

## From Rabbi Alan Cook's Desk



It seems cliché to note that this is an unusual moment. Pundits, politicians, school principals, employers and employees, chancellors and deans, and friends on social media all seem to point that out in every message we receive from them. As if we needed reminding—our routines

have been disrupted, events have been postponed, and we're becoming more proficient in virtual networking than we ever dreamed we could be. Yet we persist in marking this time as "unique" or "unprecedented," as if semantics alone can forestall these adaptations we've made from becoming permanent fixtures of our routine.

I don't know when or how we will get things under control and return to "normal." At Sinai Temple, we'll look to the medical and scientific experts for guidance on that, and we are fortunate to have a great local team at CU Public Health Districts to advise us on best practices. We can be grateful for their hard work, and for the dedication of many talented medical professionals and first responders throughout our community and throughout the world, who have been on the front lines of this battle to try to contain the spread of this pandemic.

In the meantime, I hope that you are doing well and staying safe and healthy. As Jake Sosnoff notes in his message to you this month, we continue to check in on one another, and we continue to pursue different avenues for maintaining virtual connections through services, classes, conversations, and programming.

We are sending a shortened version of the April Bulletin that will only be available on the Temple webpage. This is being done because of the lack of events at the Temple and to decrease volunteer and staff contact in the mailing process.

We are taught, "Do not stand idle while your neighbor bleeds." This important instruction takes on a new meaning in the context of responding to this global pandemic. Even if we feel healthy and unlikely to be at risk of being personally impacted by this virus, we must recognize that our neighbors may be "bleeding." Those who are immunocompromised or bear other risk factors related to age or illness rely on the rest of us not to stand idle, but to participate in isolation and other containment measures so that all of us are protected.

Our Passover Haggadah reminds us, "Even if all of us were wise, all of us understanding, all of us knowing the Torah, we would still be obligated to consider the exodus from a narrow place; and everyone who considers the exodus from a narrow place in great detail is praiseworthy." All of us living in the midst of this pandemic are confronting our own *Mitzrayim*, our own narrow places, our own places where our movements and actions and behaviors are constricted. The virus does not discriminate based on how learned or how religiously observant one is; each of us must equally engage in responding responsibly and appropriately.

One final thought (for now) from our textual tradition: Hillel said, "In a place where no one is acting like a human being, one must nevertheless strive to be a human being." In this unusual time (there's that word again), we may occasionally become angry, frustrated and/or impatient. But it's important that we strive not to let those behaviors overcome our better nature. Even if others are not acting like *mensch*s, let us still labor to be kind and compassionate to one another.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Alan Cook

Have a Mazal Tov you would like to share while we are all cooped up? Email Kathy at [stoffice@sinaitemplecu.org](mailto:stoffice@sinaitemplecu.org).



## From President Jacob Sosnoff

Dear Friends,

It does not seem that long ago, I was out delivering Purim baskets at Clark Lindsey with my family. Things have obviously changed in the last few weeks with the ongoing pandemic and the governor's shelter in place order. I am sure each and every one of us will have our own challenge(s) in the coming weeks as we adjust and adapt to the pandemic. I hope and pray that these challenges will not be related to your health or well-being or finances but rather mere inconveniences – along the lines of missing March Madness, postponing a trip or cancelling a birthday party. I want to make a point to thank Rabbi Alan, Rabbi Jody and Kathy Douglas for their leadership and dedication to Sinai during this unique time. To those working in health care – I want to extend a heartfelt thank you for your commitment to our health during this trying time.

During this time, my family, just like the vast majority of you, are getting used to the new normal. For us sheltering in place is providing a new understanding of the concept of *shalom bayit* (peaceful home). The good news is that Temple Sinai, Rabbi Alan, Rabbi Jody, the rest of Temple and our local Jewish community are actively working to minimize the impact of the pandemic on our community. Rabbi Alan has organized a group to call and check in on our entire congregation. If you haven't already, you should be receiving a phone call in the near future to see how you are doing. If there is anything you need – please let us know and we will work on a solution.

Rabbi Alan is becoming an expert at virtual services – complete with musical accompaniment! Keep a look out for the email link for next week's service. As Passover approaches, Sinai Temple is working with Hillel to provide resources so that we can enjoy seders at home. Rabbi Jody has been busy transitioning the religious school to an online format. Not only is she organizing online Hebrew instruction, she is also organizing talks to help parents with the transition to homeschool. She is also organizing online Jewish storytelling and other activities for our kids. Although the temple and religious school are physically closed, I want you to rest assured that the temple is here for you.

Although the times are challenging, we are fortunate to live in a community such as Champaign-Urbana and belong to Sinai Temple led by Rabbis Alan and Jody Cook. Though our offices are closed, we are continuing to monitor the phones and email. If you need anything, please reach out to the temple by calling 217-352-8140 or email ([president@sinaitemplecu.org](mailto:president@sinaitemplecu.org)).

Stay Healthy!

Cheers,

Jake

### SINAI TEMPLE MARCH 2020 BOARD MEETING

Trivia Night was a huge success! About \$4,800 raised. Thanks to Bart Greenberger, Dan Kopolow, and Gary Bernstein for organizing!

Necessary replacement of compressor in the west lobby heat pump was unanimously approved.

Sinai Temple will be applying for a Homeland Security grant to help fund aspects of the renovation dealing with security updates.

Two new member families were unanimously approved: Marsha Leizer, and Alison Rosenbaum and Yoni Khan. Welcome to Sinai Temple!

**Bulletin Submission:** The deadline to submit information for the **April Bulletin is March 15th**. All submissions may be edited for length and content. **EMAIL submissions to:** Roxanna Davison, [assistant@sinaitemplecu.org](mailto:assistant@sinaitemplecu.org).

# Giving

## **BUILDING FUND**

Sheryl Goldberg  
Eugene Greenberg  
Anne Heiles  
Amy O'Dell & Lee Deville

## **FRIENDS OF THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**

Leslie & Gary Mason

## **GENERAL FUND**

Gayle & Ira Kopin, in memory of Jenny Mandel  
Judy Lachman, in memory of Malcolm Lachman  
Dvora Tager, in memory of Ruth Tager, in  
memory of Steven Tager, in memory of  
Marcus Tager, in memory of Jessica  
Underberg, in memory of Marianne  
Meinikoff, in memory of Florence Reyman, in  
memory of Isaac Reyman, in memory of  
Solon Reyman  
Edward & Barbara Zinbarg

## **KITCHEN/ONEG FUND**

Anne Heiles

## **MUSIC FUND**

Anne Heiles, in memory of Matthew Mischakoff

## **RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Anne Heiles, in memory of Mischa Mischakoff, in  
memory of Paul Mischakoff & in memory of  
William Heiles

## **SECURITY FUND**

Eugene Greenberg  
Anne Heiles  
Amy O'Dell & Lee Deville

## **YESOD LE'ATID**

Michael & Susan Haney, in honor of Wynne Korr

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-March. Donations received after this date will be acknowledged in future Bulletins.



Out of the 17 General Contractors who received our invitation to bid on our renovation project, we received 4 proposals. (This is a reflection of how much construction activity is occurring in our area - our project is competing against many larger ones!) For those 4 companies, we are conducting meetings in March to discuss their approach – and we hope to have chosen a contractor by the time you see this newsletter.

Other aspects of the project are slowly moving along. The Design Team of the SRC met to review our Judaica and review which pieces we might want to have on display after the renovation. Their great idea was to focus on configurable hangings, so that we can rotate and change pieces from our existing collection – and any new ones that Sinai adds in the future.

Meanwhile, we are also reaching out to Acoustic and Audio/Visual experts, who will advise us during the design phase – and throughout the construction.

Rabbi Jody has found a crossword puzzle to pass the time. See the insert.

# Memorials

Friday, April 3

Helen Gold Beller (10 Apr)  
Edward Epstein (16 Nis)  
Barbara Ferdman ( 4 Apr)  
Joshua David Gottheil ( 4 Apr)  
Emanuel Heller (14 Nis)  
Donald Imlay (10 Apr)  
Clara Kaufman (10 Nis)  
Adam Koslofsky ( 4 Apr)

Lena Loeb Kuhn ( 8 Apr)  
Aaron Kurland ( 8 Apr)  
Hermine Ruth Lachman ( 7 Apr)  
Helaine Stone Lane ( 9 Apr)  
Leonard D. Lewis (10 Apr)  
Irma Lipson ( 4 Apr)  
Abraham Loeb ( 4 Apr)  
Woodrow Pearlman ( 6 Apr)

Jack Robinson (14 Nis)  
Sonja Robinson (10 Nis)  
Myer Joseph Rosenfield (13 Nis)  
Selig Schwartz ( 9 Apr)  
Nina Nelson Seidenberg ( 4 Apr)  
Lenore Levy Simon ( 6 Apr)  
Marcus Tager ( 4 Apr)

Friday, April 10

Dr Samuel Bojar (17 Nis)  
Henia Shifreh Bursztyn (19 Nis)  
Saerree K. Fiedler (14 Apr)  
Gertrude H. Francisco (19 Nis)  
Benjamin Grossman (12 Apr)  
Miriam B. Kaplan (16 Apr)  
Edward R. Kerman (12 Apr)  
Clara Koslofsky (16 Apr)

Gary Lyon (16 Apr)  
Ruth Marshak (12 Apr)  
Amelia A. Reineberg (16 Apr)  
Lee W. Reineberg (16 Apr)  
Alex Rubin (14 Apr)  
Gladys Singman (11 Apr)  
Abraham Sitron (12 Apr)

Friday, April 17

Joel Lee Agran (21 Apr)  
Evelyn Nelson Bros (21 Apr)  
Hannah Choldin (21 Apr)  
Louis Cutler (19 Apr)  
Michael Faiman (24 Nis)  
Fay Ferrer (24 Nis)  
Wahei Fujimoto (29 Nis)  
Faye Garrick (24 Nis)  
Lillian Gingold (22 Apr)

Fred Gottheil (19 Apr)  
Alvin Hamburg (19 Apr)  
Daniel Leon Harlib (29 Nis)  
Sidney Kadish (20 Apr)  
Florine Lesht (28 Nis)  
Dorothy Evelyn Pollard Liebovich (22 Apr)  
Mathilde Loeb (24 Apr)  
Rose Maus (18 Apr)

Mary Ann Nathan (29 Nis)  
Ida Reider (30 Nis)  
Natalie M. Smith (21 Apr)  
Joyce Snyder (23 Apr)  
Gertrude Katz Tax (21 Apr)  
Beatrice R. Tepper (21 Apr)  
Rose Weissman (19 Apr)

Friday, April 24

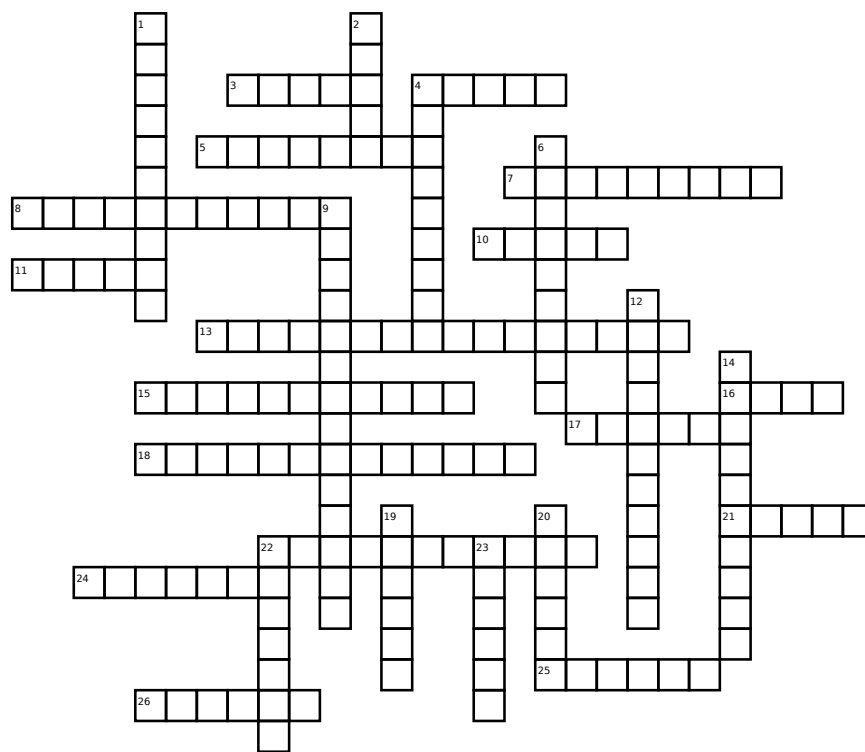
Leon M. Ades (25 Apr)  
Samuel Adleman (30 Apr)  
Molly Belber (26 Apr)  
Frank A. Berg (27 Apr)  
Henrietta N. Bloomfield ( 5 Iya)  
Edward Israel Blum (29 Apr)  
Leah Cohen Bojar ( 7 Iya)  
Isidore Brill (29 Apr)  
Misha Bursztyn ( 4 Iya)

Bertha Rabinowitz Diness (30 Apr)  
Dorothy Diamond Ehrich ( 1 Iya)  
Sarah Gofseyeff Heller ( 6 Iya)  
Raisa Ionina ( 1 May)  
Alfred Kohn (28 Apr)  
Celia Berman Kulwin (30 Apr)  
Lewis Lasker (26 Apr)  
Ethel Uritz Marcus (29 Apr)  
Ida Levine Markoff (30 Apr)

Penn Nelson ( 1 May)  
Kenneth H. Ober (26 Apr)  
Herbert Rubinstein (29 Apr)  
Helen Kranson Siess ( 1 May)  
David Uzrad ( 5 Iya)  
Rose Weissler ( 4 Iya)  
Theodore H. Zimmerman ( 1 May)

Adding memorials to your membership record is simple. Just call the Temple office 217-352-8140 or email us at [stoffice@sinaitemplecu.org](mailto: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.

# Puzzling Times



## Down:

1. toddler religious school
2. Being of Jewish Folklore
4. Ancient Jewish Council
6. Rosh Hashana Treat
9. Rosh Hashana Dipper
12. our president
14. What is in the sky when Shabbat ends
19. How an Ebook lights candles
20. Go Up
22. weekly holiday
23. flatbread

## Across:

3. noodle dish
4. organized dinner
5. Pesach dessert
7. holiest day
8. New Year
10. silly city in stories
11. Who we Boo
13. Talmudic Pair
15. Shabbat joy
16. ----- Nagila
17. acceptable
18. Havdallah light
21. Native Israeli
22. our spiritual home
24. marriage canopy
25. Campus Jewish Organization
26. Greens we Dip