



*Please join us
on*

*Sunday,
May 21, 2023 at 7pm*

*For Sinai Temple's
Annual Meeting
&
Ice Cream Social*

**You'll find the proposed
Board of Trustees
2023-2024 Slate on page 5**

**An agenda and a copy of the proposed
Annual Budget will be distributed to the
Congregation by May 11th.**

Sinai Temple's Spring Clean-up

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

*the Morning of
Sunday May 21st*

Please keep an eye out for details!

*Volunteers are also needed on an
ongoing basis to help with watering and
weed pulling!*

*Please contact Art Siegel for more
information at*

building@sinaitemplecu.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

FRIDAY, MAY 5

5:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service & First Friday Dinner

FRIDAY, MAY 12

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

FRIDAY, MAY 19

5:30 PM Shabbat Rocks!

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service honoring Martha Alwes

FRIDAY, MAY 26

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, MAY 27

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional service

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From Rabbi Alan Cook's Desk



May has always struck me as a month of potential. Perhaps it's due to the other meaning of the word, which Webster's defines as "used to indicate probability or possibility." The festival of Shavuot, celebrating the

revelation of Torah, often occurs in late May (this year it begins on the evening of Thursday, May 25; watch for information about a *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*—an online study session in honor of the holiday, and ETM services for the festival which will include *Yizkor* memorial prayers. As we celebrate Shavuot, we are reminded of our covenantal relationship with God, and that we have the potential to engage in acts of *tikkun olam*, making the world a better place for all who dwell here.

One of my favorite songs is a ballad by the folksinger Susan Werner, called "May I Suggest." I first heard it about twelve years ago covered by the Jewish musician Dan Nichols, and the lyrics so moved me that I asked Dan to perform it at Gabe's Bar Mitzvah concert as a blessing to him. I share some of the lyrics here in the hope that you might draw similar insight and inspiration from them:

May I suggest,
May I suggest to you,
May I suggest this is the best part of your life.
May I suggest,
This time is blessed for you,
This time is blessed and shining almost blinding bright.
Just turn your head
And you'll begin to see
The thousand reasons that were just beyond your sight—
The reasons why,
Why I suggest to you,
Why I suggest this is the best part of your life.

Each of Werner's verses continues to underscore the singer's conviction that this is the best time of our lives. I won't cite the entirety of the song here, but I think the third verse has a particularly poignant, and very Jewish, message.

There is a hope
That's been expressed in you.
It's the hope of seven generations, maybe more.
And this is the faith
That they invest in you:
It's that you'll do one better than was done before.
And inside you know,
Inside you understand,
Inside you know what's yours to finally set right.
And I suggest,
Yes I suggest to you,
Yes I suggest this is the best part of your life.

When we go through the daily stressors that we each confront, and the hustle and bustle of our lives, it can be difficult to take a step back and maintain a positive outlook. It can be challenging to see the promise that may be waiting on the horizon, and to envision the role we can play in making the world better. At this particular moment in history, many of us may feel it is challenging to see certain things happening on the national and international stage that are upsetting and run counter to our beliefs and values. But as we navigate any pain or unease we may feel, we are called to recognize that we were placed here for our brief moment on this planet to "do one better than was done before," to work in partnership with God to make this world the best it can be.

This can indeed be one of the best times of our lives when we recognize what a gift we have been given to be able to take the teachings of Torah and tradition and to incorporate them into our lives, so that we may be inspired to leave a positive and indelible imprint on this world.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Alan Cook



Sinai Temple Announcements

BAR MITZVAH

Please join us as Matthew Pierce Trager is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, May 6th.



Matthew is the son of Jason and Stacy Trager, and the brother of Cori Trager. Matthew is a student at the Sinai Temple Religious School and attends OSRUI during the summers.

Matthew attends Franklin Middle school in Champaign where he is in 7th grade. He enjoys playing video games, building Legos, reading, drawing and hanging out with friends and family.

We are incredibly proud of Matthew's accomplishments

in preparation for this special day and look forward to his continued participation in Jewish studies, traditions, and social opportunities.

Thank you to everyone who has helped us get to this day!

Sinai Temple Announcements

Special Services in May

Recently, four of our Sinai Temple students, Avery Benson, Sarah Bleill, Orli Cook, and Ava Kopolow, attended the IsraelNow trip sponsored by JUF, the Jewish United Fund of Chicago. On **Friday, May 5**, they will share their experiences during our 5:30 PM First Friday service. The service will be followed by a First Friday dinner; please visit <http://tiny.cc/firstfriday> to RSVP.



On **Friday, May 19**, at 7:30 PM, please join us for a special service honoring Martha Alwes. Beginning in 1993, Martha served as Sinai Temple's Music Director,



accompanying many Friday evening and holiday services and coordinating vocalists. She contributed immeasurably to the lively mood of our worship, and now it is time that we thank her. A special Oneg in Martha's honor will follow the service.

Sinai Temple is Hiring!

Sinai Temple is searching for an Administrative Coordinator to support our staff, volunteer board, and congregation. This position is established as 30 hours per week, with the potential for expansion into a full-time position in the future. Salary will be commensurate with experience. Benefits include paid federal, state and Jewish holidays as well as personal leave. Work independently in a friendly, small office environment providing support and assistance to the Champaign/Urbana Jewish community.

For more information on this job listing, please visit the Sinai Temple website at <https://www.sinaitemplecu.org/positions/>

As we prepare to hire for this position, we are seeking volunteers who can assist with specific office projects in the interim. If you are able to assist for a few hours on some of these tasks, please contact Lil Levant at LJLevant@gmail.com or 217-402-3615.



Sinai Temple Announcements

Sinai Temple Annual Meeting Information

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, May 21.

We will begin at 7 PM with an ice cream social.

Business meeting will begin at 7:30 PM.

All relevant documents, including an agenda and proposed budget for fiscal year 2024, will be distributed to the congregation by May 11.

Sinai Temple Slate of Proposed Board Members

Officers

President – Lil Levant
(2 year term)

Vice President – Shari Fox
(2 year term)

Financial Secretary –
Art Siegel (2 year term)

Trustees:

Celia Arnold (3 year term)

Bob Smith (3 year term)

Ben LeRoy (3 year term)

Sam Bernstein
(2 year term)

Sinai Temple Green Team Announcements



Sinai Temple Green Team Invitation

View Pollinators and Native Plants in the
Home Landscape

2:00pm – 4:00pm, Sunday, May 7, 2023

Rain Date: Sunday, May 14, 2023

You are invited to take a journey through six neighborhood locations that are landscaped with native plants and pollinators along with more familiar garden plants.

There is no cost to participate. Visit as many as you like, each at your own leisure. There's no set route or timetable – anytime between 2pm and 4pm.

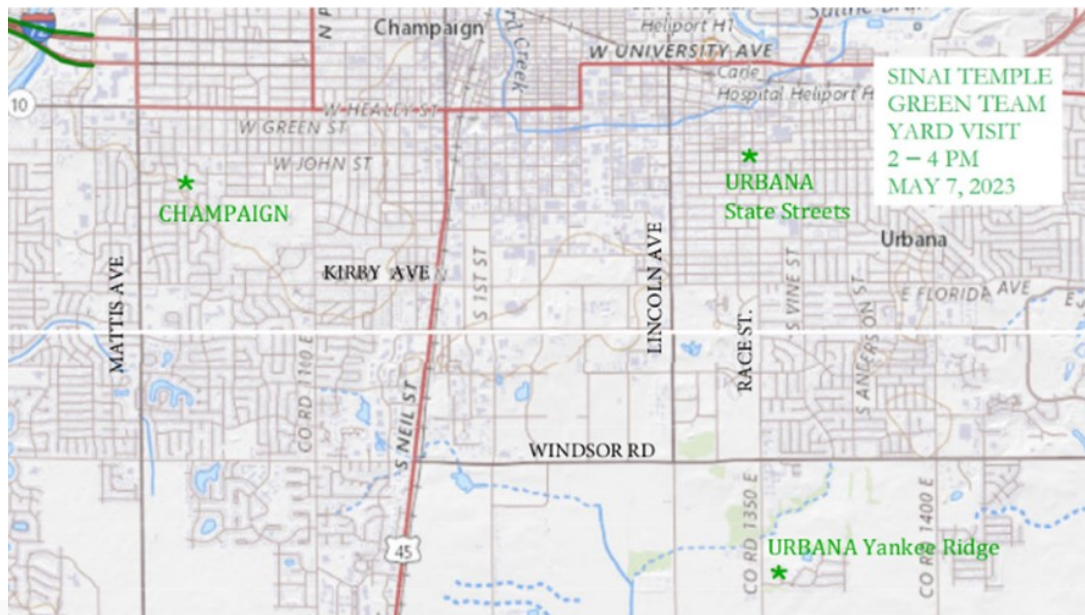
Five locations are homes where you're welcome to view plants in the front and back yards. The sixth location, at Sherwin Dr. and Race St. in Urbana, is a subdivision entry area where homeowners removed invasive honeysuckle and are working to establish native trees and shrubs.

Sinai Temple volunteers will greet you at each location, and East Central Illinois Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners will be on hand to provide information about the plants. When they are not engaged in stewardship or caring for gardens, talking about plants is their idea of fun!

We are not publicizing the Yard Visit afternoon beyond Sinai Temple and CUJF announcements. While you're welcome to bring along a friend or neighbor, we are not extending the invitation broadly to the public so that we can enjoy the visit along with C-U Jewish community members. Please note, the homes will NOT be open for restroom use.



Sinai Temple Green Team Announcements



Champaign locations:

•904 MAYFAIR RD.

(home of Alice Berkson & Alex Scheeline)

•1007 S. Victor St.

(home of Sara & Eric Benson)

Urbana State Streets Locations:

•507 W. Nevada St.

(home of Rae Spooner)

•508 W. Oregon St.

(home of Frances & Mitch Harris)

Urbana Yankee Ridge Locations:

•**Sherwin Dr. & Race St.**

(hosted by Steve Dolan, not a Sinai Temple member)

•3406 S. Persimmon Cir.

(home of Jennie France and Charlie Kahn)

****Sherwin/Race is the entry area to Yankee Ridge subdivision. DO NOT PARK ON RACE STREET. Turn into the subdivision, park along Sherwin Dr. and walk back to the entry area.**

For an overview map of the neighborhood locations go to (LINK).

We need a few more Sinai Temple members to serve as greeters. To volunteer, or if you have questions, contact Marcey Goldstein (Marcey.goldstein@gmail.com) or Alice Berkson at berksonalice@gmail.com.

Plan to join us!! Come to get ideas for your yard, view the plants in varied settings, and enjoy interacting with folks who love native plants.



Sinai Temple Announcements



Sinai Temple

Gift Shop

****All Gift Shop profits go to support the Religious School****

The Gift Shop is now open **by appointment & during Sinai Temple Religious School Hours!**

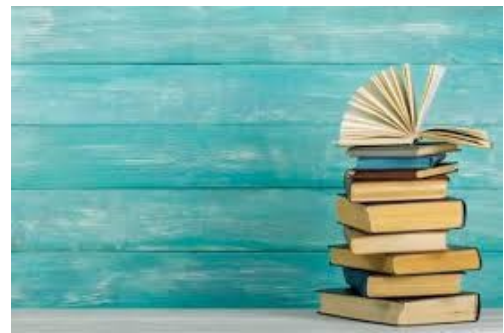
Please contact **Jessica Kopolow** to set up an appointment. You can reach her by phone at **417-8699** or email at **jessicakopolow@yahoo.com**

Cash or checks are always welcome. Credit cards accepted for charges over \$25. We now accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover, using SQUARE.

Gentle Chair Yoga

Tuesdays at 9:30 AM—ONLINE

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



May Book Group

The Book Group meets the second Sunday of each month at 2:00 PM.

During May, we will meet the third Sunday because Mother's Day is May 14th.

We meet in a hybrid format, both in person in the **Sinai Temple Library** and via **Zoom**. The Zoom link is provided for those who are outside the C-U area.

RSVP's required by Friday, May 19th to nataliefr@comcast.net

May 21st: The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles
Facilitator: Judy Ullom



Sinai Temple Announcements

Temple Donations March 15-April 15

GENERAL FUND

Gayle & Ira Kopin in memory of Rose Mandel
Judy Lachman in Memory of Ruth Lachman
Gayle & Ira Kopin in Memory of Jack Diamond
Marcia & Arthur Siegel in Honor of Paul Schomer's Birthday
Shari & Ben Fox in Honor of Art Siegel's Birthday
Phyllis & William Gingold in memory of Lillian Gingold
Diane & Rob Ore in gratitude to Shari Fox for pup sitting.
Natalie Frankenberg in honor of Art Siegel's special birthday

BUILDING FUND

Shira & Dan Epstein
Amy Wolff & Aaron Smith
Louis Liebovich
Bette & John van Es in Honor of Paul Schomer's 80th Birthday

KITCHEN FUND

Kim & Mitch Fisher

SECURITY FUND

Sheryl Goldberg

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Diane Gottheil in Thanks for Receiving the Purim Baskets
Alan Kurtz in Honor of Joyce Eisenstein as a Thank-you for the Purim Basket
Joyce Nagel Eisenstein as a Thank-you for the Purim Basket

~If you would like to know more about the individual funds that Sinai Temple maintains, please contact our office at:

treasurer@sinaitemplecu.org
or (217) 352-8140

Judith & Steve Ullom as a Thank-you for the Purim Basket
Judith & Samuel Bernstein in Honor of Althea's Brit Mitzvah

LIBRARY FUND

Richard Newman in memory of Charles Miller

RENOVATION FUND

Natalie Frankenberg in honor of Paul Schomer's 80th birthday
Paula Kaufman



Sinai Temple Memorials for May 2023

Friday, April 28	Samuel Adleman (30 Apr) Laura Moore Avner (4 May) Edward Israel Blum (29 Apr) Isidore Brill (29 Apr) Bertha Craven (5 May) Beverly J. Cronin (4 May) Bertha Rabinowitz Diness (30 Apr) Della Faiman (9 Iya) Herbert E. Francisco (8 Iya) Agha-Jan Gahvari (13 Iya)	Abraham Gerald Ginsberg (5 May) Philip Horwitz (3 May) Raisa Ionina (1 May) Blair Bernard Kling (2 May) Celia Berman Kulwin (30 Apr) Ethel Uritz Marcus (29 Apr) Ida Levine Markoff (30 Apr) Jacob Royce Nathan (13 Iya) Penn Nelson (1 May) Edith Pincus (4 May)	Norman Stanley Rosenzweig (4 May) Herbert Rubinstein (29 Apr) Naomi M. Siegel (4 May) Helen Kranson Siess (1 May) Seymour Sudman (2 May) Pauline Evenson Tager (5 May) Manie Tepper (5 May) Theodore H. Zimmerman (1 May)
Friday, May 5	William Adelston (9 May) Samuel Agran (12 May) Edward Dessen (8 May) Sonia Doppelt (9 May) Carolyn Kuhn Feffer (7 May) Donald M. Ginsberg (7 May) Becky Glaser (11 May) Morton S. Glaser (8 May) Abraham Goldberg (6 May)	William Arthur Graff (6 May) Ernest W. Lane (12 May) Harry David Lebenson (12 May) Samuel Lenik (15 Iya) Sara Lewis (8 May) Simon Litman (7 May) Mariane Tager Melnikoff (8 May) Pearl Miller (10 May) Beverly Newman (11 May)	Sarah Braudes Olefsky (7 May) William Edward Perkel (12 May) Sidney P. Radeloff (12 May) Lee E. Roland (10 May) Lillian G. Stauffer (11 May) Amelia Alpiner Stern (12 May) Herman Edward Waisvisz (9 May)
Friday, May 12	Ruth B. Barker (17 May) Barbara Ann Berg (17 May) Henry Jacob Blum (16 May) Morris Garfinkel (17 May) Alice Grossman (17 May) Mildred Hirshenson (18 May) Armin H. Koller (17 May)	Adele Lipson (15 May) Bernard Regardie Perry (26 Iya) Jack Rothenberg (18 May) Sarah Savran (23 Iya) Harold Morris Schomer (26 Iya) Sophie Weinberg (22 Iya)	
Friday, May 19	David Ralph Berkson (24 May) Abe Blockman (21 May) Doris Sweital Brody (23 May) Estelle Brotherson (26 May) Addie Bernstein Cohen (25 May) Edwin Harlib (5 Siv) Frank Helman (29 Iya) Ethel Herman (29 Iya)	Shirley Muriel Kalmanson (6 Siv) Lila Ziven Katz (22 May) Rachel Lewis (26 May) George Miller (21 May) Ethel Lydia Olson (26 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) David Jacob Waisvisz (21 May) Marjorie Katz Weiser (1 Siv) Morris Zimmerman (21 May)
Friday, May 26	Susan Linowes Allen (9 Siv) Trudy Averbuch (2 Jun) Zelda Trenner Derber (30 May) 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) Doris Manaster (1 Jun) Hortense (Moritz) Mischakoff (2 Jun) Ruby Carol Ginsberg Miskie (2 Jun) Esther S. Mittleman (1 Jun) Martin Pierce (29 May) Maxine Pombert (28 May) Marion Sherman (2 Jun)	Marie Simon Simonson (29 May) Albert Sunshine (30 May) Robert Arlen Swartz (12 Siv) Emilio Weiss (30 May)
Friday, June 2	Alfred Beller (17 Siv) Irvin Bloom (9 Jun) Naomi Dietchweiler (8 Jun) Burton H. Fagan (4 Jun) Irving Kohen (9 Jun) Alvin Konick (5 Jun) Sophie Perlman Lenik (14 Siv)	Adele G. Libman (8 Jun) Ida Libman (5 Jun) Molly Mayorwitz (6 Jun) Hyman F. Simonson (3 Jun) Alfred Smith (6 Jun) Frederick Sosnoff (9 Jun) Esther Reizman Steinberg (19 Siv)	Rosalia Blumenfeld Fagan Treuman (8 Jun) Amalia Rosenheck Weinberger (16 Siv) Leonard Weiner (17 Siv) Lynn Lazarus Weisskopf (8 Jun)