and meaning of Jewish worship. From the over forty Sinai members who learned together in that class—along with a handful of other “regulars” at Sinai services—we assembled last summer an editorial committee of almost 20 people to collaborate on this important project. The core group of that editorial committee met diligently every other week from last fall through this summer as we did the work of preparing our new Prayer Book. We even tested “beta” versions of our new shabbat services all summer long, and received helpful feedback from congregants and guests that strengthened the final product. It was a true team effort.

We didn’t want our new book of prayers to be haphazard, and so we took the time to think of guiding principles that would lead us in our task. We identified the following as principles that would guide us in the creation of our prayerbooks:

1. For Sinai, by Sinai
2. Better Balance of Sinai’s Pillars
3. Open Theology
4. Wider use of liturgical creativity
5. Fixing inconsistencies

In the remainder of this article, I want to explain each of these guiding principles, and share some examples of how these principles come to light in our new UPB III.

For Sinai, By Sinai. When our Revised UPB was printed in 2012, we had high hopes that we were creating an alternative to the prayer book Mishkan Tefillah that is used in the vast majority of Reform congregations. Such national aspirations led us to widen the focus of the book beyond only how we worship at Sinai; the most notable expressions of this impetus to have national appeal are the many instances in our Revised UPB where we encounter the word “or”, intended to give choices to other congregations according to their own style. However, in praying from our UPB here at Sinai, these many choices are often distracting, leading to interruptions, announcements and repeated liturgy. With our new UPB III, we decided that we were creating a book of prayers for how we worship at Sinai. Others may admire it and wish to use it, but we wanted to create a prayerbook ideal for our own Sinai
practice. You will notice that there are no longer lines like “for those who include the Reader’s Kaddish” or photographs of other synagogue’s sanctuaries. More substantively, we also created new services that meet our current needs. In addition to a Saturday Morning Service that works well for our weekly chapel service, we also created a Service of Becoming B’nei Mitzvah that not only has readings better suited for 13 year-olds, but also has more responsive reading to keep a congregation of strangers more engaged in the experience. Our commitment to be a prayerbook for our congregation today also led us to our next guiding principle.

Better Balance of Sinai’s Pillars. Since Sinai was founded in 1861, we have been committed to bringing our community together through meaningful education, worship, and social action. Today, we call these pillars: Learn, Act, Worship, and Engage. Our traditional siddur contains standing liturgy that focuses on all of these: our commitments to Torah, to community, to justice, and to prayer. However, our Revised UPB [2012] placed a preponderance of the focus on worship, exclusively. Therefore part of our editorial effort was to find suitable English versions of our traditional Hebrew prayers that brought all our pillars to light, in better balance with each other. You will see this when we turn to page 502 for our concluding prayers. Our Aleinu, or Adoration, absolutely is about worship: adoration is its very title! But this prayer also contains the only mention in Jewish liturgy of the phrase tikkun olam, repairing our world. That reference to tikkun olam was absent from our previous prayerbooks, and in our UPB III we restored it to its important place. You will be able to sing it every shabbat.

Open Theology. Our previous books of prayer were filled with a marked certitude about God: “Trust in God alone and do not rely on your own limited understanding,” “Through God’s power alone has our people Israel been redeemed from the hand of oppressors,” and “Fervently we pray that the day may come when all people shall be guided by your teachings,” express a triumphant theology of our perfect God in whom all must place faith, over and above our own thoughts and deeds. Almost exclusively, our UPB Revised [2012] presents an image of a providential God into whose hands we place our faith to take care of things for us. This doesn’t seem to fit our 21st century outlook, where certainty and assuredness in God are harder for many to find. Therefore our editorial committee sought to create space in our worship experience for people with different theologies all to feel at home; we searched for passages that would allow different people with different perspectives on the divine to find themselves represented in our worship experience. Rather than portray one articulate theology, we allow for a variety of perspectives on our understanding of and relationships to God. In fact, the name for God printed most frequently in the UPB III is “Eternal One”, a phrase as intrinsically Jewish as it is open to multiple understandings, from the triumphalism of our current prayerbooks to a wide range of theologies.

Wider use of liturgical creativity. Our previous prayer books were based on the beloved Union Prayer Book, first published in 1894, and most widely known from its final 1942 printing. While much of our inherited UPB liturgy carries over to our new UPB III, over ten other liberal prayer books were consulted in the creation of our new publication. In fact, every member of our editorial committee had a “winter break assignment” of reading an entire prayerbook and highlighting passages that might be fitting for use here at Sinai. [When was the last time you read a prayerbook on a beach vacation?] Our committee considered countless candidates from all these other siddurim in making our UPB III as liturgically rich as possible.

Fixing Inconsistencies. This might be a minor point, unless you’ve tried to follow a congregational reading that is missing a period, scratched your head as we skip a series of pages in Service II, or wondered why certain prayers are said some Friday nights and not others. Especially because in our adult education class and subsequent committee learning, people were taken by the intentional architecture of Jewish
Join us for Shabbat Services on Friday, December 6 at 6:15PM as we dedicate our new Union Prayer Book III.

To dedicate a prayerbook in honor, in memory, or in appreciation of a loved one, visit chicagosinai.org/upb-dedication.

Individual copies of our new UPB III can be purchased for your home bookshelf or as gift at chicagosinai.org/upb.
I still remember the day when I was in 10th grade confirmation learning my Temple's best kept secret. For as long as I could remember, a light hung above the ark in the sanctuary. The ner tamid, or eternal light, as I learned it was called in religious school. The truth is, I never bothered to ask how the light stayed lit, and never went out. It sort of felt like magic. But as I grew older, I assumed there was some secret to the light staying lit, and on that first night of Confirmation class, our rabbi took us into the sanctuary, and we learned the secret, we discovered that which made the light eternal. It wasn't magic after all. As we walked into the sanctuary, we saw a ladder on the bima right beneath the eternal light. Our rabbi turned to the class and said, “As the oldest students in the religious school, this will be your weekly task, to change the week long candle that serves as the eternal light.” And so we did. Each Wednesday evening, our class took turns climbing the ladder to remove the burned candle and replace it with a new one, constantly keeping a flame lit.

There are many explanations for the symbolism of the eternal light. But that evening, one particular metaphor stuck with me. The ner tamid served as a physical reminder of the light that we must bring into the world. And as we were concluding our formal religious education, we had a responsibility to help continue to bring our fuel to the fire. In other words, we bore the responsibility to play our part in making the world a more just, more whole place to live. Keeping the ner tamid, a perpetual light, requires communal effort, communal responsibility, and a willingness to work towards a common purpose. It may have been the most important lesson I learned all year.

I always think about that lesson as we enter into the darkest season of the year — what are the ways in which I continue to bring light into the world? What are the ways that I work to keep that communal flame lit? As it gets colder outside, it is much easier to curl up inside and live surrounded by the darkness of the world around us. But each year, I imagine myself metaphorically climbing the ladder in that sanctuary and adding my fuel to the fire. What are the ways you will bring light into our world during this dark season? What is the fuel that you will bring to keep our communal fire aflame?

Fuel the Communal Fire and Join Our Upcoming Programs

Reform Chicago 20s and 30s Hanukkah Party
Thursday, December 19, 6PM
RSVP Here
Trivia, Cocktails, Latke Bar and More! Free but RSVP required. Please bring a children’s book to donate.

Musical Menorah
Friday, December 20, 6:15PM
RSVP Here
Bring your family, your friends, and your menorah as we fill our sanctuary with love and celebrate Hanukkah, the “Festival of Lights”, with special readings and music led by our Youth and Adult Choir. Following the service we will enjoy latkes and more in the social hall.
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, “Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or the darkness of destructive selfishness. Life's most persistent and urgent question is what are you doing for others?”

In 1994, President Clinton linked Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to a National Day of Service. He signed into law the King Holiday and Service Act. When he did so, he quoted Dr. King, that amongst the greatest guidance and focus of Dr. King’s life was the idea of service. “Everyone can be great because everyone can serve,” he said.

Many of our national holidays including Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day and the Fourth of July (all three day weekends) are marked by sales, fireworks, and time with family. At times these observances can be meaningful. Unfortunately, other times these observances lose the original purpose of why those days were created and what they are intended to be commemorating or celebrating.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was created in 1986. Less than a decade later, a diverse coalition of leaders wanted to ensure that the weekend observance remained focused on Dr. King’s life and legacy. They created our first National Day of Service, an opportunity not only to take a day off from school or from work, but an opportunity to continue the legacy of Dr. King. This three-day weekend should not be a weekend off, but really a weekend on.

This is why we are moving Mitzvah Weekend to Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend. We want to emphasize the purpose of the weekend. It is a weekend that is on for service; a day on for action, a day on for community, and a day on for helping others.

This year we will continue many of the traditions that have come to mark our Mitzvah Weekend. On Friday Night, we will have a joyful Shabbat service where we honor the life and legacy of Dr. King. We will highlight the ongoing work of our social action volunteers and service projects. As in years past, we will be joined by Dr. Keith Hampton and the Chicago Community Chorus to bring our community together in song.

On Saturday, we will have a day of service around the city of Chicago. Each year, on the Saturday of Mitzvah Weekend, we join together as a community and spread out across the city to bring our service and spirit to projects in need.

This year we will continue with many of the loved organizations we have volunteered with in the past and adding new opportunities. We will be returning to Cornerstone Community Outreach and Lakeview Pantry. We will be adding new opportunities including cooking lunch at Lincoln Park Community Services, a temporary housing shelter for people experiencing homelessness in our neighborhood, and volunteering at Stone Temple, a historic African American Baptist Church in Lawndale where we have a year round project to build a sustainable community garden together. This year, we will be building garden beds inside which will be able to be used in the garden once spring arrives.

On Sunday morning, we will have an opportunity to volunteer as a community at Sinai. One of the great joys of Mitzvah Weekend is seeing the energy and enthusiasm of a wide variety of our community come together to fill the Social Hall with intensity and vitality by packing bags, creating blankets, and writing letters together. The chaos and the joy of those hours together are something that every member of our community can join in to make a difference.

This year, Mitzvah Weekend and Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend is an opportunity for a weekend on and an opportunity for each of us to answer Dr. King’s question, “what are you doing for others?”

Mitzvah Weekend Activities

January 17, 6:15PM Shabbat Service Featuring Dr. Keith Hampton & the Chicago Community Chorus

January 18, times vary Volunteer in the City Cornerstone Community Outreach Lakeview Pantry Lincoln Park Community Services Share Our Spare Casa Central Stone Temple

January 19, 10AM Volunteer at Sinai Blessings in a Backpack Lincoln Park Community Services RefugeeOne CityPak Linus Blankets Stone Temple RAC - IL

This year we will continue many of the traditions that have come to mark our Mitzvah Weekend.
Looking for Light in All the Right Places

One of the wonderful things about working with young children is that there is always light. Even on the gloomiest of days, there is light. It might be in the science center as children explore x-rays, magna-tiles, or other items on the light table. It might be in our Shabbat celebration while we light the Shabbat candles, or when the children “pretend” Shabbat in the dramatic play area. There is the increasing light of the Hanukkah menorah and singing songs about light that brings so much excitement in the classroom. There are the light and bright smiles of parents and children reading under the twinkling lights of the loft in our Parent-Tot classes. Of course, there are the light up children’s shoes we see bouncing around in our classrooms and play areas. We always hope for the light that the sunshine brings us when we play outside. We might have different colored lights as we use flashlights to explore and discover. Each day there is the flicking on and off of the classroom light switches to signal it is time to clean up. There is lightness in many of the stories the children tell us each day that make us smile so brightly. But the best light, the brightest light, the most dazzling light, that light is seen in the eyes of each child. Without a doubt, at Sinai Preschool, there is always light.
Love to sing? Join me and our Volunteer Choir. Email Scott for more information.

During these dark, cold winter months, what better way to counter the seasonal doldrums than with the radiance of beautiful music! On the snow-crested horizon, we have some terrific opportunities for you to bask in the warm rays of melody and harmony. Everyone is welcome!

Hanukkah Musical Menorah
Friday, December 20 at 6:15PM | RSVP
Our annual Musical Menorah is a popular and wonderfully enjoyable service. Our Choirs – both Adult and Youth Choirs – will delight with familiar and uplifting Hanukkah songs which we hope you will sing along with. Please join us as we light the Congregational Menorah, and toward the end, all of your personal and / or family menorot! Then stay afterward and socialize over brisket and latkes in the Social Hall (R.S.V.P. needed).

Shabbat Eve in Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Friday, January 17 at 6:15PM
For twelve years running, we have been privileged to welcome the “Sinai Ensemble” of the Chicago Community Chorus to help us honor the memory and legacy of Dr. King. Under the exuberant direction of Dr. Keith Hampton, the Chicago Community Chorus boasts a roster of 150 music-lovers from all over Chicago, and the “Sinai Ensemble” has now grown to 60 – each year there are more and more who want to sing in the group named after us! And each year, we are blessed with a group of Congregant-devotees who love this service and wouldn’t miss it. If you’ve never attended before, consider attending this year and show your support for the “Sinai Ensemble”. Be prepared to bask in the lustrous, gospel-style sound!

Shabbat Shirah / Sabbath of Song
Friday, February 7 at 6:15PM
Here’s a way to shed some light on our brand new prayer book and become more familiar with it! This year on Shabbat Shirah, we will offer a Sermon-In-Song that explores new music to go along with our new siddur, Union Prayer Book III. There are a number of opportunities in our new prayer book for additional opening and closing songs and hymns, especially. We also plan to premiere a musical setting of R’tzei Vimnuchateinu, written especially for us by Andrea Jill Higgins, a widely-published composer of Jewish liturgical music and a good friend of Chicago Sinai.

Hope to see you soon! And wishing everyone an infusion of light in these winter months!

A special thank you to our High Holy Day Choir for lending their beautiful voices to our High Holy Day services.
The story of Hanukkah is one of hope, rededication, renewal and the miracle of light. Hanukkah is synonymous with many traditions and celebrations that fill our homes with joy and gladness. In many families the giving of Hanukkah gelt is a tradition – one that is meant to inspire children to use their Hanukkah gelt for tzedakah – to change the world for the better.

As a development professional, I would like to suggest that this year, during Hanukkah, there is an opportunity to rededicate one night - one candle – to your gift to our Temple Fund.

In October, Sinai launched the second annual Temple Fund campaign. You should all have received your letter by now and hopefully have already considered making this important gift. In general, philanthropy may take many forms and be fashioned into many important ways of giving. Donors may make frequent unrestricted or tribute gifts in memory, honor or appreciation of a loved one or friend; legacy gifts that will live on for generations to come; one-time major gifts that add to a specific capital campaign, named program or endowment fund; or annual gifts of tzedakah that contribute to an entity’s yearly sustainability.

Chicago Sinai membership dues alone do not support the day-to-day activities and operations of the temple. In fact, they support just 2/3 of our annual operating budget. The Board of Directors, alongside all Sinai staff and committee volunteers, are dedicated to increasing our revenue and reducing expenses through a heightened sense of fiscal responsibility. This online/electronic Bulletin is one example of these efforts.

As members we share the value of growing and supporting our congregation, believing that no one who chooses to enter our community should be denied access because of financial circumstances. Our annual Temple Fund campaign is designed to fundraise in order to make this belief more than a value and to transform it into a reality. Just as each individual candle in our menorah is a small part of the whole, so are the gifts each of you choose to make to this campaign. Each gift, large or small, will bring light to our temple, making it a more robust, brighter and richer place today and for generations to come.

May all of our menorahs radiate with the glow of hope, peace and generosity!

Each gift, large or small, will bring light to our temple.
Shedding Light on Special Programs at Sinai

It seems that in every bulletin I shed the light on some of the same (and amazing) programs. This time, I want to share with you some of what is going on at Sinai that you may not know about!

Sinai’s Gala. Yes of course you hear about this gala every year, but did you know that planning is already under way! This incredible committee, led by Jacki Torshen Drimmer, has already secured the date (May 9), the venue (the Sofitel), and the theme (Leavening our Connection). This event will celebrate more of the work we do each and every day in our Sinai community.

Canasta and Bridge Lessons. Sinai’s own Jo Leif (canasta) and Ellen Kent (bridge) are expert players of canasta and bridge and have taken the time to teach members of Sinai how to play! Are you interested in learning how to play a game? Reach out and let me know what it is or if you can teach it. We also play Canasta and Mahjong on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 1-4PM at Sinai. Email Emily if you would like more information.

Refugee Family Welcomed by Sinai Congregation

We have a new employee of Chicago Sinai. Emily Waife joined us at Sinai. She sits at the front desk and is most likely the friendly voice you hear on the phone when you call Sinai. Emily is from Boston, her favorite food is avocados, and Emily is also getting married in May!

The Refugee family of five arrived at O’Hare on November 6th after a long flight from Jordan. Several members of our congregation were there to greet them and drove the family to their apartment where they were welcomed by more Sinai congregants who had prepared a warm meal. The apartment was filled with household items, even toys for the children, all funded by the generous contributions of Sinai congregation.

Biqal and Omar are a young couple who spoke only a smidgeon of English and were relieved, grateful and happy to arrive in Chicago safely. Wesam (3 years old), his brother Ibraheem (4 years old) and older sister Ranim (almost 6 years old) were just beautiful and amused by the strangers beaming at them.

Over the next few weeks, we worked with RefugeeOne to build a plan to help the family get settled in Chicago.

To donate to support this family’s resettlement in Chicago, visit chicagosinai.org/donate and select Refugee One on the menu.

You can also drop off a check or an Aldi or Target gift card at the front reception window at Sinai.

Email Barbara Cohen for news and volunteer opportunities.
Shabbat Eve Services
Every Friday evening throughout the year, Shabbat Eve Services are held at 6:15PM with Kiddush and Oneg immediately following services.

Watch Services Live
Our Shabbat services are streaming online here.

Shabbat Morning Prayer & Torah Study
Every Saturday, 9:30AM
Rain or shine—holiday, Holy Day, or weekly Shabbat—members gather in the library to learn the many lessons of the weekly Torah portion.

Sunday Morning Family Services
December 8, January 26
11:30AM-12:15PM

Martin Luther King Jr. Service and Kick-off to Mitzvah Weekend
Friday, January 17, 6:15PM
Sinai is delighted to welcome back the”Sinai Ensemble” of the Chicago Community Chorus, with Dr. Keith Hampton – founder and artistic director. They will beautify our Sabbath Evening service by singing a variety of music from the African American experience in observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

Tot Shabbat
Friday, February 7, 5:30PM
This music filled service will be conducted in our Chapel by one of our Rabbis and is ideal for children under the ages of 5 years.
Have You Seen Our New Nametags?

Over the last year, we have been working closely with Keshet, an organization that supports LGBTQ equality in Jewish life, to ensure that we are providing a safe and welcoming space for everyone. As such, we now have added a spot to include your pronoun on our nametags.

WHAT’S A PRONOUN?
Pronouns are words used to talk about a person instead of using that person’s name. Many people use the pronoun sets he/him/his or she/her/hers. Other people may use the neutral pronoun set they/them/their or other neutral pronoun sets, such as ze/hir/hirs.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY “NEUTRAL”?
The pronouns he/him/his and she/her/hers indicate gender: man/woman or boy/girl. Often, however, we don’t know the gender of the person that we are talking about. For example, if you find a wallet on the ground, you might say, “I should find the owner of this wallet. They must be looking for it.” In this case, the person we’re talking about could be of any gender, so the pronoun they is used.

However, they/them/their pronouns are not just used to talk about a hypothetical or unknown person. Some people use they/them/their in the same way others use she/her/hers or he/him/his. Many people who are genderqueer, nonbinary, agender, or trans use they/them/their pronouns.

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW WHAT PRONOUNS PEOPLE USE? 
A wonderful way to do this is to share your pronouns first, which in turn indicates that you’re open to hearing others’ pronouns. It’s an easy technique to incorporate in meetings or other gatherings where people introduce themselves.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?
Using people’s correct pronouns is a deep sign of respect. In the same way we ask people’s names, using people’s pronouns honors their individual humanity. Sharing, asking, and using correct pronouns helps make sure that we keep Chicago Sinai Congregation as a welcoming House of Prayer for All People.
LOOKING BACK
Family Sukkot Celebration: Pizza in the Hut
See more pictures of our Sinai Community celebrating Sukkot on our Facebook page.

UPCOMING
Sinai Bake-off: Challah
Friday, March 27 after Services
Think you make the best Challah? Have your challah judged by food critics. Email Rebecca if you are interested in participating.

Last year's Passover Dessert Bake-off Winners

UPCOMING
Sinai Forum: Lunch Series
Thursdays, 11:30AM lunch
12:30PM speaker
January 23: Jacobo Konigsberg | RSVP
February 27: Molly Limmer | RSVP
Learn from Sinai's members about the incredible work they are doing.

Sinai Forum: Interfaith Series
Tuesdays, 5:30PM dinner 6:30PM speaker
January 14: President Calvin Monson, Church of Latter-day Saints | RSVP
February 11: Pastor Shannon Kershner, Fourth Presbyterian Church | RSVP

Women's Retreat
January 31-February 2
Sign Up Here
Eaglewood Resort & Spa, Itasca

Film Review
First Thursday of the month, 6PM

Sinai Book Club
Second Tuesday of the month, 2PM

50S AND BEYOND
Shabbat Dinner
Friday, January 10, after services

Tour of Sinai's Spiritual Objects of Rabbi Limmer
January 29, 12PM

ART AT SINAI
Sari Srulovitch: Israeli Silversmith Artist
Sunday, December 8, 10:30AM
Learn more here.
Sari will be joining us for a special one day show with opportunities to purchase her unique, beautiful pieces. Her Havdalah set is part of the Sinai collection of Judaica.

Photography by Deborah Awwad, Art with the Heart Participant
January 9, 5PM: Opening Reception
All sales will support Art With A Heart at Chicago Help Initiative and Deborah.
UPCOMING

**Sunday Supper**
3rd Sunday Every Month, 2-6PM at Fourth Presbyterian Church
Help feed the hungry by preparing and serving dinner.

**Art with a Heart**
Every Wednesday, 2-4PM at Catholic Charities at 721 N. LaSalle St.
We are partnering with the Chicago Help Initiative (CHI) to provide an evening meal and resources including art classes to those who are homeless and of very low income in downtown Chicago.

**New Monthly Social Action Opportunity!**
**Lincoln Park Community Services**
Saturdays, 6PM
January 11, February 8, March 7
Prepare and serve dinner at Lincoln Park Community Services, a local homeless shelter. Sign up to bring ingredients or prepared foods. At LPCS we will help cook, serve, and clean up together.

To learn more about the opportunities below, please email Rabbi Zinn.

Social Action Opportunities for Your Entire Family
December 7, January 18, February 22 | RSVP [Here](#)
This year we added an exciting new program to our calendar. Throughout the year we have planned social action activities for families with children of any age. We will either be at Share our Spare or Lincoln Park Community Services. At each of these locations we will have projects for people of all ages to work together to give back to our community.

Mitzvah Weekend
January 17-19
Mitzvah Weekend brings the entire Sinai community together to support Chicagoans in need throughout the year. Preschool families, religious school families, and Sinai members volunteer time and resources to address issues of hunger, homelessness, healthcare, the elderly, refugees, and the environment. activities take place at Sinai and around Chicagoland.

BE INFORMED.
Join Chicago Sinai’s newly established Advocacy Team.
Email Rabbi Zinn to sign up.
As part of our deep commitment to Social Action, Social Justice, and Advocacy join with us as we stay informed and act on important social justice issues to make our world more just for all.

Sinai Receives Fain Award for Social Action Work
Sinai is honored to be chosen as a recipient of The Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism’s Irving J. Fain Social Justice Award for our work in the Ogden-Jenner school merger. We look forward to receiving the award at Biennial in December. If you have not signed up for Biennial yet, do so today at [urj.org/biennel](http://urj.org/biennel).

Sinai’s Immigrant Justice & Service Trip to El Paso Texas, April 3 – 6, 2020
Volunteer with local community groups and legal organizations to aid families seeking asylum. We will immerse ourselves in learning about political, legal and human rights issues that children and families face after fleeing violence and persecution in their countries of origin. No special skills are required. Email Jill Peters to learn more.
THANK YOU

Temple Fund
Judy Aberman
In memory of Felix Toth blowing the shofar at the Children’s Service on Rosh HaShanah
Muriel Anixter
In memory of Lester Anixter
Anonymous
Lewis Burik
Myron Cholden
In honor of Carol and Berni Freibbaum
Frank and Roberta Florence
In appreciation of Deborah Ashen and Cara Meiselman
Jill Graham
In memory of Jean Abramowitz Samuels
Carole S. Gutter
Roslyn Hoffman
In memory of my mother, Ettie Braverman
Mary and Jerome Kalmann
In honor of Donna Barrows’ Birthday
Susan and Jonathan Leis
Bruce Miller and Carol Yanowitz Miller
In appreciation of Sinai’s Staff and Rabbis
with thanks for a meaningful High Holy Day season
Edward and Linda Morse
In honor of Rabbi Limmer
Tom and Sara Olesker
In honor of Aidan becoming a Bar Mitzvah
and in honor of his parents, Betsy and Adel
Helena Paul
In memory of Jo Anne Kaufman
Steve and Penny Pollack
J.B. & M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation
Steven and Karen Purze
Arthur Reich and Susan Geffen
Holly and Irwin Rozner
In memory of our parents
Carolyn Rusnak
In honor of Floyd and Elaine Abramson
Mona and Harold Shabelman
Bruce and Fanchon Simons
Bruce and Silvia Stern
Peter and Alison Totty
In honor of the wedding of Lawrence Tanzman to Haley Streibich
Susan and Stuart Lucas
Senior Staff of Chicago Sinai Congregation
In memory of Norman Crandus
Norm Hirsch and Ann Couther
John and Anne Oppenheimer
In Memory of Larry Joseph
Bob and Ellen Kent
Eddie and Adrienne Rainey
Bruce and Silvia Stern
Jack and Niki Tovin
In memory of Eileen Hoffman
Donna Barrows
Marilyn Blonsky
Simone Herman
Roslyn Hoffman
Tom and Vicki Samuels
In memory of Gregg Reitmeister
Roslyn Hoffman
Eleanor Wilder
In memory of Sally Rosenthal
Ron and Esther Emmerman
The Putrim Family

In memory of Susan Seigel
Elliott and Myrna Merker
Nitzberg Magic Fund

BEQUESTS
Estate of Charlene Landsberg Smith

Pulpit Flowers
Lyn, Ella and Scott Goldstein
In loving memory of Phillip M. Goldstein
Henry and Bobbie Nussbaum
In memory of Andrea Jennifer Stein

Sinai Fund for Social Action
Anonymous
Andrea Barats
Donna Barrows
Katherine Bendix
Kathy Bernstein
Helaine Billings
Stephen and Krista Blatt
Marshall Brown and Louise Nora
Diane Cohen
Michael Darcy and Lenore Holt-Darcy
Jill DiFranco
Sondra Epstein
Paul Francis and Lolli Zarlino
Stephen and Helene Gabelnick
Nancy Garfen
James and Lori Gelbort
Allen and Judie Ginsburg
Matthew Griffin and Abigail Hymen
Susan Harris
John Hart and Carol Prins
Tom and Vicki Horwich
Carey and Richard Joseph
In honor of Stuart Lucas’ Birthday
Phoebe Joseph & Larry Joseph 5771 (of blessed memory)
In honor of Nikki Joseph’s participation in the High Holy Day Services
Henry and Cookie Kohn
Henry Kohn III and Anne Smiley
Stuart and Phyllis Lanoff
Robert and Rafaela Lavker
Genevieve Leiderman
Richard Letchinger and Dana Wahrenbrock
John and Jill Levi
Barry and Barbara Levy
Michael and Diane Levy
Roslyn Limmer
Adele Meyer
John and Anne Oppenheimer
Helene and Aaron Paris
In memory of Larry Joseph
Grant and Jill Peters
Tom and Betty Philipssborn
Benette Phillips
Sigmund Pincus and Janice Linn
Abbey and Andrew Rintels
Harry and Avery Rosenberg
Rhoda Rosenthal
Barry and Ellen Schatz
Oty Shapiro
Holly Sher
Robert Sherwin
Scott Sherwin
Dan and Carol Silverstein
Dan and Carol Silverstein
In memory of Norman Crandus
Ellen and Lewis Smith
Lanny and Pearl Sussman
Elissa and Ira Swidler
David Tabolt and Lisa Genesen
Marcus and Anne Wedner
Jeff Weisfeld
Debby and Joe Welch
In memory of Eileen Hoffman
Iris Witkowsky
In memory of Sally Rosenthal
Larry and Ellen Schor
Ellen and Lewis Smith

Blessings in a Backpack Fund
Neil and JoAnn Berg
In honor of the Bris of Kaleb Justin Migdal
Marc and Sharen Berman
In memory of Norman Crandus
Michael Darcy and Lenore Holt-Darcy
Max Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Campbell
Dr. Steven Meyers and Dr. Elaine Allensworh
Bruce and Fanchon Simons
In honor of Bruce and Carol Miller’s special anniversary

Rabbi Limmer’s Discretionary Fund
Paul Francis and Lolli Zarlino
Philip Hoffman
In memory of Eileen Hoffman
Kenneth and Amy Krupsky
In honor of the naming of Cleo Eve Toppston
Judy Roth
In memory of the lives that were lost at the Tree of Life Synagogue
Eric Sanders and Jodi Hinzmann
In appreciation of Rabbi Limmer’s help with Ben’s Bar Mitzvah
Elizabeth and Scott Schaff
In honor of Cameron Drew Schaff’s naming
Marc and Maureen Schulman
In memory of Marco Weiss
Scott Tandy and Diane Smason
In honor of Hannah’s Bat Mitzvah
Edmond and Lois Zisook

Rabbi Greene’s Discretionary Fund
Chuck and Sandi Horberg
In memory of Gregg Reitmeister
Lewis and Ellen Smith

Rabbi Zinn’s Discretionary Fund
Timothy and Jill Cunniff
In memory of Manfred Steinfeld
Evan and Kathleen Elser
In honor of our son, Jack
Alison Goldberg and Greg Kieso
In honor of Rabbi Zinn and the naming of our son, Gavin
Lauren Goldstein and Jose Rodriguez Orjuela
Matthew Kopecki and Leah Holtzman
In honor of Rabbi Zinn and everything he has done for our wedding
Eric Sanders and Jodi Hinzmann
In appreciation of Rabbi Zinn’s help with Ben’s Bar Mitzvah
Scott Tandy and Diane Smason
In honor of Hannah’s Bat Mitzvah

chicagosinai.org DECEMBER 2019 | JANUARY | FEBRUARY 2020 312.867.7000 | 15
THANK YOU

Consider a gift to Sinai by donating online at chicagosinai.org/donate.

IN OUR LIVES

Welcome to Our New Members

Lawrence Abrams and Beatrice Muchman
Neil and Sharon Book and their children, Sidney and Sadie
Beth and Marc Bortz and their children, Aidan, Jacob, Beckett, and Hudson
Carly and Jason Bradford and their children, Ruby and Milly
Meg and Tim Callahan
Coby Derringer and Ariel Yellin Derringer and their children, Rafael and Micah
Barbara Frohman
Mitchel and Janis Gold
Sandra Goldfield
Edith Goodman
Peter Granat and Marta von Rosenwinge and their children, Oliver and Gordon
Jeff Hansen and Michele Lasky
Kyle Haverback and Diana Ly
Alexzandra Higgins and her children, Atticus and Luella
Rachel Jacobsohn
Kenneth and Maria Kaufman and their children, Isabel and Henry
Michael and Diane Levy
Joshua Livingstone and Margaret Cremin and their child, Gabriel
Peter and Robin Marks and their child, Madeline
Eliott and Myrna Merker
David Milancan and Serenity Katz-Milancan and their children, Andre, Aubrienne, Alannah, Reid, Alyssa, Jacob and Jeremy
David Miller and Lindsay Margolis and their child, Quinn
Jeffery Miller and Marissa Brattain
Jordan and Becky Pritkin
Beatrice and David Pritzker and their children, Ruben and Sasha
Erin and Jason Pritzker and their children Elliot and Winona
Margot and Tom Pritzker

Mazal Tov

BIRTH
Carly, Jason, and Ruby Bradford on the birth Milly Jolie
Meg and Tim Callahan on the birth of their grandson, Hart, and granddaughter, Lennox (Leni)
Neili, Michael, Lyla Glotter and on the birth of Shai
Meredith Katz, Joey Rudas and Bea on the birth of Henry Leo
Jeremy and Andrea Raskin on the birth of Hank Tomer
Ariel, Paul, and Oliver Sannet on the birth of Max
Andrew, Melissa, and Archer Vachris on the birth of Miles Gabriel

B’NAI MITZVAH
Aidan, child of Betsy and Adel
Nathan Koo, child of David and Lesly
Reed Metzler, child of Gary and Jean
Ben O’Donnell, child of Ger and Marg
Ben Sanders, child of Eric and Jodi
Sofia Shulkin, child of Jonathan and Alissa
Hannah Tandy, child of Scott and Diane

MARRY
Eille Friedenberg and Sean Light
Leah Holtzman and Matt Kopecki
Jillian Meliker and Jared Caplan
Lawrence Tanzman to Haley Streibich

Robert Rivkin and Cindy Moelis and their children, Alexander, Claire and Stephanie
Marilyn Rosengarden and Paul Frederick
Samuel Schwartz and Rose Traubert
Harold and Mona Shabelman
Julia and Felix Shlayner and their children, Edward and Sasha
Danny and Anna Simon and their child, Bo
Marilyn Tolliver
Anthony and Janet Walters and their children, Daniel, Rachel, and Jessica
Andy Sternberg and Jenna Friedman

Music Tribute Fund
Steve Andes
In appreciation of Sinai’s Music Program
Harold and Roberta Barron
In honor of Rabbi Limmer and Rabbi Zinn who officiated at our grandson Reed’s Bar Mitzvah
Philip Hoffman
In honor of Scott Kumer and Kim Jones for the wonderful Music at Eileen’s Service
Jay and Bonnie Lipe
In memory of Eileen Hoffman
Bruce Miller and Carol Yanowitz Miller
In appreciation of Brady Rivkin’s singing at Yom Kippur Services
Harold Schuman
In honor of Mike Mannis and Sinai’s High Holy Day Services

Averick Art Fund
Olga Weiss and George Honig
In honor of the birth of our grandchildren
Ashira Faraci and Roey Aharon

RefugeeOne
Donna Barrows
Marlene Bellis
Neil and Joann Berg
In honor of the Bris of Kaleb Justin Migdal
Katie Bergman-Bock
Barbara Cohen
In memory of Norman Crandus
Shlomo and Ol Crandus

In Memoriam
We record with sorrow the death of our Members
Eileen Hoffman, wife of Philip Hoffman
Sally Myers Rosenthal, wife of Michael and mother of Jackson Rosenthal
Dr. Seymour Diamond, husband of Elaine Diamond

Condolences to the Family and Friends of
Sam Charles Waisbren, cousin of Elise Waisbren (Jonathan Schatz)
Norman Crandus, father of Shlomo (Oli), and grandfather of Jonah and Seth Crandus
Larry Buffen, friend of Eddie (Adrienne) Rainey
Fred Pollakov, cousin of Bob (Jan) Kaufman
Dr. Henry Taylor, father of Barry (Marvin Pollack), and grandfather of Molly and Hudson Taylor
Larry Joseph, father of Andy (Nikki) Joseph, brother of Elaine (Floyd) Abramson, and uncle of Susan (Stuart) Lucas
Paul Putrim, father of Tom (Sarah), and grandfather of Sophie, Olivia, and Joey Putrim
Gregg Reitmeister, son of Noel and Elaine Reitmeister

A Caring Community
Chicago Sinai Congregation strives to be a Caring Community, we would like to know about joyful or difficult lifecycle events you are experiencing. If you are praying for yourself or someone you care about as they deal with physical, emotional, or spiritual difficulties, or if you wish to celebrate a joyful event, we want to offer support. We invite you to speak with a Rabbi.
Visit chicagosinai.org for more information on our programs and events.

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<td>6:15PM Shabbat Eve Service 7PM 50s and Beyond Shabbat Dinner</td>
<td>9:30AM Torah Study 10:30AM Raquel Tepper Bat Mitzvah 6PM Lincoln Park Community Services Dinner</td>
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<td>Mitzvah Weekend 2PM Sunday Supper at Fourth Church</td>
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<td>12PM Learning in the Loop</td>
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<td>11AM Adult Ed with Rabbi Zinn 12:30PM Sinai Forum: Lunch Series RSVP 6PM Intro to Judaism</td>
<td>6:15PM Shabbat Eve Service</td>
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<td>Women’s Retreat 6:15PM Shabbat Eve Service 7:15PM Men of Sinai Event (offsite) RSVP</td>
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Visit chicagosinai.org for more information on our programs and events.
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|     |     |      |     |       |     | Women’s Retreat
|     |     |      |     |       |     | 9:30AM Torah Study
|     |     |      |     |       |     | 10:30AM Carina Bilton Bat Mitzvah |
| **2** |     |      |     |       |     |     |
| Women’s Retreat | 9AM Confirmation | 10AM Religious School |     |       |     |     |
| **3** |     |      |     | 11AM Adult Ed with Rabbi Limmer |     |     |
| **4** |     |      |     | 11AM Adult Ed with Rabbi Limmer | 10:30AM Carina Bilton Bat Mitzvah | **5** |
| **6** |     |      |     | 11AM Adult Ed with Rabbi Zinn | 6PM Intro to Judaism | 6PM Film Review | **7** |
| **11AM Adult Ed with Rabbi Zinn | 6PM Intro to Judaism | 6PM Film Review | Women’s Retreat | 9AM Confirmation | 10AM Religious School | 10:30AM Sunday Speaker Series: Keshet | **8** |
| **9** |     |      |     | **10** | 2PM Sinai Book Club | 11AM Adult Ed with Rabbi Limmer | **11** |
| 9AM Confirmation | 10AM Religious School | 10:30AM Sunday Speaker Series: Keshet | 10AM Adult Ed with Rabbi Limmer | **12** | 6PM Sinai Forum Interfaith Series | 1PM Mah Jongg and Canasta | **13** |
| **14** |     |      |     | **15** | 11AM Adult Ed with Rabbi Limmer | 11AM Adult Ed with Rabbi Zinn | **16** |
| **12** | **17** | 18** | **19** | **20** | 11AM Adult Ed with Rabbi Limmer | **11AM Adult Ed with Rabbi Zinn | **21** |
| **16** | 2PM Sunday Supper at Fourth Church | **17** |     |     | **21** | 6:15PM Shabbat Eve Service | **22** |
| **17** |     | 18** |      | **19** | **20** | **21** | **22** |
| Presidents Day: Office Closed |     |     |     | **20** | **21** | **22** | **23** |
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Visit [chicagosinai.org](http://chicagosinai.org) for more information on our programs and events.
WE ARE GOING GREEN!

We are excited to announce we are going green!

This means, starting with this Bulletin, you will be emailed a copy of your bulletin.

If you would like to receive the bulletin in your USPS mailbox, and not just digitally, you must OPT IN, by emailing Rebecca or calling her at 312-867-7000.

Digital distribution is not only green, but also economical and will save Sinai dollars!

SAVE THE DATE

Second Night Passover Seder: A Different Night

Thursday, April 9 | 6-8PM

at Manny’s Delicatessen
1141 S. Jefferson Street, Chicago