

## Schedule of Services

**FRIDAY, APRIL 1**

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

**SUNDAY, APRIL 2**

10:00 AM Joanne Bross Bat Mitzvah

**FRIDAY, APRIL 8**

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

**FRIDAY, APRIL 15**

No Services at Sinai Temple. See Passover Seder information to the right.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 16**

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan

**FRIDAY, APRIL 22**

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

**SATURDAY, APRIL 23**

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan

**SUNDAY, APRIL 24**

3:00 PM Yom HaShoah Service (see page 2)

**FRIDAY, APRIL 29**

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

**SATURDAY, APRIL 30**

10:00 AM Ava Kopolow Bat Mitzvah

Join us for  
Shabbat.



### Passover is Coming!

Friday, April 15 at 6 PM join Rabbi Alan and the Sinai Temple community for a community seder held at the Cohen Center of Illini Hillel (503 E. John St.). We'll have singing, activities, and of course, great food as we make our way through the Haggadah and celebrate the festival together in a family-friendly manner. A brief Shabbat service will precede the seder (please note that there will not be a Shabbat service at Sinai Temple that evening).

Pre-registration for the seder is required no later than Wednesday, April 13 at this link: <https://www.illinihillel.org/passovermeals> Thanks to Hillel's partnership with us, there is only a nominal fee of \$18 for an individual or \$36 for a family. Please note that Hillel requires proof of vaccination to enter the building; masks are encouraged during non-eating moments, but not required. Due to kashrut in the building, no outside food may be brought in.

Do you prefer a different sort of seder? Check out Hillel's other seder offerings on their registration site. There you can also register for Kosher for Passover meals throughout the holiday.

Hosting your own seder? Check out this list of resources to consider adding to your seder routine ([https://docs.google.com/document/d/1THtNppX-u0ny\\_hS5Rt-HUpIzRjcTxu5XCJBDeAIRb-0/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1THtNppX-u0ny_hS5Rt-HUpIzRjcTxu5XCJBDeAIRb-0/edit?usp=sharing))

Saturday, April 16 and Saturday, April 23 at 10 AM, please join us for egalitarian traditional services in celebration of the festival. Services will be led from Siddur Lev Shalem, the Conservative movement's siddur. On the first day, we will hear the Hallel psalms and selections from the Song of Songs. On the eighth day, we will hear the Hallel psalms and recite Yizkor memorial prayers. All are welcome.



**Yom Hazikaron (Israel Memorial Day),  
April 14 and Yom HaAtzmaut (Israel  
Independence Day), April 15**

Check the weekly email blast for further information.

## From Rabbi Alan Cook's Desk



A number of years ago, Rabbi David Wolpe, a Conservative rabbi in Los Angeles, created a stir among his congregation when, on Passover morning, he gave a sermon asserting that not only was he uncertain about the historicity of the Exodus narrative, but he wasn't sure that it mattered whether it was true or not.

The story of the Exodus has long been understood to be at the core of what makes us Jewish. We celebrate the transition from slavery to freedom. We find empathy for others who suffer oppression because we maintain in our muscle memory an appreciation of what it means to suffer degradation. We recount the story each year at our Passover seders and make sure that our children are familiar with its tropes. How could Rabbi Wolpe call such a seminal motif into question?

Rabbi Wolpe was not the first to raise the issue—though he was likely among the first, and most prominent, to do so in a synagogue setting. For years, historians and scholars have noted that although the Torah reports that Israelite slavery lasted more than 400 years, and the Exodus involved 600,000 individuals, no archeological or historical record corroborates any of these details. Since the Egyptians were known to be meticulous in their record-keeping, the likeliest explanation is that the event did not take place, at least not in the scope that the Torah describes.

But though the Exodus cannot be empirically shown to have taken place, that doesn't diminish its "truth" in our cultural narrative. As Rabbi Wolpe has noted, it remains a true and important story to us because it helps us understand ourselves and our place in history, and it shapes our values.

It is likely that the biblical authors chose Egypt as the locus for the Exodus story because the geopolitics of the time made it a plausible character in the story. But it had the impact, perhaps unintended, of casting Egypt as an enemy and bogeyman.

The Hebrew name for Egypt is Mitzrayim, and rabbis have noted that this can be read as related to the word "metzar," a narrow place. Throughout human existence, nations and individuals have experienced moments of "narrowness" in which we feel imprisoned and enslaved by ideas and circumstances that we feel are beyond our control. Viewing the narrative of the Exodus in this manner can make it an even more potent and timeless story; for this reason, I have begun leaving the word Mitzrayim frequently untranslated when it arises during services and classes.

This is not to say that we should alter our observance of Passover in any way; as we stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine, and other oppressed peoples around the world, it is all the more significant that we celebrate Passover as our Festival of Freedom, and redouble our commitment to work for freedom and justice for all.

Sinai Temple is pleased to be able to partner with Illini Hillel to offer a community seder on the first night of Passover, Friday, April 15. We will also make available resources for those of you leading your own seder at home. Please see elsewhere in this bulletin for more information about Passover opportunities.

L'Shalom,  
Rabbi Alan Cook

Sinai Temple is honored to host a community observance of Yom HaShoah, a day for remembering the Holocaust. On Sunday, April 24, at 3:00 PM, all are invited to join in a program of music, poetry, and reflection. Our guest speaker will be Professor Paul Finkleman, Chancellor of Gratz College in Philadelphia, who will speak on "**Hate Speech, the First Amendment and the Holocaust**"

The program is organized with the help of the Holocaust Education Committee of the Champaign Urbana Jewish Federation, and is generously underwritten by the Jack and Sayde Marco Fund of the Champaign Urbana Jewish Endowment Fund.





## *From President Julia Rietz*

The Nominating Committee has been formed to solicit congregants to service on the Board of Trustees for Sinai Temple.

### Nominating Committee

- ✧ Board Members: Dov Cohen, Jennie France, and Janet LeRoy
- ✧ Non-Board Members: Laura Bleill and Shira Epstein

### Positions available

Treasurer (2 year term)

Secretary (2 year term)

3 Trustees (3 year term)

Please contact any of the Nominating Committee members if you are interested in serving on the Board of Trustees.

### Sinai Temple Board Meeting March 2022

Rabbi Alan focused on the Book of Esther as Purim was approaching. He noted how many momentous current events around the world, including the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic as well as the increasing strife and violence in Ukraine can be understood through the lens of the Purim story. Even as there is stress, hurt, loss, and darkness experienced by all in our community, country and around the world, there is also frivolity and opportunities for us to come together and build community, to repudiate the Hamans of the world, and make the world better and brighter.

Art Siegel as Treasurer circulated financial reports that the Board reviewed. It is expected that the Temple will complete the fiscal year either breaking even or in the black.

The Temple received money from FEMA that reimbursed expenditures made to new security upgrades. It is expected that the remainder of FEMA reimbursements will be received once small pieces of building upgrades are completed soon.

The Board voted to approve use of ShulCloud (<https://www.shulcloud.com>) as a robust package and system to manage the Temple's various systems and data bases that are essential for financial operations, membership, communications, etc.

The Board is delighted to welcome new members Steven and Sara Rosenberg, who are Datia Rosenberg's parents . Please join the Board in welcoming them to our Temple community as they resettle here in the CU area from Mexico!



# Announcements

## BOOK GROUP

The Book Group meets the second Sunday of each month at 2:00 PM. Our next meeting is Sunday, April 10th: [An American Marriage](#) by Tayari Jones

Host and Facilitator: Natalie Frankenberg, 3705 Marjorie Lane, Champaign, (217) 390-4168

We meet in a hybrid format, both in person and via Zoom.

## 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 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 Sinai Temple Religious School)*

## Sinai Temple Gift Shop Passover Showcase

Sundays, April 3 & 10, 9:00am-1:00pm

Believe it or not, Passover is coming SOON, and the Sinai Temple Gift Shop wants you to be prepared!

Stop by the west lobby (near the temple offices) to shop the Showcase for seder plates, matzah plates and boxes, toys, textiles, and much, much more. All seder plates will be discounted at least 20%--some are even 40% off!! Shop early for the best selection...See you at the Showcase!

The Gift Shop is open by appointment only. Please contact Jessica Kopolow (417-8699) of [jessicakopolow@yahoo.com](mailto:jessicakopolow@yahoo.com) to schedule an appointment.

## The Auschwitz Experience in the Art of Prisoners

### April 27—May 4 (weekend excluded)

Grand Opening Event: April 27, 6:00-8:30 PM, Illini Hillel, 503 E John St

Sponsored by the Holocaust Education Center of CUJF and Illini Hillel

Please join us to view this prominent exhibition comprised of artwork by 12 survivors of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp who documented their experiences during the Holocaust. This exhibit featuring 60 pieces of art is on loan from the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum in Poland. It is our honor to premier this exhibition in the U.S.

Please register for the April 27th Grand Opening of to take a tour at <https://illinihillel.org/artofprisoners>.

For more information about the CUJF Holocaust Education Center please visit <https://cujf.org/programs-and-services/holocaust-education-center>.



# Announcements

## GREEN TEAM TIP

### GOING NATIVE?

You might wish to add some native species to your home landscape or patio container planting. If you look at the plants labelled "native" at your local garden center or big-box store garden section, you are likely to find some that have complicated names or are called native cultivars or nativars.

The way to distinguish a nativar from a straight native species is to look for the last part of the scientific name. If it has quote marks like *Coreopsis verticillata* 'Zagreb', it is a nativar. While some occur as natural mutations, most native cultivars are hybrids from commercial nurseries.

The best plants for maintaining genetic diversity are the straight native species, such as those you'll find at the Grand Prairie Friends plant sale in May. However, you may wish to plant attractive nativars, and they may be the only native plants you can locate at the store.

There's ongoing research on whether native cultivars are harmful or beneficial for pollinators and wildlife. Not surprisingly, the results are mixed -- some are not beneficial and others are OK, or even provide more attraction and food for pollinators. It's best to read up about the individual plants you're considering.

In general, the types of cultivars to especially avoid are those with double blooms or with colors that are very different from the native species.

If you would like to learn about research into nativars, here is a webinar from UI Extension Horticulture Educator Ryan Pankau:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hNx0qFnY2XE>

The Illinois Native Plant Society has a list of regional nurseries where you can obtain native plants. Note that some may not have direct retail sales so you should check before visiting:

<https://illinoisplants.org/native-plant-nurseries/>

If you're visiting one of our local garden centers, ask the manager to carry more straight native species! Happy gardening!

If you have questions or would like additional links for information, email [berksonalice@gmail.com](mailto:berksonalice@gmail.com).



## TREE OF LIFE LEAF

Our synagogue is proud to possess the EitzChaim, a "Tree of Life". This beautiful sculpture, given to us by the Hymowitz family, is permanently displayed in the Sinai Temple lobby. The branches of the tree contain leaves which can be inscribed to highlight or commemorate such joyous events as births, weddings,

anniversaries, B'nia Mitzvah, graduations or simply to honor parents, family or friends. Share your happy occasions by inscribing your family "Simchas" on our synagogue's "Tree of Life". This will be a permanent dedication to the meaningful, and happy events that touch our lives. The price per leaf is \$250. For more information, please call the Temple office at (217) 352-8140.



## Renovation Committee

The update for this month is much the same as last month! We're waiting for the arrival of the millwork (cabinets) and the ark. Hopefully, the millwork will be delivered during March and the ark in April, but there are no promises... like so much else on the project, we're at the mercy of supply chains and the pace of work by others. Still, we remain optimistic that all will be in place in time for the ceremony later this Spring.

There has been some progress recently. The camera that will be used to broadcast events was put in place, although some additional wiring is still needed to permit someone to run Zoom meetings from the bimah. (And that work is underway) And although not directly part of the renovation, work is beginning to replace some of the exit doors with safer ones in accordance with the Homeland Security grant that was received for safety improvements.

Sanford Hess



South Pod looking into the North Pod

## Development Committee

Among the great joys of being back in the sanctuary for the Purim spiel was seeing the looks on the faces of members of our Sinai family who were seeing the room for the first time. We all look forward to rejoicing together when the work is completed.

My thanks to all whose contributions to the Yesod Le'atid campaign made this possible. You can still contribute to help us finish strong. To make a donation go to <https://sinaitemplecu.org/foundation-for-the-future-pledge-form/> or use PayPal scanning the QR code below.

Wynne Korr



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





# Bat Mitzvah

All are welcome to join in the celebration on Saturday, April 30, as Ava Loren Kopolow, daughter of Dan and Jessica Kopolow, sister of Norah Kopolow, is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Services will begin at 10:00am.

Ava has been an active member of Sinai Temple since before she was born, and has been an enthusiastic participant in Shabbat Rocks and Next Dor services, as well as “grownup” services and countless holiday and festival services. She has been a student in the Sinai Temple Religious School since age two, and a student of Hebrew School at Sinai since 3rd grade.

Outside of Sinai Temple, Ava is in 7th grade at Jefferson Middle School in Champaign, where she competes on the school’s archery team and plays tenor saxophone in both concert band and jazz ensemble. Ava is also a dedicated Scout and a proud member of BSA Troop 2119 in Champaign. When she’s not busy with these activities, Ava loves to read, ride her bike, and spend time with her friends.



In an effort to promote both physical and environmental health, Ava is raising funds to purchase new, more secure bike racks for Sinai Temple. For more information, please email Ava at [avakopolow@gmail.com](mailto:avakopolow@gmail.com).



The women at Knitting Hope have revived a famous sweater knitted by a Jewish woman during the Holocaust. She saved her life by knitting for Nazi women. There is a whole significance about one of her sweaters, which is worn on Pesach by her friend. It is now called the "Dayenu Sweater."

<https://knittinghope.com/dayenu>

The pattern is now available as a KAL (knitalong).

# Giving

## **BUILDING FUND**

Elaine Bruner  
Anne Heiles  
Steven Rosenberg & Sara Druker-Rosenberg  
Susan & Michael Roughton

## **GENERAL FUND**

Anne Heiles, in memory of Matthew Mischakoff, in memory  
of Paul Mischakoff and in memory of Mischa Mischakoff  
Judy Lachman, in memory of Malcolm Lachman

## **KITCHEN/ONEG FUND**

Elaine Bruner  
Anne Heiles  
Steven Rosenberg & Sara Druker-Rosenberg

## **SECURITY FUND**

Elaine Bruner  
Anne Heiles  
Steven Rosenberg & Sara Druker-Rosenberg  
Susan & Michael Roughton

## **UKRAINIAN RELIEF**

Natalie Frankenberg  
Anne Heiles  
Andy Kurtz  
Lilyan Levant  
Leslie & Gary Mason  
Stacy & Jason Trager

## **YESOD LE'ATID**

Sheila Hess, in honor of Carol Belber's birthday  
Paula Kaufman  
Rabbi Norman & Andrea Klein, in honor of the birth of Aaron  
Wachtel, grandson of Lynn & Ira Wachtel

## **Memorial Plaques**

Please consider a memorial plaque for a deceased loved one. The plaques are \$325 and include the persons name and date of the yahrzeit that the family wants to observe as either the Hebrew or Gregorian date. All those with memorial plaques are listed every year in the Roll of Remembrance.

The memorial wall is located in the Levin Lounge outside the sanctuary.



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.



# Memorials

<b>Friday, April 1</b>	<p>Jack Diamond ( 3 Apr)            Barbara Ferdman ( 4 Apr)            Joshua David Gottheil ( 4 Apr)            Louisa Guise ( 7 Apr)            Martin H. Katz ( 4 Nis)            Adam Koslofsky ( 4 Apr)            Lena Loeb Kuhn ( 8 Apr)            Aaron Kurland ( 8 Apr)            Hermine Ruth Lachman ( 7 Apr)            Wolf Lewis ( 2 Apr)</p>	<p>Irma Lipson ( 4 Apr)            Abraham Loeb ( 4 Apr)            John P. Melhado ( 1 Nis)            Woodrow Pearlman ( 6 Apr)            Nina Nelson Seidenberg ( 4 Apr)            Lenore Levy Simon ( 6 Apr)            Marcus Tager ( 4 Apr)            Anne B. Weisel ( 3 Nis)</p>	
<b>Friday, April 8</b>	<p>Helen Gold Beller (10 Apr)            Aida Druker (10 Nis)            Saerree K. Fiedler (14 Apr)            Benjamin Grossman (12 Apr)            Emanuel Heller (14 Nis)            Donald Imlay (10 Apr)            Clara Kaufman (10 Nis)            Edward R. Kerman (12 Apr)</p>	<p>Helaine Stone Lane ( 9 Apr)            Leonard D. Lewis (10 Apr)            Ruth Marshak (12 Apr)            Jack Robinson (14 Nis)            Sonja Robinson (10 Nis)            Myer Joseph Rosenfield (13 Nis)            Alex Rubin (14 Apr)            Thelma Rubinstein (13 Apr)</p>	<p>Selig Schwartz ( 9 Apr)            Gladys Singman (11 Apr)            Abraham Sitron (12 Apr)            Ethelda "Tedde" Williams (12 Apr)</p>
<b>Friday, April 15</b>	<p>Joel Lee Agran (21 Apr)            Dr Samuel Bojar (17 Nis)            Evelyn Nelson Bros (21 Apr)            Henia Shifreh Bursztyn (19 Nis)            Hannah Choldin (21 Apr)            Louis Cutler (19 Apr)            Edward Epstein (16 Nis)            Gertrude H. Francisco (19 Nis)            Lillian Gingold (22 Apr)</p>	<p>Fred Gottheil (19 Apr)            Alvin Hamburg (19 Apr)            Sidney Kadish (20 Apr)            Miriam B. Kaplan (16 Apr)            Clara Koslofsky (16 Apr)            Dorothy Evelyn Pollard Liebovich            (22 Apr)            Gary Lyon (16 Apr)            Rose Maus (18 Apr)</p>	<p>Amelia A. Reineberg (16 Apr)            Lee W. Reineberg (16 Apr)            Natalie M. Smith (21 Apr)            Gertrude Katz Tax (21 Apr)            Beatrice R. Tepper (21 Apr)            Rose Weissman (19 Apr)</p>
<b>Friday, April 22</b>	<p>Leon M. Ades (25 Apr)            Molly Belber (26 Apr)            Frank A. Berg (27 Apr)            Edward Israel Blum (29 Apr)            Isidore Brill (29 Apr)            Michael Faiman (24 Nis)            Fay Ferrer (24 Nis)            Faye Garrick (24 Nis)            Alfred Kohn (28 Apr)</p>	<p>Lewis Lasker (26 Apr)            Florine Lesht (28 Nis)            Mathilde Loeb (24 Apr)            Ethel Uritz Marcus (29 Apr)            Kenneth H. Ober (26 Apr)            Herbert Rubinstein (29 Apr)            Joyce Snyder (23 Apr)</p>	
<b>Friday, April 29</b>	<p>Samuel Adleman (30 Apr)            Laura Moore Avner ( 4 May)            Henrietta N. Bloomfield ( 5 Iya)            Misha Bursztyn ( 4 Iya)            Bertha Craven ( 5 May)            Beverly J. Cronin ( 4 May)            Bertha Rabinowitz Diness (30 Apr)            Dorothy Diamond Ehrich ( 1 Iya)            Wahei Fujimoto (29 Nis)            Abraham Gerald Ginsberg ( 5 May)            Abraham Goldberg ( 6 May)</p>	<p>William Arthur Graff ( 6 May)            Daniel Leon Harlib (29 Nis)            Philip Horwitz ( 3 May)            Raisa Ionina ( 1 May)            Blair Bernard Kling ( 2 May)            Celia Berman Kulwin (30 Apr)            Ida Levine Markoff (30 Apr)            Mary Ann Nathan (29 Nis)            Penn Nelson ( 1 May)            Edith Pincus ( 4 May)            Ida Reider (30 Nis)</p>	<p>Norman Stanley Rosenzweg (4 May)            Naomi M. Siegel ( 4 May)            Helen Kranson Siess ( 1 May)            Seymour Sudman ( 2 May)            Pauline Evenson Tager ( 5 May)            Manie Tepper ( 5 May)            David Uzrad ( 5 Iya)            Rose Weissler ( 4 Iya)            Theodore H. Zimmerman ( 1 May)</p>

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.