

Schedule of Services

Reform Services

Friday, October 2, 2020 7:30 PM Erev Sukkot Service and Program

Join us for Shabbat and the first night of Sukkot. As Sukkot reminds us of the importance of the buildings and structures of our lives, we will honor and reminisce about our beloved congregational home, as we prepare for its transformation during our Yesod LeAtid renovation project.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86158547545>

Meeting ID: 861 5854 7545

Saturday, October 3, 10 AM ETM Sukkot Morning Service

A Shabbat and Festival morning service, conducted by the Egalitarian Traditional Minyan.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83931040305>

Meeting ID: 839 3104 0305



Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah

Saturday, October 10, 10 AM ETM Shemini Atzeret Morning Service

Topic: ETM Shemini Atzeret Morning Service

We celebrate Shabbat and the Festival of Shemini Atzeret in a service conducted by the Egalitarian Traditional Minyan. *Yizkor* memorial prayers will be recited.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84783519337>

Meeting ID: 847 8351 9337

Saturday, October 10, 7:30 PM Simchat Torah

We rejoice in the Torah, which contains the stories of our people. We'll begin by making Havdalah together to mark the conclusion of Shabbat. Then we'll hear some of our favorite Torah-inspired Jewish stories from fabulous Jewish storytellers. We will hear the last words of the Torah from Deuteronomy and the first words from Genesis. Plus, we'll have some other fun surprises!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89456844749>

Meeting ID: 894 5684 4749

The password for each of these events will be . Please make a note of this password; it is not available online.

Bulletin Submission: The deadline for **November Bulletin is October 15th**. All submissions may be edited for length and content. **EMAIL submissions to:** Kathy Douglas at stoffice@sinaitemplecu.org.

From Rabbi Alan Cook's Desk



Al cheit she-chatati. For the sin I have committed...

Throughout our High Holiday services that we just recently completed as we entered 5781, we repeated a version of this refrain. We sought to take responsibility for our past deeds and words that were inconsistent with our best selves. We acknowledged that the

first step to true atonement is to recognize where we have gone astray and to pledge to make concrete changes. We came together across our Zoom screens and recited this litany of confessions crafted by the liturgists of past generations. Hopefully, we said them in true contrition and took the words to heart.

And yet, I find that I must confess another sin...

At least twice during the High Holidays, I quoted the great sage Rabbi Hillel and segments of his profound statement from Mishnah Avot 2:5. He states, "Do not separate yourself from the community." Further in that same passage, he proclaims, "Do not say: 'I will study when I find the time, for perhaps you shall never find the time.'" When I shared Rabbi Hillel's words with you, I had the best of intentions. I spoke them wholeheartedly.

And yet, *Al chet shechatati*- for the sin I have committed, I must confess.

I have stood idly by these past few months as the situation in our country has deteriorated. Science has been ridiculed or ignored, contributing to an explosion in the coronavirus pandemic. Dangerous white supremacists have felt emboldened to spread their messages of hate. Gun violence has continued to unfold across our communities. Racial injustices continue to be perpetrated against individuals and communities of color. Protections for the LGBTQ+ community to live and love openly and freely have been rolled back. Socioeconomic inequities have been exacerbated and jobless claims are on the rise.

I have spoken about and tweeted about and written about these and other issues, which, though some have sought to politicize them, sit squarely as moral and religious issues fully consistent with Jewish values. But my words have been somewhat empty, as I have failed to back them up with action.

"There's too much on my plate today. I'll call my congressperson tomorrow. I'll write that letter tomorrow. I'll make a contribution tomorrow. I'll sign a petition tomorrow."

Rabbi Hillel reminds us not to wait until tomorrow to accomplish these important tasks.

If there is an issue about which you feel strongly, or a candidate in whom you believe, or a cause that you wish to champion, the time is NOW. Support those causes that are consistent with your Jewish values; support the candidates who you believe will guide this community, state, or country toward the sort of future you wish to bequeath to your children or grandchildren.

Write the postcards. Make the calls. Contribute financially (if you are able). Protest peacefully (if you are comfortable gathering in public). And on or before November 3, make a plan to vote.

*Al tifrosh min ha-tzibbur...*do not separate yourself from the community.

Al chet shechatati- for the sin I have committed through my inaction, I am truly sorry. Today, the work begins.

L'Shalom u'litz'dakah,

To peace and justice for all,

Rabbi Alan Cook



From President Jacob Sosnoff

Dear Friends,

I hope you each had a wonderful and insightful high holidays. Although it was a unique experience to be celebrating through Zoom, Ruth, the boys and I all had meaningful services. There is something to be said for attending the Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur service with the family dog cuddled up against you. For this month's bulletin I have taken the liberty to provide my High Holiday speech – not that I suspect that anyone walked away during its online delivery – but I want to make sure my message of appreciation and gratitude for Rabbi Alan, Rabbi Jody and the wonderful staff of the Temple is seen broadly.

I want to thank Rabbi Alan and Cantor Jennifer Seeger for leading this meaningful worship. I also want to take a moment to thank Kathy Douglas, the temple administrator, and Natalie Peterson, the temple's bookkeeper for their dedication to the temple. I also want to acknowledge all of the hard work and dedication that Rabbi Jody provides to the RS. We are truly fortunate to have such wonderful people working at Sinai.

I want to acknowledge all of the hard work and difficult decisions that the BOT has had to make during this interesting year. A special shout out to Art Siegel who tirelessly does a little bit of everything to keep the temple standing and to Ben Hankin for chairing the COVID committee and all of the congregation for working with us in this new "normal". I am grateful to be surrounded by so many menches who put the well being of the community in the forefront of their actions.

It's been quite a year – there has been no doubt that this year has been filled with challenges. I am not going to list all of the challenges we have faced, I want to focus instead on my gratitude and appreciation for all that we as a congregation have accomplished

This year has reiterated to me that we are a family of families caring for one another and fostering a sense of community – even if we are forced to do so in a virtual environment. I am honored to be part of such a great congregation. I am appreciative of the innovative ways we have continued to come together (drive by ice cream sandwiches for Shovout, HHD baskets, virtual concerts, – shofar in the park (really excited about this – congregants and RS students where leading the way in helping our community celebrate the new year – by blowing the shofar throughout CU).

We have continued to offer a full slate of programming – Shabbat services, torah study, adult ed offerings, virtual concerts, RS. As a community we have continued to celebrate several simcha's including Bnai Mitzvah (I was overly impressed with the young adults pose and resilience in reaching their milestone), baby namings and a wedding or two and even added a few new member families. We did all of this during a global pandemic.

I am grateful for the continued dedication of the congregation to

the temple. We have an active core of volunteers that facilitate the operations of the temple. Despite our remote operations we still are in need of volunteers. Collectively we have come together for Labor of Love, Sukkah building, green team, phone calls to check on the congregation, meal trains, etc. To those that help – thank you and to those of you who are looking to new ways to help – please reach out.

Not only do we empower the CU-Jewish community, but we continue to work to make CU a better place. We actively support the MLK scholarship program, the EI foodbank, active in interfaith collaborations and various others social action causes. Ruth and I are privileged to be part of and raise our sons in congregation and community focused on the multiple aspects of Tikun Olam – repairing the world.

Talking about repairing..., the roof suffered significant damage during the hail storm in August. In testament to the foresight of the leadership of the temple and continual generosity of the congregation, we have ample funds set aside (in combination with our insurance settlement) for such a large expense. In the coming years we will need to continue to grow the building fund to facilitate future planned and unplanned maintenance of the building.

The renovation project continues to move forward. I am thankful to the leadership of Sanford Hess and the rest of the SRC as they lend countless hours to the projects. We are in the final stages of the design and are in the process of align the design with our budget. Due to the congregation's generosity we have raised over a million dollars. Keep in mind that the scope and impact of this project are dependent on our continual support. We completely understand and anticipate that some households will not be able to be as generous as they once were. We ask those who are in the alternate position and are able to give more at this time to recognize that any additional help will go a long way.

I am excited that we are positioned to continue to build or should I say at least renovate for the future generation of CU's Jewish community. I am grateful to live in and be part of this families of families that we call Sinai Temple. The temple was founded in 1904 – several generations have had the foresight and generosity to build this congregation for us. Now it is our turn to build for the future. Please reach out to Wynne Korr chair of development or myself to discuss how you can help build for future generations.

I hope 5781 is filled with sweetness and joy and if it is not know that Sinai Temple, your family of families is here for you. Shana Tovah!

Cheers,
Jake Sosnoff

SINAI TEMPLE SEPTEMBER 2020 BOARD MEETING

- ☆ Plans for the Renovation continue to go well. The Board voted to approve an significant amount of resources by which the Temple renovation process will proceed. Within this approved budget, the renovation will focus on updating the sanctuary, pods and bathrooms. The Board is excited to see the start of renovation activities.
- ☆ The Board is delighted to welcome new members, Sam and Judith Bernstein.
- ☆ The Board as well as the Finance Committee continue to regularly monitor the Temple's financial situation given wide economic concerns due to the pandemic. For the last several months, the Temple is doing well financially, although Board members appreciate potential uncertainties ahead.
- ☆ Religious Education is going well. Rabbi Jody has spent considerable time and effort putting together exciting and enriching remote learning options for students and has all teaching positions filled for this year.

Amazon Smile

If you are a regular Amazon user, Sinai Temple is an organization you can choose while using Amazon Smile. A percentage of your purchases will go to the Temple. It is easy to join by going to smile.amazon.com.

YESOD LE'ATID RENOVATION

Sinai Renovation Committee

During the month of September, the Sinai Renovation Committee (SRC) met with the architects and contractor to finalize cost estimates for the components of the renovation. Different parts of the project were estimated individually, especially because some of the changes were added after the initial discussion of the renovation. (Just one example: a proposal to revamp the Library space and make it more usable.)

An important meeting occurred on September 22nd when the Board met to determine the final budget for the renovation project. While we will not be able to do all of the updates desired, the SRC will now use the overall project budget to make final decisions about finishes, and what parts of the work will be performed. Those discussions will occur during October, with a goal of starting construction as close to the original schedule as possible.

Development Committee

Thanks to all who have stepped up to the plate to help us achieve our goals for the renovation. As you know, difficult decisions are being made to fit the project to the funds that we have raised thus far. Please think about increasing your pledge.

Please contact me if you have questions -
wynne.korr@gmail.com

Wynne Korr



Mazel Tov

on your

Bar Mitzvah

Jacob Harkins will be called to the Torah on Saturday, October 24 at 10AM. The very last Bar Mitzvah in the sanctuary before it is renovated!! Jacob is the son of Sara Topolosky and grandson of Maury and Janis Topolosky. He is now attending Edison Middle School this year as a 7th grader :) Jacob ran for Edison last year on the cross country team and plans to do so again along with track whenever it is safe to do so. Jacob enjoys running and has participated in multiple 5Ks in the Champaign Urbana area since the age of 6. He also loves swimming, basketball, bike riding, and cooking. Jacob loves animals and would have been a fantastic helper to Noah on the Ark. Jacob has spent 3 summers at OSRUI being immersed in Jewish culture and community and feels the warmth of our Sinai community even though we cannot celebrate this life cycle event together in person.



The Sukkah is Here!

The Sukkah is built and ready for use. You must reserve the Sukkah since we want to assure safety and social distancing during this holiday season. Please take your trash with you (the trash hauling has been suspended during the COVID) and wipe down all surfaces before you leave.

To reserve the Sukkah go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4aafae2ea1f58-2020> . If none of these times work for you, please contact Rabbi Alan.

Special thanks to those that built the Sukkah this year.

Abby Bernstein
 Gary Bernstein
 Tonya Bernstein
 Ava Kopolow
 Dan Kopolow
 Jessica Kopolow



Mazel
Tov

Judith and Richard Kaplan are very pleased to announce the engagement of their son, David, to Leigh Gershman, daughter of Jo-Anne and Michael Gershman of San Antonio, Texas. A fall wedding is planned.



Religious School News

5781 is (finally) here and we are ready to start a new year of Sinai Temple Religious School. I want to thank our families – we have nearly 100% of our students from last year signed up already and several new students who will be joining our school. For those who don't know, the Sinai Temple Board of Trustees made a decision that we would hold school online through December and we will evaluate the risks associated with COVID-19 later in the year before making a decision about second semester. Online school will be different, and it might even present some challenges, but I appreciate families recognizing the benefits of supporting Sinai Temple and each other as we navigate our way through this new style of learning. I am confident that our learners will be happy to be together again and that they will strengthen their sense of Jewish identity and connectedness through the weekly classes. If you have any questions about the religious school, please send an email to Rabbi Jody – educator@sinaitemplecu.org

Schedule: A link to a calendar was shared with religious school families several weeks ago. If you need access to this calendar, please email Rabbi Jody. Our first session will be on October 18 – please watch for an email blast with details about the first day and log in information.

Sukkot and Simchat Torah:

This year, as Sukkot approaches, I have been thinking a lot about two of many teachings associated with Sukkot. First, sukkot (the structures) teach us about the meaning of temporary. Each year, our family builds a sukkah. Each year, we have small disagreements about HOW to build the sukkah (the same one we have been building since 2004). Each year, we eat about 5 meals in our sukkah. We often times have events at Sinai Temple or are invited to another home, we usually miss breakfast in the sukkah because it is COLD or we are too rushed, etc. Each year, we still build the sukkah, on the heels of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur and in the midst of religious school planning. This year, for me, there are so many parallels to the pandemic and to our sukkah. Both are temporary. Both are difficult. Both require us to be patient while also certainly causing us to lose things like our temper and even some of our joy. Both give us family dinners. Both also encourage us to try new recipes and experiment with foods. While you celebrate Sukkot, take some time to think about what in life is permanent, what in life is temporary and how we can overcome challenges and use creativity to adapt to the circumstances.

The second teaching is about ushpizin, the custom of inviting guests to your sukkah. Traditionally, we invite symbolic guests to dwell with us in our sukkot (hut, not holiday). The guests (traditionally, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Aaron, Joseph and King David with the additions of Sarah, Miriam, Drborah, Hannah, Abigail, Hulda and Esther) reminds us that we were once a wandering people. I love the idea of asking people who they would invite to their sukkah and what questions they would ask of these guests. Unfortunately, we will not be able to have guests in our home sukkah this year. It will be a great exercise to think about people who could visit and what we could learn from them.



Announcements

BOOK GROUP



The Book Group usually meets the third Monday of the month at 7:30 PM.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic we will be meeting via Zoom until it is again safe to meet in person. An email with the Zoom link will be sent the morning of the meeting. If you wish to participate, and are not a regular book group attendee, please email nataliefr@comcast.net

Contact Person: Susan Schomer (359-2938).

October 19: There There by Tommy Orange

GENTLE CHAIR YOGA

ONLINE: Tuesdays and Saturdays

For those who would like to do chair yoga, online, with Robin, while in your home, please contact her at robinfans1@gmail.com.

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

Sinai Temple Gift Shop

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

The Gift Shop is open by appointment only. Please call or email Jessica Kopolow at 217-417-8699 or jessicakopolow@yahoo.com.

2020 Mah Jongg Cards



If you forgot to order one or need an extra one, we have a few extra 2020 Mah Jongg cards for sale. The cost is \$8 per card. If you're interested, please contact Natalie Frankenberg (nataliefr@comcast.net)

The Building Committee would like to thank all those who gave of their time and energy to a very successful Labor of Love this past Labor Day.

Many thanks to all who helped with Labor of Love! The grounds and flower beds look great! Those who deserve a big "thank you" are:

Sara & Avery Benson
Alice Berkson
Sarah Bleill
Jody, Gabe & Orli Cook
Bill & Reva Egberman
Stacy Gloss
Bart Greenberger
Sanford Hess
Warren Lavey & Holly Rosencranz
Ben & Jess LeRoy
Rob & Diane Ore
Amy Roady
Art Siegel
Janis Topolosky
Steve Wolf



Ben Roughton has completed his Eagle Scout project by building a bench for the Sinai Temple playground. Thank you, Ben, for this wonderful edition to the Sinai Temple grounds. It will be enjoyed for many years to come.





Giving for September



BUILDING FUND

Sara & Eric Benson
 Samuel & Judith Bernstein
 Don & Joyce Francisco
 Ann Einhorn, in memory of Hal Gluskoter
 Eugene Greenberg
 Stephen & Anita Hamburg
 Ben & Michelle Hankin
 William & Eileen Kohen
 Perry & Kathi Kohn
 Ira & Cecile Levenson
 Lee & Evan Melhado
 Alan & Jane Nathan
 Susan & Michael Roughton
 Alison Rosenblum & Yonatan Kahn
 Sara Schwebel
 Edward & Nancy Tepper
 John Walter & Joy Thornton-Walter
 Arielle & Russell Weinstein

PAULA DECKARD FUND

Gary & Tonya Bernstein, in memory of Annette Bernstein

GENERAL FUND

Natalie Frankenberg, in honor of the Simchat Bat for Yael Cohen
 William & Phyllis Gingold, in memory of Steven Gingold
 Anita Hochberger, in appreciation of High Holiday Services
 Lois Adele Meyer, Joyce D. Meyer & Bess R. Meyer, in memory of Paul Hyman Meyer

INTERIOR FUND

Leslie & Gary Mason, in memory of Vera Korry and in memory of Mira Hamburg

KITCHEN/ONEG FUND

Don & Joyce Francisco
 Eugene Greenberg
 Ben & Michelle Hankin
 William & Eileen Kohen
 Ira & Cecile Levenson
 Lee & Evan Melhado
 Alan & Jane Nathan
 Alison Rosenblum & Yonatan Kahn
 Sara Schwebel
 Arielle & Russell Weinstein

LIBRARY FUND

Beri & Joel Schwitzer, in loving memory of Henrietta Schwartz. What an honor and privilege to work with such a loving and caring woman.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Gary & Tonya Bernstein
 Paul & Mary Friedman

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Vera Korry

SECURITY FUND

Sara & Eric Benson
 Samuel & Judith Bernstein
 Don & Joyce Francisco
 Eugene Greenberg
 Stephen & Anita Hamburg
 Ben & Michelle Hankin
 William & Eileen Kohen
 Perry & Kathi Kohn
 Ira & Cecile Levenson
 Lee & Evan Melhado
 Alan & Jane Nathan
 Alison Rosenblum & Yonatan Kahn
 Edward & Nancy Tepper
 Sara Schwebel
 John Walter & Joy Thornton-Walter
 Arielle & Russell Weinstein

Eastern Illinois Food Bank High Holiday Food Drive

As everything else this year, the Holiday Food Drive is virtual! Please, send your monetary donation directly to the food bank at 2405 N Shore Dr, Urbana, IL 61802. Put Sinai Temple in the memo line so we get credit for the donation. Thank you for your generous support of this *Tikkun Olam* effort.

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.



Memorials for October



Friday, October 2	Jerome Aprill (3 Oct) Dr Richard Back (5 Oct) Mathilde Back (5 Oct) Fela Bankier (5 Oct) Sali Wintner Blum (3 Oct) Hormozd Gahvari (3 Oct) Lewis Ginsberg (3 Oct) Merle Garber Hamburg (6 Oct) Jeffrey Paul Kaufman (17 Tis)	Max Kushner (8 Oct) Estelle Langendorf (3 Oct) Isadore Jack Levy (7 Oct) Dorothy Lowenstein (5 Oct) Mortimer Merkel (4 Oct) Leah Norian (7 Oct) Emily Sara Peterman (6 Oct) Charles S. Prince (8 Oct) Norma Rosenberg (5 Oct)	Ceil Rubinstein (3 Oct) Henry Sapoznik (7 Oct) Abraham Simon (7 Oct) William Martin Youngerman (8 Oct)
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Friday, October 9	Gertrude Bach (12 Oct) Morris B. Berenbaum (11 Oct) Morris Berg (13 Oct) Rose Creinin (28 Tis) Pearl Tepper Feldman (15 Oct) Louis Ferratier (24 Tis) Behrooz Gahvari (22 Tis) Sylvia Gordon (11 Oct)	David Z. Hamburg (13 Oct) Friedrich Katz (16 Oct) Jack Kemp (11 Oct) Max R. Klein (12 Oct) Miriam Lipson (15 Oct) Rachel Frank Litman (10 Oct) Aaron Edward Markoff (11 Oct) David Adam O'Connor-Shoresman (10 Oct)	Arthur Robinson (16 Oct) Joseph Rotman (16 Oct) Bernard Sharp (13 Oct) Rima Siegel Fox (16 Oct) Ida Spatt (10 Oct) Jason C. Stone (14 Oct) June Wolbach (11 Oct)
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Friday, October 16	Sarah Blockman (5 Che) Harold Jay Cohen (17 Oct) Milton Stephen Cohen (17 Oct) Anne Corman (22 Oct) Lester Frankenberg (23 Oct) Bonnie Gordon (17 Oct) Robert E. Green (20 Oct) David Herman (3 Che) Frederick H. Kanfer (18 Oct)	Eleanor Banks Kawin (22 Oct) Leroy Kopolow (21 Oct) Nathan Lieberman (21 Oct) Harry Pikowsky (18 Oct) Florence Starobin Reyman (21 Oct) Robert Rosenbaum (19 Oct) Henrietta Israel Schwartz (22 Oct) Sylvia Levin Silver (22 Oct) Victor Stolarsky (29 Tis)	Eugene H. Wollstein (23 Oct)
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Friday, October 23	Paltiel Bach (28 Oct) Lucie M. Field (24 Oct) Kurt Gottschalk (26 Oct) Sara Kuhn Kaufman (27 Oct) Myra Kopolow (25 Oct) Myron Korry (26 Oct) Fannie Kurland (30 Oct) David Rabin (26 Oct) Morris Solomon (30 Oct)	Louis Isaac Steinberg (11 Che) Herman Sweital (24 Oct)
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Friday, October 30	Paltiel Bach (28 Oct) Lucie M. Field (24 Oct) Kurt Gottschalk (26 Oct) Sara Kuhn Kaufman (27 Oct) Myra Kopolow (25 Oct) Myron Korry (26 Oct) Fannie Kurland (30 Oct) David Rabin (26 Oct) Morris Solomon (30 Oct)	Louis Isaac Steinberg (11 Che) Herman Sweital (24 Oct)
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