SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6
9:00 AM - Torah Study
10:00 AM - Bat Mitzvah of Maya Lerner

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
7:30 PM - Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
9:00 AM - Torah Study
10:00 AM - English

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
5:30 PM - Shabbat Rocks!
7:30 PM - Hava Nashira Shabbat

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
9:00 AM - Torah Study
7:30 PM - Selichot Program

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
9:00 AM - Egalitarian
5:00 PM - Erev Shabbat

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
9:00 AM - Torah Study

Sinai Temple Office
Will Be Closed
Monday, September 1st
Thursday, September 25th
Friday, September 26th

New Member Open House
Sunday, September 7, 2014, 2-4 PM
Now is your chance to invite a friend, family member or colleague to an Open House at Sinai Temple! On Sunday, September 7th, the Membership Committee will host an informal social gathering - complete with a delicious reception and a short program - in the Davis Chapel. Our goal is to showcase the many educational programs, services and activities we offer throughout the year. If you know someone who has recently moved to the area, a colleague who has expressed interest in joining a congregation, or a family or individual who has lapsed their involvement with Sinai Temple, invite them! We will e-mail invitations and make follow-up calls in the next month. Please forward the name of anyone who should receive an invitation to Elizabeth Hess, Membership Chair, elizabethhess@hotmail.com, or call 217-766-2110.

SINAI TEMPLE
High Holy Day Service Schedule 2014
5774—5775

SELICHOT

Saturday, September 20
Selichot Program & Service
8:00 PM

ROSH HASHANAH

Sunday, September 21
Rosh Hashanah Cemetery Visit & Memorial Service
4:00 PM
(Mount Hope Cemetery)

Wednesday, September 24
Erev Rosh Hashanah Service
7:30 PM

Thursday, September 25
Egalitarian Traditional Service,
First Day
9:00 AM
Reform Service
10:00 AM
Community Reception
12:30 PM
Children & Family Service
2:30 PM
Tashlich at Maynard Lake
5:00 PM
(Access lake between 1846 & 1850 Maynard Dr.)

Friday, September 26
Egalitarian Traditional Service,
Second Day
9:00 AM
Kabbalat Shabbat/Shabbat
5:00 PM
Shuvah Service
Our sages tell a story:
A king had a son who had grown lazy, overly accustomed to the privileges of his royal lineage. Concerned for his mental and physical well-being, he wanted the prince to acquire the wisdom of the world. So he sent him off to a university in a distant land, so that he might study with the great minds of the time. The prince threw himself into his work with tremendous enthusiasm. He learned a great deal on a variety of subjects: mathematics, physics, philosophy, and literature. After many years, he returned triumphantly to his home, armed with books and diplomas and eager to impress his father and his friends with the depth of his knowledge.

The king greeted his son warmly and affectionately, but before he would allow the young man to unfold his stories and recount his lessons, he presented the young man with a problem. “My son, I have a favor to ask of you.”

“I will do anything you ask, father!” the prince replied, eager to apply his studies in a practical manner.

“There is a large boulder in front of the palace,” the king explained. “Please go get it and bring it here.”

The prince ran off to do what his father had asked. Hours later, he returned, dejected. “I am sorry, father. I used every tool at my disposal, but I could not move that rock one inch, let alone bring the whole thing to you.”

“Ah,” said the king, “You presumed that you needed to move the whole boulder at once. Be patient, and move it piece by piece.”

The sages added, “So it is for us in the work of teshuvah. God does not expect us to complete our turning all at once. Rather, we are given the opportunity to make small changes, piece by piece, as we strive to become better.”

How often are we like the prince in this story, fixated on the notion of all-or-nothing, convincing ourselves that if we cannot move immediately to the completion of a goal, it’s not worth undertaking in the first place? If you’ve received an email from me, you may have noticed in my signature line a quotation from Pirke Avot, the collection of aphorisms from the Mishnah. Rabbi Tarfon teaches, “Lo alecha ha-m’lacha l’gmor, v’lo atah ben-chorin l’hibatei mimena. – You are not required to complete the task, but neither are you free to abstain from it.” This reminder, which is often applied to the work of tikun olam (engaging in deeds of social justice to bring about significant change in our world), is actually relevant to the work of internal change that we are asked to undergo in preparation for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. And Rabbi Tarfon actually continues, stating, “The day is short, the task is daunting, and the workers are tired. But the pay is great and the Master is pressing for the work to be completed.” Here the connection to personal reflection and repentance is even more striking: yes, it is daunting and tiring work, but if we are willing to apply ourselves to it, God continues to spur us to take action, and we will reap great rewards.

As the story of the prince points out, teshuvah, the act of self-reflection and repentance, is easily hampered when one assumes an all-or-nothing approach. We may decide that if we cannot be fully repentant, if we cannot completely leave behind an undesirable trait or behavior, then perhaps it’s worthless to try to change at all. But our tradition teaches that the opposite is true; God wants us to return to “the proper path,” and if we merely have the courage to approach God in true contrition, God will accept us in love.

We are now in the Hebrew month of Elul, the month preceding the High Holy Days (it began on August 27). During this month, it is customary to engage in self-examination (cheshbon ha-nefesh, literally “an accounting of the soul”) in an effort to discover what sort of changes we might wish to make so that we might strive to be better in the coming year. The shofar traditionally is sounded on weekdays to herald the approaching New Year and to awaken us to the opportunity for personal spiritual growth.

We are taught that the word Elul is actually an acronym for the phrase “Ani L’dodi V’Dodi Li” – I am for my beloved as my beloved is for me.” This verse, a quotation from the love poetry of Song of Songs, is in this context meant to remind each of us that God is reaching out to us in love. The opportunity for meaningful change is ever-present; we merely need to be open to the possibility.

Jody, Gabe, and Orli join me in wishing you and your family a Shanah Tovah U’m’tukah, a happy, healthy, and sweet New Year. May each of us merit to be inscribed in the Book of Life for abundant blessings and peace in the coming year.

L’Shalom,
Rabbi Alan Cook
SAFETY AT SINAI
The Board of Trustees takes safety at Sinai very seriously. While there have been no recent incidents, it was decided that we should update our plans and make sure the current Office staff was appropriately trained. Temple leaders have met with officials from the Champaign Fire and Champaign Police Departments to ensure that we are prepared for emergencies.

With regard to a fire at Sinai, the Fire Marshall has identified the quickest routes to exit the building. With regard to a tornado warning, he identified that the safest place at Sinai is the northern school hallway which runs from the Temple office to the Davis Chapel. “Tornado shelter” signs will be placed in that hallway. Both fire and tornado routes will be posted in each classroom and around the temple. Soon after religious school starts, we will conduct both fire and tornado drills. Additionally, the police department will continue to work with Temple leaders to develop procedures for other types of emergency situations. Our goal is to take steps to prevent such events and to effectively respond to them should they occur.

Randy Rosenbaum, President

Summary of August 11, 2014 Board Meeting

Proposed minutes from June 8, 2014 were corrected. MOTION to accept minutes as corrected. All in FAVOR.

The Finance Committee approved and recommended spending up to $500 from the Building Fund for Labor of Love. Finance also approved and recommended spending up to $750 from Interiors Fund for the Kitchen and Building Committees request for more tables to gradually begin replacing old and broken ones. Finally, Finance approved hiring Kathy Webber as an Administrative Mentor to Rabbi Jody Cook (new Director of Education). MOTION to “Hire an Administrative Mentor for $400 for 20 hours of mentoring, then $30 an hour, with a total cap of $1000. All in FAVOR.

Emergency Plans: Fire, Tornado, Emergency Evacuation. These are in the process of being revamped, and the plan is that there will be a map in each room in the building.

Background checks: There is a company that we can run checks through. Discussion about having a policy in place. MOTION: “All new employees will have a background check which will be decided on a case by case basis. If something comes back, then Religious School employees will be decided by Educator in consultation with the Rabbi; other staff will be decided by Administrator in consultation with the Rabbi. All employment is contingent on background checks” . All in FAVOR.

URJ Dues: We had made an arrangement with the URJ to pay $20,000 for 3 years, which we have done. The most recent bill from URJ was for $37,000. Discussion about agreement with URJ. MOTION: “Start negotiations with URJ to pay $20,000 per year.” All in FAVOR.

Randy Rosenbaum, President

From the Board

For many people, late August and early September is when we get back into the routine of life. Days of sleeping in late and going to the pool are ending and are being replaced by school bells and band practices, and so too with the Board of Trustees. We did not meet in July to conduct ordinary business although we did meet in special session to discuss the Educator search. Our August meeting was very productive. We have purchased more tables for the pods, we have installed a speaker in the kitchen so one group can hear the service, we will be repairing the museum cases, we are almost done updating our website and we have big plans for the Labor of Love such as cleaning the shed, planting new flowers, repairing some carpet, etc. We also discussed big-picture issues such as agreeing on a background check policy for employees, entering into negotiations with the URJ about future dues, meeting with officials about safety issues, and discussing the Sign in front of the temple (we are close!)

There are many events and projects in the coming year but we are blessed to have a lot of volunteers who are willing to help. But volunteers need people to coordinate the efforts. I am looking for two individuals who could chair the Caring Committee (combined hospital, shiva, flower, etc.) and the Development Committee (aka Fundraising). If you are interested, please let me know.

I appreciate your personal commitment to the future of Sinai Temple with your time and involvement in the many things our congregation does. Sinai Temple also needs your financial support. You should have received a packet about making a pledge to Sinai Temple. Please make your pledge as soon as you can. It is important that your pledge be both realistic and followed through with a payment schedule that fits your situation. Pledges are confidential.

I would write more but I set aside only 20 minutes to write this - I have to keep to my schedule. Have a wonderful month.

Randy Rosenbaum, President
From Our Educator

On the morning of my first “official” day as Director of Education at Sinai Temple, I made myself a smoothie for breakfast. In addition to spinach, Greek yogurt, blueberries, banana, almond milk and ice, I squeezed a bit of honey into the blender. In our house, we mark the beginning of the school year with pictures and signs and a spoonful of honey. It seemed appropriate to mark my transition in the same way. I was not only starting the Sinai Temple Religious School year but I was starting an entirely new, personal educational experience.

I am honored to serve Sinai Temple as Education Director. I have just celebrated 10 years in the rabbinate and come to this job with many classroom teaching experiences under my belt. I am confident in my abilities to work with teachers. I am excited to watch our children connecting to Judaism and I am enthusiastic about the way we influence the lives of students in our school. And still, I had a spoonful of honey on my first day.

According to Judaism, learning is supposed to be sweet. I know that as Education Director I will be doing a lot of learning. I am a leader of the congregation and I have skills and knowledge to do this well. The honey will remind me that, despite my background and experience, I have a lot still to learn and that each thing I do as Education Director is an opportunity for me to grow.

I am eager for the arrival of September 14, the start of Religious School classes, and am currently working hard to accomplish everything that needs to happen to get the school year off to a sweet start. Please be sure to say hi to me on September 7th at registration!

Teacher Feature—Karen Ray

Each month, read about one of our wonderful Religious School teachers. Their commitment to educating our children is noteworthy.

How many years have you been teaching at STRS?
I started the year after Edward was confirmed and he is almost 21 so it must be 5 years with this one starting the sixth. I didn’t want to stop coming to Sunday School and I really needed a reason to still be a part of Religious School.

What are some of your hobbies?
I love to quilt and do counted cross stitch. I also garden and love to read historical fiction.

What is your favorite Jewish holiday?
When I was young, it was Passover. For the past 25 years, it has to be Rosh Hashanah—my family comes and we get to celebrate together. It is the only holiday we get to spend together as they live on the east coast.

Share a Jewish memory that is important to you?
My bat mitzvah and my sons’ bar mitzvahs.

What do you do for work outside of STRS?
I teach 8th grade math at Edison Middle School in Champaign.

One thing that you have learned from a student/class throughout your years of teaching?
It is difficult to choose one thing—I always learn from my students in very unexpected ways. I also love to watch my Religious School students as they go from 6th graders through Confirmation, to see how their knowledge of Judaism and themselves mature.

STRS is excited to have Karen Ray back this year to teach 6th Grade Religious School.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
Sinai Temple Religious School
Registration Day
Sunday, September 7th

Sinai Café
Everyone loves It so...
Please help to keep this great fundraiser and culinary provider Alive and running

In order for the Sinai Café to return for this upcoming year we need volunteers to staff the café.

See the calendar or sign up: www.tinyurl.com/sinaicafe

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Religious School Calendar—Upcoming Events

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon, Sept 1</td>
<td>Labor of Love</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun, Sept 7</td>
<td>Religious School Registration</td>
<td>9:30-1:00</td>
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<td>Sun, Sept 14</td>
<td>Hebrew School</td>
<td>9:00-10:00</td>
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<td>Sunday School</td>
<td>10:00-12:30</td>
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<td>Wed, Sept 17</td>
<td>Hebrew School</td>
<td>4:15-5:30</td>
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<td>Sun, Sept 21</td>
<td>Hebrew School</td>
<td>9:00-10:00</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
<td>10:00-12:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, Sept 24</td>
<td>Erev Rosh Hashana</td>
<td>NO HEBREW SCHOOL</td>
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<td>Sun, Sept 28</td>
<td>Hebrew School</td>
<td>9:00-10:00</td>
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<td>Sunday School</td>
<td>10:00-12:30</td>
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HIGH HOLIDAY GREETING

Wish your fellow congregants a Sweet and Happy New Year!

Every year, the Religious School sends out High Holiday greeting cards to our members. For a minimum donation of $18, your family can be listed in the greeting card.

Donations must be received by September 9th to be included.
**Announcements**

**Meditation Classes**
**Tuesday, September 9th at 7:00 PM**
The emphasis will be on not just learning about forms of Jewish meditation but actually spending most of the class practicing meditation. The class will be 8 weeks and offered for free. People who are interested or have questions can contact Linda Weiner at lindakweiner@gmail.com or call 378-4626.

**Book Group**
**Monday, September 15th at 7:30 PM, Americanah**, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, at the home of Sandy Hynds, 609 S. James, C. (352-8218). Facilitator: Sandy., Contact Person: Susan Schomer (359-2938)

**Selichot**
**Saturday, September 20th at 8:00 PM**
Selichot offers us the opportunity to engage in reflection before the start of the High Holy Days. This year our Selichot program and service will take place on Saturday evening, September 20, beginning at 8 pm. Rabbi Alan will lead an interactive discussion called “The Long and Winding Road,” exploring how lyrics from popular songs of the past fifty years can help us examine our relationship with God and with one another. We’ll then proceed to a beautiful and reflective service that will help to set the tone for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

**Mah Jongg**
**Wednesday, September 17th at 7:00 PM**
Mah Jongg is a game that has been played for generations. Sinai Temple will host mah jongg for experienced players and beginners (with a lesson provided). Please bring your own card, extra cards to share if you have, a snack and a smile! Please RSVP to Jody at rabbijody@yahoo.com

**Bulletin Submission**
The deadline for the September Bulletin is September 15 at 9:00 AM. All submissions may be edited for length and content. Email submissions to Kathy Douglas: stoffice@sinaitemplecu.org.

**SAVE THESE DATES!**

**Sukkot Concert Weekend**
**Friday, October 10th & Saturday October 11th**
Sinai Temple is pleased to welcome Jewish musician and recording artist Alan Goodis! Alan is a Chicago-based musician whose work is well known in Jewish camp and youth group settings across the country.

Alan will join us for the weekend beginning with Friday night services for Shabbat Sukkot, at 7:30 PM on October 10th.

On Saturday morning, October 11th, the community is invited to brunch and a musical worship service at the Cook family’s sukkah in Champaign, featuring Rabbi Alan and Alan Goodis.

Saturday night, we’ll gather at Temple at 7:00 PM for Havdalah and a fabulous concert to round out the weekend. We are seeking sponsors to help make this fabulous weekend possible. Please contact Rabbi Alan if you are interested in sponsorship opportunities.

**Israel Trip**
**June 7th - 18th, 2015**
Sinai Temple is going to Israel! Our trip is scheduled for June 7-18, 2015 and has an itinerary appropriate for all ages and all types of travelers. Whether you are a first-timer or an Israel veteran, you’re invited to join the Cook family on this fun and educational exploration of Israel. A no-obligation informational meeting will be held on Thursday, September 18 at 7 pm at Temple. Please contact Rabbi Alan for more information.

**Food Drive**
**Saturday, October 4th, 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM**
Sinai Temple is once again collecting donations of food and funds during the High Holy Days to benefit the Eastern Illinois Food Bank. Last year, we collected over 500 lbs. of food and more than $5,000 in donations to help the Food Bank provide for the less fortunate in our community. We hope to meet or exceed that amount this year. Bags and donation envelopes will be available at services on Rosh Hashanah; please return any donations on Yom Kippur. Thank you for your generous support of this Tikkun Olam effort.
Sinai Temple Bulletin

Mazel Tovs!

Claire Glezer participated in the Machon Kaplan program through the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. Claire also wrote a nice blog post that you may be interested in. To learn more about the Machon Kaplan Summer Social Action Internship program, please visit http://rac.org/mk.

As a Kehilla Kedosha, a holy congregation, it is important that we support one another both in times of joy and in times of difficulty. If you or a loved one are experiencing a long-term illness or medical treatment and would like the support of your Temple community, please inform the office and/or Rabbi Alan and we will list pertinent information in the Bulletin.

Sinai Temple extends blessings of healing, comfort, and support to Linda Weichsel as she prepares to undergo post operative therapy at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN from September 15 - October 24. May God grant her a refuah sh’leimah, strengthening her in mind, body, and spirit.

Do you want to advertise with us? Contact Kathy in the Temple office for more information!

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.

Giving

GENERAL FUND
Carl & Carol Belber, in memory of Alfred Smith
Rita & Arnold Blockman, in memory of Alvin Berland, Blanche Sudman’s brother
Harvey Choldin & Marianna Tax, in memory of our parents
Nancy Greenstein & David Worsley, in memory of Jon David Worsley and in memory of Betty & Carl Greenstein
Jeffry & Claire Newman, in memory of Sidney Newman
Lucinda Strehlow, in memory of Carol Chabot

KITCHEN/ONEG FUND
Frank & Marilyn Adleman
Hilda Banks
Eva Blum
Brian & Terre Braun
Edward & Elaine Bruner
Annette & John Buckmaster
Ronald & Leanna Cossman
Stacy Deckard
Frances & Mitchell Harris
Sanford & Elizabeth Hess
Lyle Konigsberg & Susan Frankenberg
Kate Kuper & Rocky Maffit
Ira & Cecile Lebenson
Lilyan Levant
Ronald & Joyce Levy

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MUSIC FUND
Charles & Joan Kozoll, in memory of Harry Kozoll

RABBI’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
Firouz & Nasrin Gahvari

SIEGEL SOCIAL ACTION
Blanche Sudman, in memory of Alvin Berland and Alfred Smith

Andrew & Lisa Libman
Yoram & Carol Mizrahi
Ruth Morhaim
Alan & Jane Nathan
Barbara & Penn Nelson
Jeffry & Claire Newman
Dana Rabin & Craig Koslofsky
Gene & Julia Robinson
Randall & Jill Rosenbaum
Richard & Jacqueline Ross
Alexander Scheeline & Alice Berkson
Veronica Shavit
David & Carole Sinow
Christine & Frank Stephens
Judith & Steve Ullom
Barry & Linda Weiner

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# Memorials

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<th>Friday, September 5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harold Black (15 Elu)</td>
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<td>Daniel K. Bloomfield (12 Sep)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jorge Covarrubias (11 Sep)</td>
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<td>Jerome Ex (12 Sep)</td>
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<td>William Konick (10 Sep)</td>
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<td>Jerry Levant (8 Sep)</td>
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<td>Abraham Levy (11 Sep)</td>
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<td>Albert Abraham Liebovich (10 Sep)</td>
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<td>Blanche Loeb (8 Sep)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carrie Wiener Adler (15 Sep)</td>
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<td>Gloria Liss Bortman (18 Sep)</td>
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<td>Dorothy Ferrer (20 Elu)</td>
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<td>Bertha Freudenstein (19 Sep)</td>
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<td>Pauline Gitler (18 Sep)</td>
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<td>Max Greenberg (17 Sep)</td>
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<td>Dorothy Katz (13 Sep)</td>
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<td>Abe Leavitt (14 Sep)</td>
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<td>Zelda Hamburg Maus (19 Sep)</td>
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<td>Lucille J. Birkett (24 Sep)</td>
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<td>Donald Brieland (2 Tis)</td>
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<td>Ralph L. Dietchweiler (25 Sep)</td>
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<td>Marion G. Eskow (23 Sep)</td>
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<td>Penny Elizabeth Magence-Ginsberg (20 Sep)</td>
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<td>Elsie Mautner (23 Sep)</td>
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<td>Mordchai Neuman (1 Tis)</td>
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<td>Sara Rachel Neuman (1 Tis)</td>
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<td>Sol Orden (20 Sep)</td>
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<th>Friday, September 26</th>
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<td>Sali Wintner Blum (3 Oct)</td>
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<td>Florence Braverman (4 Tis)</td>
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<td>Solomon Bernstein Cohen (29 Sep)</td>
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<td>Lewis Ginsberg (3 Oct)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sol Goldberg (27 Sep)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ann Braun Goldfein (30 Sep)</td>
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<td>Shirley Zibel Gunther (2 Oct)</td>
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<td>Beatrice Herman (5 Tis)</td>
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<td>Becky S. Kozoll (30 Sep)</td>
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<td>Marvin N. Lesht (5 Tis)</td>
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Adding memorials to your membership record is simple. Just call the Temple office (or email us at assistant@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.
The purpose of Sinai Temple is to worship God in accordance with the Jewish faith; to cultivate a love and understanding of Jewish heritage through education; to stimulate fellowship in the Jewish community; to strengthen bonds of loyalty with Jewish people everywhere; and to bring nearer the Dominion of God on earth through an emphasis on righteousness (tzedakah), commandments (mitzvot), and goodwill (gemilut hasidim) to one another and to society at large.

Sinai Temple Gift Shop

SEPTEMBER SPECIALS

20% OFF ALL In-stock Apple & Honey Plates and Shofars. 40% OFF MERCHANDISE ON OUR INVENTORY CLEARANCE TABLE!
* Excludes previously reduced items, books and music.

September Hours of Operation
Sundays, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM (during Religious School);
Wednesdays 4:00 - 6:00 PM (during Hebrew School);
Thursdays 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Upcoming B’nai Mitzvah
September 6th, Maya Lerner

Remember to shop at Sinai Temple Gift Shop for all your Judaica needs. We offer a Gift Registry and Gift Certificates that never expire. All Gift Shop profits go to support the Religious School.

Please note: The Gift Shop is staffed by volunteers, so we suggest you call the Temple Office (352-8140), to make sure someone is in the shop, and we are always open by appointment. Email nataliefr@comcast.net or call Natalie Frankenberg (390-4168), Jessica Kopolow (344-6683) or Pam Olson (384-4335).

We accept cash, checks or credit cards (for purchases over $25).

THE HOLIDAYS ARE COMING

ORDER YOUR LULOV AND ETROG FOR SUKKOT NOW!

Order your Lulov and Etrog through the Gift Shop. All sets are kosher and include the Etrog, Lulav, Myrtles, Willows, and a Lulav bag.

Standard Set: $35
Prime Set: $50
Deluxe Set: $60
Superior Set: $70

Prices include shipping.

Orders with payment must be received by September 10th.

Please make checks payable to Sinai Temple Gift Shop.