

2021
DECEMBER



Rabbi Alan Cook
Rabbi Emeritus Norman Klein
Rabbi Emeritus Isaac Neuman Z"L

3104 W. Windsor Road ☆ Champaign, IL 61822 ☆ (217) 352-8140 ☆ www.sinaitemplecu.org

Schedule of Services

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service –Online only

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4—Online only

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

10:00 AM Sara Bleill Bat Mitzvah at Hillel

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

5:30 PM Shabbat Rocks! / Next Dor
7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31

5:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

Please note various time changes.

SINAI TEMPLE'S CHANUKAH CELEBRATION 2021

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1
(4TH NIGHT OF CHANUKAH)

5:30—7:30 PM

Join us for Chanukah candle lighting and songs, a live improvisational comedy show with the UIUC group, Spicy Clamato, a trivia game, donuts from Industrial Donut and more!

Flour and Fire Pizza Truck will sell pizza starting at 5 PM.

(Hebrew School will still dismiss at 5:30)

Purchase your pizza to enjoy on the Sudman Patio
(heated for the occasion)

Indoor programming will begin at **6:15 PM**

The event is free except for any pizza purchases you choose to make. However, contributions are greatly appreciated.

RSVPs are required for this event.

Please rsvp to <https://sinaicu.wufoo.com/forms/z1v1y8g91cm74ge/>

Masks are required while inside the building, regardless of vaccination status. Eating will take place outdoors only.

THE END OF THE CALENDAR YEAR IS FAST

APPROACHING. All donations to Sinai Temple postmarked on or before December 31, 2021, will be credited to your account for the 2021 tax year. In January, the office will mail out IRS contribution letters for all deductible contributions made during 2021. If you have not yet made a pledge for FY2021-22, it would be greatly appreciated. Knowing how much people plan to donate helps us meet our budgetary goals. We wish you and your family a joyous New Year!

Admit One
Movie Night
Admit One

Our tradition of enjoying a movie together on Christmas Eve returns! While we won't be dining on Chinese food together, you're invited to come to Temple at 3:30 PM on Friday, December 24. We plan to have the options of watching the new Disney film "Encanto," suitable for all ages, or 2019's "Jojo Rabbit," suited for adult audiences (movie titles are subject to availability). Following the movies, we'll welcome Shabbat with an abbreviated Shabbat service beginning at about 5:30 PM

From Rabbi Alan Cook's Desk



You never know how people are going to impact your life. You never know how your small actions are going to impact another person.

I was reminded of this recently through, of all things, a viral Tik Tok video.

My friend Jillian Dunn, who some of you may recall as the leader of the improv group who performed for us on Zoom last year, grew up outside of Jackson, Mississippi. The Tik Tok video I mentioned above was made by a former grade school classmate of hers who was looking to reunite with Jillian. The woman in the video had experienced a fair amount of trauma in her life, but now, nearly 30 years later, remembered how a small kindness by Jillian when they were eleven years old had begun to change the trajectory of her life and make her feel good about herself again. Through the magic of social media, the two women were reunited less than six hours after the video was first posted.

Motivational speaker Drew Dudley calls encounters like this “lollipop moments.” That moniker is based on something that happened to him when he was leaving college. A woman whom he did not recognize walked up to him during his final day on campus and told him this story:

The night before I started school, I was so nervous that I broke down crying because I didn't think I could do it. My parents urged me to go to registration the next day, and if at any time I still felt that this wasn't the right choice for me, they would take me home. No questions asked.

So I went to registration and standing in that line, I still felt so uncomfortable that I was about to turn to my parents and tell them to take me home. Just then, you [Drew] walked out of the building with a big sign promoting a charitable organization, and a big bucket of lollipops. You handed out lollipops to everyone in line. As you approached me, you handed a lollipop to the guy

next to me and said, ‘You need to give a lollipop to that beautiful woman next to you.’ He was embarrassed, but he did so, sheepishly. You then turned to my parents and said, ‘She hasn't even started school yet and she's already taking candy from strangers!’ The whole line started laughing, and I knew in that moment that this was where I belonged, after all.

So I just had to tell you that because I heard you were leaving, because you were an incredibly important person in my life and I'm going to miss you.

And by the way, I'm still dating that guy four years later.

Drew had no recollection of that specific moment (though the other details added up), but it was absolutely transformative for that woman. We don't always understand or appreciate the impact we have on others. We don't always know when someone is longing for that special bit of light in their lives that only we have the power to bring.

In this season in which we are empowered to kindle lights and drive out darkness, let us strive to show gratitude to those who enrich our lives through actions big and small. Let us, in turn, do our part to bring blessing and joy to others. Sinai Temple prides itself on being “a family of families;” let us nurture and sustain one another and be agents of caring and compassion for one another.

Maybe you will have the chance to become someone's “lollipop person.”

B'Shalom,

Rabbi Alan Cook

Don't Forget to donate to the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Program Fund.

If you would like to contribute to this worthwhile and local cause, please make your check payable to Sinai Temple and indicate MLK Fund in the memo line.



From President Julia Rietz

Happy Hanukkah!

Over the past 20 years I have become somewhat of a professional parade participant, having walked in Champaign County's many parades, from small town festivals to the main event Fourth of July celebration. There is one parade that I have never been a part of during my political career, the City of Champaign's Parade of Lights. Held on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, it is a winter themed parade highlighted by candy tossed to the children and ending with Santa pulled in his sleigh by his reindeer team. I have always stood on the sidelines and enjoyed this parade as a spectator, cheering on the lighted floats, the Lawn Rangers, the high school bands, and the local businesses and organizations as they walked through the streets of downtown Champaign.

This year a group of Jewish community organizations decided to join together and be a part of the Parade of Lights, to showcase our traditions and to celebrate Hanukkah, our Festival of Lights, with music and dancing in the streets of Champaign. The idea was the brainchild of Erez Cohen, our Hillel director. As Sinai board president, I thought it was a great opportunity for community engagement, and the board agreed. Linda Bauer, our CUJF director, and CUJF Program Coordinator Andrea Aguilar CUJF Program Coordinator, enthusiastically signed on, with Andrea quite possibly ordered every shape and variety of Hanukkah décor to decorate our float. Our friends at Illini Chabad were also strong supporters, providing us with a 6-foot-tall lighted menorah to serve as the centerpiece of our float. Volunteers from Hillel, CUJF, and Sinai spent the day Saturday bringing Andrea's vision to life, blowing up balloons and stringing banners and lights around my husband's Chevy pick-up truck, which served as our parade float.

At dusk my patient husband drove the decorated truck from Hillel to

Walnut Street slowly so as not to lose all the balloons or topple the giant menorah. Walkers from all four organizations gathered, donned lighted garlands and dreidel topped headbands and carried blue tinsel pom poms. With my patient husband behind the wheel of our truck/float, the giant menorah fully lit from base to arms, white and blue lights twinkling, and the sound system playing "Hanukkah oh Hanukkah" on repeat, we set off, singing, dancing and shouting Happy Hanukkah to the welcoming crowd.

I can honestly say that this year's Parade of Lights was my favorite parade walking experience yet. Celebrating our Jewish heritage and traditions and being cheered on by our local community was a highlight that stands out from the rest. As we go forward through this holiday season and into 2022, I pledge to continue seeking out opportunities for Sinai Temple to partner with our fellow Jewish organizations and to be an active part of our wider Central Illinois community. Like the candles on the menorah, we are strong and vibrant. Working together we can create light and warmth for our Sinai Temple home and family, for our Jewish community, and for our friends and neighbors.

Happy Hanukkah!



Julia Rietz

SINAI TEMPLE NOVEMBER 2021 BOARD MEETING

Sinai Temple Board Meeting November 2021

The Board is delighted to welcome new members with the family of Samuel Mall, Kristina Hale, Ella Hale and their 1st grader Skyler. Sam is returning to Sinai Temple as he grew up in the Congregation as a child. Please join the Board in welcoming them to our Temple community!

The Board electronically voted to approve the contract with Amy Reichert Architecture and Design for the Ark, Ner tamid and other furnishings that will be newly constructed in our renovated space.

The Temple remains "in the black" with solid financial shape, as we appear on track with financial projections early in the fiscal year.

Erez Cohen joined part of the Board meeting to discuss Sinai Temple's involvement in the Champaign-Urbana Parade of Lights with the broader CU Jewish community, including CUJF, Chabad, and Hillel. As Hanukkah occurs the same time this year as Thanksgiving weekend, leaders of the Jewish community discussed how to be involved in the Parade of Lights as a way to share positives of Judaism, holidays and culture with the broader CU community.

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

Mazel Tovs

Bat Mitzvah

Sarah Bleill is a seventh grader at Edison Middle School in Champaign. Sarah's sisters are Neena and Nessa, and she is the daughter of Laura and Tony Bleill. A member of the Sinai Temple community since she was born. Sarah has grown up attending Shabbat Rocks, Hand-in-Hand, Religious School, Hebrew School, and too many special events to count. She has many special relationships at Sinai Temple, and friends of all ages.

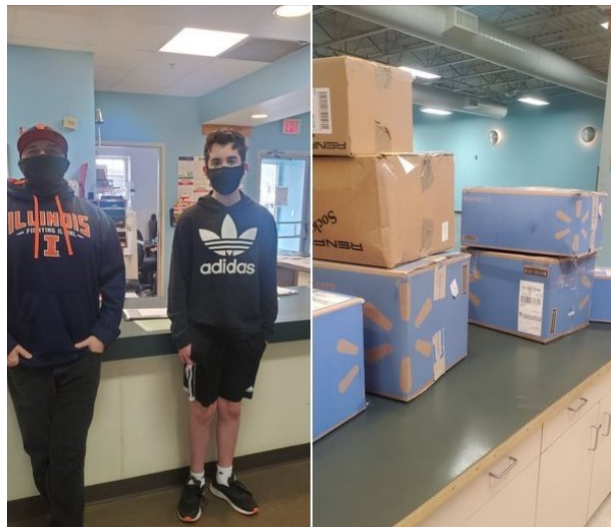


Sarah is a very active athlete, this year she played for the Edison varsity softball team and the 7th grade basketball team. She is a huge sports fan, especially Northwestern athletics, Reds baseball, Blackhawks hockey, and 49ers football. She also loves to travel and be with family.

She wants to thank Rob Ore, her tutor, as well Rabbis Alan and Jody for all their help getting her ready for this special day. Due to the construction at Sinai and complications of COVID, we will be having the bat mitzvah service at Illini Hillel. All are welcome to join online via YouTube. We plan to celebrate with the entire community at a later date.



Eli Hess (a third-generation Sinai Temple member) recently achieved his Eagle Scout rank in Boy Scouts. He could not have done it without the generosity of this community - thank you to all who donated to his Eagle Scout Project! He collected more than \$1,600 in donations for C-U at Home, the local men's homeless shelter. We will celebrate his Eagle Scout Court of Honor in December. ----Sanford and Elizabeth Hess (and Grandparents Carl and Carol Belber)



Announcements

ADULT EDUCATION & TORAH STUDY

Please check the Monday email blast to access Adult Education and the Torah Study. Both are online at this time.

BOOK GROUP

The Book Group meets the second Sunday of each month. Our next meeting is December 12th from 3:00-5:00 PM. We meet in a hybrid format, both in person and via Zoom.

December 12th book: The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman.

Host and Facilitator: Ann Sapoznik, 308 Yankee Ridge Lane, Urbana (217) 367-5262

Contact Person: Susan Schomer (217) 359-2938

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.

She is leading one class on Tuesdays from 9:30 to 10:20 through the Zoom website or app.

The Green Team

One step we can take in our households to advance sustainability is to use meat less frequently. You can try the many options for meat alternatives, for instance the many kinds of plant-based burgers you can see in the grocery store freezer cases.

Perhaps you'd like to try your hand at preparing them from scratch -- we came across a recipe that does not rely on some of the typical bean-based ingredients.

Quinoa is a relative of amaranth, native to the Americas, and is a gluten-free high fiber seed with a good profile of amino acids. If you'd like to boost the protein of your meal, serve the burger on a whole wheat bun or with some lentil pasta. Dig in!

Find this recipe at <https://www.consumerreports.org/healthy-eating/everything-you-need-to-know-about-quinoa-a5973738462/>



Renovation construction continues to move ahead. Most of the painting has been completed, the sanctuary ceiling is now in place, lights are hung in the pods, and the bema construction is underway. At this phase, our attention is shifting to the audio-visual aspects, including both video and sound. Construction of the millwork (wood cabinets) for the East wall is underway, which will include a lovely recess for holding the Torah during services. The operable partitions are scheduled to arrive in the middle of December and we anticipate the floor installation to begin in December as well. We anticipate the sanctuary and pods to be available by the end of December or early January. Meanwhile, construction plans are being finalized for the Ark, as well as the designs for the new lectern and torah reading table which should be complete by late winter.

On behalf of the SRC, I would also like to note with sorrow the passing of Rosalind Weinberg. Rosalind was an original member of the SRC and contributed very significantly to the design of the sanctuary improvements, attending many meetings despite her health challenges. It is a fitting tribute to Rosalind that the Ark doors she designed were installed in the Levin Lounge, and that the Torah covers she created will be even more visible with the new Ark. *May her memory be a blessing.*

Sanford Hess

Development Committee

What? You forgot to give to the Yesod Le'atid renovation on Giving Tuesday? Please consider an end of year donation. Despite our frugality, it has cost more than planned to complete the renovation. (Have you heard of pandemic-related inflation?) Also, be looking ahead to news of ways we will celebrate our return to the building in spring.

Happy Hanukkah! Just as the oil lasted eight days, your contribution will help beautify our space for years to come.

Wynne Korr

Giving

BIRNBAUM CAMP FUND

Diane Gottheil, in memory of Freda Birnbaum
Stanley & Joan Levy, in memory of Freda Birnbaum
Gary & Fraeda Porton, in memory of Freda Birnbaum

BUILDING FUND

Richard Akresh
Erez & Dana Cohen
Susan Cohen & George Monahan
Adrenne Dietchweiler
Joyce Eisenstein
Shira & Dan Epstein
Matthew & Eleanor Finkin
Arne & Deborah Fliflet
Terry Gitler & John Davis
Eugene Greenberg
Sherry Helfer
Hagit Itzkowitz
Julia Kling
Jacki & Jeff Loewenstein
Barbara Nelson
Gene & Julia Robinson
Susan & Michael Roughton
Karen Rudolph & David Donnini
Robert & Marion Smith
Anthony & Penelope Soskin
Edward & Nancy Tepper
Arielle & Russell Weinstein

EGALITARIAN TRADITIONAL MINYAN

Richard & Judith Kaplan, in memory of Rosalind Weinberg
William & Eileen Kohen, in memory of Rosalind Weinberg

GENERAL FUND

Garth Gersten & Janet Bercovitz, in memory of Rosalind Weinberg
Gayle & Ira Kopin, in memory of Eli B. Mandel

GENERAL FUND (cont)

Gary & Fraeda Porton
Edward & Nancy Tepper, in memory of John Walter

KITCHEN/ONEG FUND

Richard Akresh
Adrenne Dietchweiler
Joyce Eisenstein
Shira & Dan Epstein
Arne & Deborah Fliflet
Eugene Greenberg
Julia Kling
Jacki & Jeff Loewenstein
Barbara Nelson
Gene & Julia Robinson
Karen Rudolph & David Donnini
Susan & Michael Roughton
Robert & Marion Smith
Anthony & Penelope Soskin

LEWIS FUND

Myron & Sonya Sholem, in memory of Bessie Siegal and in memory of William Siegal

LIBRARY FUND

Stanley & Joan Levy, in memory of Joli Ginsberg

MUSIC FUND

Charles & Joan Kozoll, in memory of Joli Ginsberg, in memory of Shirley Newman, in memory of Thelma Rubinstein and in memory of Rosalind Weinberg

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Richard Newman, in memory of Joli Ginsberg, in memory of Harold Miller, in memory of Molly Newman and in memory of Rosalind Weinberg

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Adrenne Dietchweiler

SECURITY FUND

Richard Akresh
Laura & Anthony Bleill
Erez & Dana Cohen
Adrenne Dietchweiler
Joyce Eisenstein
Shira & Dan Epstein
Matthew & Eleanor Finkin
Arne & Deborah Fliflet
Terry Gitler & John Davis
Eugene Greenberg
Sherry Helfer
Hagit Itzkowitz
Julia Kling
Jacki & Jeff Loewenstein
Barbara Nelson
Gene & Julia Robinson
Susan & Michael Roughton
Karen Rudolph & David Donnini
Robert & Marion Smith
Anthony & Penelope Soskin
Edward & Nancy Tepper
Arielle & Russell Weinstein

YESOD LE'ATID

Carl & Carol Belber, in memory of Joli Ginsberg, in memory of Shirley Newman and in memory of Rosalind Weinberg
David Dorman and Barbara Jones
Joyce Eisenstein, in memory of Joli Ginsberg
Diane Gottheil, in memory of Joli Ginsberg and in memory of Ronald Levy
Ronald Levy Family
Leslie & Gary Mason, in memory of Rosalind Weinberg
Mark & Ann Sapoznik, in memory of Joli Ginsberg
Susan & Paul Schomer, in memory of Joli Ginsberg and in memory of Rosalind Weinberg
Art & Marcia Siegel, in memory of Rosalind Weinberg

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 December

Friday, December 3

Philip Applebaum (4 Dec)
Annette Sudman Baich (8 Dec)
Ethel Depper (5 Tev)
Doris Dorman Feinberg (9 Dec)
Sidney Feinberg (6 Dec)
Pesselle Rothenberg Friedman (2 Tev)
Norma Klein (10 Dec)

Abraham Lapedes (6 Dec)
Ethel Lesht (9 Dec)
Fred Lewin (4 Dec)
Helen Wollstein Loeb (10 Dec)
Herbert Elsworth Lyon (5 Dec)
Sandra Molasky (5 Tev)
Sarah Rubinstein (9 Dec)
Isaiah Shavitt (8 Dec)

Sylvia Siegel (30 Kis)
Ralph Weinstein (6 Tev)

Friday, December 10

Sylvia Arnold (7 Tev)
Gilford Currier (17 Dec)
Harriet Mae Davis (12 Dec)
Jewel Berenson Friend (12 Dec)
Jacob Benjamin Hamburg (15 Dec)
Joseph Kuhn (15 Dec)
Natalie Yawitz Levy (16 Dec)
Marilyn Libman (16 Dec)
Minnie Lipson (11 Dec)
Rose L. Prince (16 Dec)

Judith Rosencranz (15 Dec)
Rose Sapoznik (11 Dec)
Jeanette Schomer (10 Tev)
Leah Schwartz (10 Tev)
Jack Aaron Simon (17 Dec)
Sadie Yavner Small (13 Tev)
Albert Leland Stern (16 Dec)
Ethel Bower Stern (17 Dec)
Peter James Stolurow (11 Dec)
Mary Elizabeth Stone (12 Dec)

Friday, December 17

Ruth B. Ades (23 Dec)
Rebecca Rubenstein Blockman (18 Dec)
Rosa B. Bower (19 Dec)
Abraham Braverman (20 Tev)
Frances Dessen (18 Dec)
Morris Dessen (24 Dec)
Florence Zibel Dooley (18 Dec)
Abe Egherman (16 Tev)
Frieda Forst (18 Dec)

Rabbi Benjamin M. Frankel (21 Dec)
Lilia Gaptov (22 Dec)
Arthur Golub (22 Dec)
Frada Green (21 Dec)
Evelyne J. Helgesen (23 Dec)
Audrey Rezits Huber (21 Dec)
Phillip C. Katz (18 Dec)
Rachel Korman (14 Tev)
Jewel Kurland (19 Dec)
Sally Levitt (20 Dec)

Joseph Levy (19 Dec)
Robert Marshak (23 Dec)
Dr Isaac Morhaim (16 Tev)
Morris Olefsky (18 Dec)
Clare Herman Perkel (20 Dec)
Sadie Rudnick (22 Dec)
Alice Rauh Scheeline (23 Dec)
Hyman Simon (18 Dec)
William J. Weiner (16 Tev)
Charles A. Wolff (19 Dec)

Friday, December 24

Joseph C. Aub (30 Dec)
Adrienne Merkel Berenbaum (29 Dec)
Rosalyne Bernstein (30 Dec)
Jack Birnbaum (25 Dec)
Sylvia Bursztyn (23 Tev)
Nathan H. Cohen (28 Dec)
Bette Jane Dunn (27 Dec)
Nata Fleys (28 Dec)

Jean Eva Ginsberg (25 Dec)
Helen S. Golub (25 Dec)
Milton Gorodetsky (24 Tev)
Janice Greenberger (27 Dec)
Mort Heller (27 Tev)
Bobbie Rudolph Kulwin (25 Dec)
Ruth Lasker (28 Dec)
Leo Lewis (30 Dec)

Isaac Reyman (27 Dec)
Sidney Sinow (31 Dec)
Marvin Phillip Steinberg (26 Tev)

Friday, December 31

Nancy Abelmann (6 Jan)
Walter H. Abelmann (6 Jan)
Johanna Braunfeld (3 Jan)
Boris Brotherson (4 Jan)
Harry Burack (29 Tev)
Ruth Herman Garfinkel (3 Jan)
Fanny Goldberg (7 Jan)
Stanley Gordon (4 Jan)
Belle Halpern (1 Jan)

Rosalie Jaffe (1 Jan)
Elsa Klaiman (1 Jan)
David Krakower (5 She)
Jeanette Cohen Levy (1 Jan)
Dena Linado (4 Jan)
Cecelia Klein Pearle (28 Tev)
Abraham H. Reizman (4 She)
Ruth A. Robinson (7 Jan)
Edward Arnold Shapiro (2 She)

Irving Siegel (28 Tev)
Maybelle Solon (3 Jan)
Babette Bloch Stern (6 Jan)
Sol Tax (4 Jan)
Isaac Tepper (1 Jan)
Harry A. Topolosky (2 Jan)
Frieda G. Wollstein (5 Jan)

Announcements

Important CU Chevra Kadisha Meeting

In March 2019, when the COVID-19 virus shut down normal operations worldwide, the CU Chevra Kadisha (Jewish Burial Society) suspended many of its traditional services to the deceased and their grieving families. The Chevra Kadisha is pleased to announce that it has recently resumed full activity and invites you to attend its upcoming community meeting:

Sunday, December 12, 2021 at 3:00 pm

Davis Chapel, Sinai Temple

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87895818105>

Password is “Chevra”

Presenters:

Jessica Kopolow, Lee Melhado, and Janis Topolosky, Chevra Kadisha, CU Jewish Federation

Dr. Maury Topolosky, Pulmonologist, Christie Clinic, retired
Rabbi Alan Cook, Sinai Temple, Champaign

Dawn Hatchel Maggio, Funeral Director, Morgan Memorial Funeral Home, Savoy

Learn the latest information about potential health risks associated with attending to the deceased (whether sitting with the individual after death or preparing the body for burial), and what precautions are taken to be able to perform these rituals safely. The program includes an opportunity for all current and potential volunteers and anyone else who is interested to ask questions, to view the personal protective equipment used by volunteers, to learn how funerals and funeral homes have been affected, and to see a demonstration of the rituals performed by the Chevra Kadisha to prepare the deceased for burial.

Sinai Temple Gift Shop

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

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

New Member Spotlight



Carolyn Applebaum moved to Champaign in August, from Chicago. She grew up in New York City, but lived in Chicago for five years before moving here. She works for Wolfram as a Lexical Developer, which means that she helps the Wolfram Alpha computer program understand human language. She grew up a Reform Jew in a reform synagogue, but in college, she joined a traditional egalitarian minyan—the fact that Sinai offers both options is really exciting to her!

Her favorite Jewish holidays are all the ones around the New Year: Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, and Simchat Torah because she likes the feeling of starting fresh each autumn.

In her free time, Carolyn she has joined Amasong (a local feminist lesbian chorus), and hopes to get involved in local community theater. In college, she had a part time job as a stagehand, which she really enjoyed.

Welcome

Also, please welcome our latest new family. Samuel Mall and Kristina Hale and their children, Ella Hale and Skyler Mall