

## Schedule of Services

### FRIDAY, MAY 7

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

### FRIDAY, MAY 14

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Confirmation Service

### TUESDAY, May 18

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan—Shavuot

### FRIDAY, MAY 21

6:30 PM Shabbat Rocks!/Next Dor

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

### SATURDAY, MAY 22

10:00 AM Moses Fisher Bar Mitzvah

### FRIDAY, MAY 29

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

Join us for  
Shabbat.



## Special Scholar Session

### Tuesday, May 4

Sinai Temple is pleased to partner with Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion for a special opportunity to learn with Rabbi Joshua Garroway, PhD. Rabbi Garroway is the Sol and Arlene Bronstein Professor of Judaeo-Christian Studies, and a Professor of Early Christianity and Second Commonwealth at HUC-JIR Los Angeles (he's also a friend and classmate of Rabbi Alan). He will be speaking on "The Apostle Paul: A First Century Reform Jew?" at 5 PM on Tuesday, May 4. Following his presentation, Rabbi Garroway will join us for a special breakout conversation and Q&A. Register for Rabbi Garroway's talk [through the HUC website here](#) The link to the breakout session is [here](#).

When you register with HUC, you will receive a separate link and password for the talk itself; the password for the breakout room is **Torah613**.

## Shavuot is Coming!

A tradition of the festival of Shavuot is to engage in study throughout the evening, a practice known as Tikkun Leil Shavuot. On **Sunday evening, May 16 through Monday morning May 17**, Sinai Temple will be joining with a number of congregations throughout North America to provide study opportunities for the festival of Shavuot. This program allows you to attend those sessions that are most of interest to you. There will be a variety of offerings covering a wide range of subjects throughout the evening and into the morning (Rabbi Alan teaches at 9 AM Central on Monday morning). A full listing of options is available from [Temple Sinai of Reno, NV which is hosting registration; please click here to sign up](#).

On **Friday, May 14 at 7:30 PM**, our confirmation students will lead the Shabbat evening service as they celebrate the completion of their years of formal study at Sinai Temple Religious School. Emma Donnini, daughter of Karen Rudolph and David Donnini; and Norah Kopolow, daughter of Jessica and Dan Kopolow, are thoughtful and dedicated students. They have shown themselves to be leaders in our congregation and in their community, affirming their place among the Jewish people and committing themselves to furthering the teachings of their faith. We wish them each a hearty Mazal Tov on reaching this point in their education.



Rabbi Joshua Garroway

## From Rabbi Alan Cook's Desk



As we all know, Central Illinois is not known for its mountainous terrain. After having lived in Seattle and in Denver, where one can navigate relative to the position of the mountains on the horizon, the relatively simple topography of our community represented a bit of a change.

I don't mean to misrepresent myself; even when I lived in those communities, I was not a frequent visitor to the mountains. Though I enjoy the view from the top if there's an easy path or a cable car, I'm not cut out for the calculation and exertion that the actual sport of mountain climbing requires. But there's another way to ascend to the mountaintop, and each of us has been making this symbolic journey over the past several weeks.

The Jewish calendar and its festivals present a template for experiential education. On Sukkot we are asked to construct a tabernacle like the temporary structures in which our ancestors dwelt while in the wilderness; this helps us to appreciate the experiences of our forebears, and makes us more grateful for the gift of shelter that most of us are fortunate to enjoy. On Passover, we re-enact the seder each year, imagining the haste of the ancient Israelites as they prepared for their first taste of freedom. Now, we are approaching the festival of Shavuot, possibly the least well-known of the three pilgrimage festivals outlined in the Torah. It, too, calls us to imagine ourselves in an historical context: standing at the foot of Sinai awaiting the revelation of the Torah.

Traditionally, the period between Passover and Shavuot is a time of counting and anticipation known as the omer. It marked the time between the wheat harvest and the barley harvest, but in so doing, it also encouraged us to look forward to this commemoration of the giving of the Torah.

We will be celebrating Shavuot at Sinai Temple in a number of ways. On **Friday, May 14 at 7:30 PM**, our confirmation students will lead the Shabbat evening service as they

celebrate the completion of their years of formal study at Sinai Temple Religious School. Emma Donnini, daughter of Karen Rudolph and David Donnini; and Norah Kopolow, daughter of Jessica and Dan Kopolow, are thoughtful and dedicated students. They have shown themselves to be leaders in our congregation and in their community, affirming their place among the Jewish people and committing themselves to furthering the teachings of their faith. We wish them each a hearty Mazal Tov on reaching this point in their education. The service can be joined at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86158547545>

**On Sunday evening, May 15 through Monday morning May 16**, Sinai Temple will be joining with a number of congregations throughout North America to provide study opportunities for the festival of Shavuot. It is traditional to spend the evening of the festival engaged in all-night study (known as *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*); our program allows you to attend those sessions that are most of interest to you. There will be a variety of offerings covering a wide range of subjects throughout the evening and into the morning (Rabbi Alan teaches at 9 AM Central on Monday morning). A full listing of options is available from Temple Sinai of Reno, NV which is hosting registration: <https://sinaireno.org/2021/04/21/shavuot-5781/>

**On Tuesday, May 17 at 10 AM**, we will have a service for the Second Day of Shavuot. This Egalitarian Traditional service will use the Conservative siddur *Lev Shalem* and will include Hallel psalms, selections from the Book of Ruth, and Yizkor memorial prayers. All are welcome. The service can be joined at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82990974509>

We look forward to the opportunity to continue to climb to new heights together—during our celebrations of Shavuot, and each time we come together as a holy community.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Alan Cook

### SINAI TEMPLE April 2021 BOARD MEETING

The Board approved the contract with the General Contractor to renovate key portions of the Temple, for the sanctuary and pods.

The Board voted to have Faith N Place provide funds for the planting of native trees on Temple property. (see page 6)

Reports from key committees show the Temple's financial state is solid.

Nominations for the Board and leadership positions have been made by the Nominations committee. Good luck to all those nominated and thank you for your service in advance.

## From President Jacob Sosnoff

Dear Friends,

Writing this bulletin piece is bittersweet. This is my last bulletin piece as president as my term ends at the annual meeting. My presidency has not been what I expected – much as forewarned by my dear friend Gary Bernstein. I fondly remember him as he was finishing his term as past-president, give me sage advice – something along the lines of you will not accomplish what you plan, but you will accomplish something of importance. (Gary’s advice was much better than my brother’s – don’t get impeached). Throughout all the challenges of the last few years, I was frequently reminded of how wonderful Sinai Temple and community truly is. We have come together generously to renovate the building for the next generation, renewed our focus on safety and wellbeing of the congregation and have weathered the political divisiveness that has plagued our country. I am thankful to have had the opportunity to serve as your congregational president.

As I complete my term, I want to thank several other officers and trustees who have helped navigate this interesting year: Rob Ore as his term of past president concludes. Sinai Temple has been fortunate to have his leadership and insight over the last six years. Bart Greenberger has completed his role as financial secretary. Not only did Bart do a stellar job managing pledge payments, he was instrumental in keep operating costs low by getting services for the temple for reduce price – due to his local connections. I also want to thank Lisa Libman, Maury Topolosky, Bill Egberman and Deb Levine for their contributions as trustees. I wish all of them well and am grateful for their commitment to Sinai.

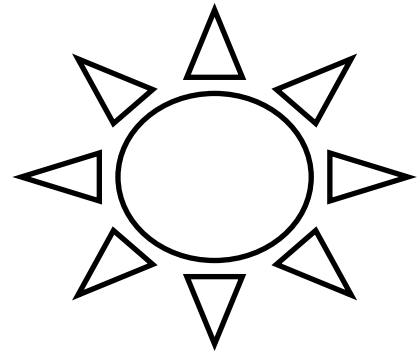
Thank you to Diane Ore for chairing the nominations committee. She, with the help of her committee, was able to compile a wonderful slate of candidates in record time. I am eager to see all of the new energies that the candidates will add to the new space. I look forward to all that Sinai will accomplish with Julia Rietz as president.

The board continues to be busy. Last month we officially approved the signing of the contract with the general contract – which allowed for the next stage of the renovation to begin. If you haven’t see pictures of the renovation online – the addition of windows and natural light into the sanctuary is impressive. (I want to thank the renovation committee as they continue to make difficult decisions on the various finishes and such). The return to building committee met and discussed our path to getting back in person. The committee is drafting recommendations for the board to act on in the May board meeting.

I look forward to “seeing” you at the annual meeting where the budget will be presented and we will vote on the latest board membership.

Cheers,

Jake



**Bulletin Submission:** The deadline to submit information for the **June/July Bulletin is May 15th**. All submissions may be edited for length and content. **EMAIL submissions to:** Kathy Douglas at [stoffice@sinaitemplecu.org](mailto:stoffice@sinaitemplecu.org).

# Announcements



The past month saw the end of demolition and the beginning of construction. The most visible step was cutting large holes in the brick walls of the sanctuary for the new windows. As the pictures (including the one in the News-Gazette) show, this started on the interior South wall and then as the weather improved the exterior North wall. Rest assured, the workers will take careful steps to protect the building while there's a hole in the wall before the glass is installed. Also shown in the pictures: there's a noticeable amount of additional light, which is exactly the desired result!

Many design decisions were refined in the past month, including choosing a chair (the "Sauder Unity") and the shades for the flooring in the pods & sanctuary carpet. Closing one of the biggest open items: a final approach was selected for the ceiling construction, and we're happy to say that the one we liked the best was also less expensive. The ceiling cost was the biggest question mark remaining, allowing for informed decisions on the budget for other items. Another big decision was made on lighting for the pods, with design guidance driven by a picture of a local church with glowing lights that the SRC really loved.

In the next month, work moves forward on many parts of the infrastructure, such as the heating/cooling, electrical, and the steel beams holding the pod doors.

Sanford Hess



## GENTLE CHAIR YOGA

For those who would like to do chair yoga, online, with Robin, while in your home, please contact her at [robinfans1@gmail.com](mailto:robinfans1@gmail.com). She is leading a class on Tuesdays at 9:30 through the Zoom website or app.

## Book Group

The Book Group usually meets the third Monday of the month at 7:30 PM. Since the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in May is Shavuot, we will be meeting during the 4<sup>th</sup> week of the month on a Wednesday.



Due to the Covid-19 pandemic we are continuing to meet 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](mailto:nataliefr@comcast.net)

Contact Person: Susan Schomer (359-2938).

**Wednesday, May 26:** The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the

## GREEN TEAM TIP

TAKE EVASIVE ACTION!

If you were looking through the cupboard during down time in the pandemic, you might have spotted a random collection of florist vases in your household that can be reused. You can take evasive action! Check with your nearby florist or even the floral department at a grocery store -- some of these businesses will accept the vases for re-use. It would cut down on the number of new vases the florist has to order, the highest value of the 3 Rs -- reduce, reuse, recycle.

Perhaps other items can be reused -- let us know your ideas -- get in touch with the Green Team chair at [berksonalice@gmail.com](mailto:berksonalice@gmail.com).



# Announcements



- ∴ Tamarra and Andy Bernstein on the birth of their grandson, Brighton Gaines Bernstein.
- ∴ Lee and Evan Melhado on the birth of their granddaughter, Cassia Yocheved Melhado.
- ∴ Allison Bernstein and Andy Garin on the birth of their daughter, Zoey Elia Garin.
- ∴ Larry Kanfer for being elected a Trustee for the Village of Savoy.
- ∴ Rabbi and Andrea Klein on the birth of their first grandchild, Fiona Kaitlyn Kearns. Parents are Sarah Klein Kearns and Brendan Kearns



Moses Rhodes Patrick Fisher will be called to the Torah on Saturday, May 22nd, 2021. Moses is the son of Kim and Mitch Fisher and has three siblings: Isaac (16), Helen (12), and Aaron (9). He is a rising 8th grade student at Edison Middle School.



Moses loves to draw and is an excellent artist, drawing sketches of various basketball players and Star Wars characters. He also enjoys playing basketball, building/re-building LEGO sets, Star Wars, Harry Potter, taking care of our dog, Clyde, and playing Xbox with friends and family.

A very special thank you to Sara Harkins, Rabbis Jody and Alan, and Alli Torf, who have helped Moses prepare for this special day.

# Announcements

## Annual Meeting

7:00 PM, Sunday, May 23, 2021

- ∴ Please mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting of Sinai Temple.
- ∴ Review materials. including the 2021/22 budget, will be available by May 13.
- ∴ We will be conducting the meeting via Zoom. We are working on logistic for possible in-person components. Please watch your weekly email for details.

## Slate of Candidates

### Officers:

**Vice President: Lilyan Levant**

**Financial Secretary: Bob Smith  
(Champaign)**

### Trustees

**Dov Cohen (3 year term)**

**Jennie France (3 year term)**

**Janet LeRoy (3 year term)**

**Kirstin Wilcox (2 year term)**

**Holly Rosencranz (1 year term)**



In conjunction with the Green Team and Religious School, the Building Committee applied for a grant from Faith in Place for the planting of native species trees. Sinai Temple was awarded \$4,000 that could be used for purchase and planting of the trees, professional consultation and education on the importance of native species trees. After consultation with the City of Champaign Forester, eight trees will be planted in several locations around the Temple grounds on June 7. As an educational program will be part of the tree planting all are invited to spend some time watching the planting of the trees.

*Thank  
you*

A few months ago, Eli Hess asked the Sinai Temple community for donations towards his Eagle Scout project. He created an online cold weather needs donation portal for C-U at Home. He is almost done with the project, and Eli had this to say: "We got 23 sleeping bags, 15 packs of underwear, 27 hats, 30 packs of socks, 13 pairs of gloves, 15 thermal fleece, and 19 sweatshirts. The next step in becoming an Eagle Scout is to fill out paperwork explaining my project over the next few weeks. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to this project. Every single contribution helped us in many ways. I am very thankful, and the shelter is extremely thankful as well".

# Giving

## **BUILDING FUND**

Laura & Anthony Bleill  
Susan Cohen & George Monahan  
Diane Gottheil  
Sherry Helfer  
David Helman  
Richard & Judith Kaplan, in memory of Shirley Newman  
Rachel & Sandi Roegman  
David Sussman and Kirstin Wilcox

## **COHEN GARDEN FUND**

Mark & Mary Belding, in memory of Shirley Newman

## **FRIENDS OF THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**

Ann Einhorn, in memory of Sophia Lambert and in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Noah Yairi  
Anthony & Penelope Soskin, in memory of Sophia Lambert

## **GENERAL FUND**

Allen Avner, in memory of Shirley Newman  
Sue Brim, in memory of Henrietta Israel Schwartz  
Joyce Eisenstein, in memory of Shirley Newman  
Ann Einhorn, in memory of Shirley Newman  
Carol Flank, in memory of Abraham Olefsky  
William & Phyllis Gingold, in memory of Lillian Gingold  
Nancy Greenstein & David Worsley, in memory of Betty Greenstein, in memory of Carl Greenstein, in memory of Anna Greenstein, in memory of Louis Greenstein, in memory of Ruth Barker, in memory of Sam Barker, and in memory of Jon Worsley  
Paula Kaufman, in memory of Clara Kaufman  
Gayle & Ira Kopin, in memory of Jack Diamond  
Judy Lachman, in memory of Ruth Lachman  
Frederick Spear  
Paul & Linda Weichsel, in honor of Joshua Weichsel's engagement to Emily Fleisch

## **KITCHEN/ONEG FUND**

Diane Gottheil  
David Helman

## **LIBRARY**

Edward & Nancy Tepper, in memory of Shirley Newman

## **MARTIN LUTHER KING SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Diane Gottheil

## **MUSIC FUND**

Carl & Carol Belber, in memory of Sophia Lambert

## **NEUMAN GARDEN FUND**

David & Jan Sholem, in memory of Shirley Newman

## **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**

Diane Gottheil

## **SECURITY FUND**

Susan Cohen & George Monahan  
Diane Gottheil  
Sherry Helfer  
David Helman  
David Sussman and Kirstin Wilcox

## **SIEGEL SOCIAL ACTION FUND**

Anthony & Penelope Soskin, in memory of Shirley Newman

## **YESOD LE'ATID**

Marjorie Harris  
The Libman Family

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

# Memorials

Friday, May 7

William Adelston ( 9 May)  
 Samuel Agran (12 May)  
 Doris Denburg (11 May)  
 Edward Dessen ( 8 May)  
 Sonia Doppelt ( 9 May)  
 Becky Glaser (11 May)  
 Morton S. Glaser ( 8 May)  
 Frank Helman (29 Iya)  
 Ethel Herman (29 Iya)  
 Ernest W. Lane (12 May)

Harry David Lebenon (12 May)  
 Sara Lewis ( 8 May)  
 Mariane Tager Melnikoff ( 8 May)  
 Pearl Miller (10 May)  
 Beverly Newman (11 May)  
 William Edward Perkel (12 May)  
 Bernard Regardie Perry (26 Iya)  
 Sidney P. Radeloff (12 May)  
 Lee E. Roland (10 May)  
 Harold Morris Schomer (26 Iya)

Lillian G. Stauffer (11 May)  
 Martin J. Steiner (13 May)  
 Amelia Alpiner Stern (12 May)  
 Herman Edward Waisvisz ( 9 May)  
 Marjorie Katz Weiser ( 1 Siv)

Friday, May 14

Susan Linowes Allen ( 9 Siv)  
 Ruth B. Barker (17 May)  
 Barbara Ann Berg (17 May)  
 Abe Blockman (21 May)  
 Henry Jacob Blum (16 May)  
 Morris Garfinkel (17 May)  
 Edythe Klavans Goodman (19 May)  
 Alice Grossman (17 May)  
 Edwin Harlib ( 5 Siv)  
 Mildred Hirshenson (18 May)

Shirley Muriel Kalmanson ( 6 Siv)  
 Armin H. Koller (17 May)  
 Peter Korogodsky (15 May)  
 Adele Lipson (15 May)  
 George Miller (21 May)  
 Jack Rothenberg (18 May)  
 David Jacob Waisvisz (21 May)  
 Morris Zimmerman (21 May)

Friday, May 21

Alfred Beller (17 Siv)  
 David Ralph Berkson (24 May)  
 Doris Sweital Brody (23 May)  
 Estelle Brotherson (26 May)  
 Addie Bernstein Cohen (25 May)  
 Lila Ziven Katz (22 May)  
 Sophie Perlman Lenik (14 Siv)  
 Rachel Lewis (26 May)  
 Ethel Lydia Olson (26 May)  
 Maxine Pombert (28 May)

Rose Lillian Lipman Rigberg (24 May)  
 Lillian Sherman (26 May)  
 Flora Sholem (22 May)  
 Moses Guy Soskin (25 May)  
 Minnie Stern (23 May)  
 Blanche Berland Sudman (24 May)  
 Robert Arlen Swartz (12 Siv)  
 Amalia Rosenheck Weinberger (16 Siv)  
 Leonard Weiner (17 Siv)

Friday, May 28

Trudy Averbuch ( 2 Jun)  
 Zelda Trenner Derber (30 May)  
 Burton H. Fagan ( 4 Jun)  
 Bessie S. Greenspon (29 May)  
 Rhunette Haywood (29 May)  
 Lucille Koenigsberg (30 May)  
 Katherine Schlesinger Koller ( 1 Jun)  
 Stephen Kotok ( 2 Jun)  
 Gertrude S. Kushner ( 1 Jun)  
 Hortense (Moritz) Mischakoff ( 2 Jun)

Ruby Carol Ginsberg Miskie ( 2 Jun)  
 Esther S. Mittleman ( 1 Jun)  
 Martin Pierce (29 May)  
 Marion Sherman ( 2 Jun)  
 Hyman F. Simonson ( 3 Jun)  
 Marie Simon Simonson (29 May)  
 Esther Reizman Steinberg (19 Siv)  
 Davida Lynda Stotland (22 Siv)  
 Emilio Weiss (30 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.