

September 2023

Bulletin



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

September 2023

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



September

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

5:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service & First Friday
Dinner

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

5:30 PM Shabbat Rocks!
7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

6:00 PM Selichot!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

4:00 PM Memorial Service - Mount Hope
Cemetery

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

7:30 PM Erev Rosh Hashana Service

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

9:00 AM ETM Rosh Hashanah Day 1 Service
10:00 AM Reform Rosh Hashanah Service
2:30 PM Children & Family Service
4:30 PM Tashlich

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

9:00 AM ETM Rosh Hashanah Day 2 Service

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

6:00 PM ETM Kol Nidre Service
7:30 PM Reform Kol Nidre Service

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

9:00 AM ETM Yom Kippur Service
10:00 AM Reform Yom Kippur Service
2:30 PM Children & Family Service
4:00 PM Reform Neilah and Yizkor Service
5:00 PM ETM Mincha and Neilah Service

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

10:00 AM ETM Sukkot Service

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

5:30 PM Sukkot Pizza Dinner and Program

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

From Rabbi Alan Cook's Desk



I love being a part of Sinai Temple year-round. But there's a particular special energy in the air as September arrives. We prepare for the students to return to Sinai Temple Religious School, as well as for the resumption of

Adult Education classes and other programming. We spruce up the facilities, inside and out, in preparation for the High Holidays, and later in the month there's a sukkah to be built. Incidentally, many of these preparations rely on the support of volunteers. Please be sure to see elsewhere in the bulletin for how you can pitch in as we ready ourselves.

The new Jewish year, 5784, is on the horizon. One of the ways that the number 84 can be represented in Hebrew is with the characters ayin-dalet-yud ,עד, which translates to "My witnesses."

In the book of Isaiah, chapter 43, verse 10, the prophet cites the word of God: "'You are My witnesses,' says God, 'and My servants whom I have chosen. Know Me, therefore, and put your trust in Me.'"

In a plain reading of Isaiah's text, we see God's statement as a sort of reassurance. God will be here

for us and watch over us. But in a beautiful midrash, the rabbis twist the phrasing slightly as they dare to read the verse slightly differently. "You are My witnesses, and therefore I am able to be God...". In having the chutzpah to read the prophetic words in this manner, the rabbis underscore a symbiotic relationship between humanity and the Divine. We can only be our best selves, and God can only be God's best "Self," if we maintain the covenantal relationship and agree to be there for one another.

I recognize that not all of us may be comfortable with this God concept; your personal theology may inspire you to understand God in a different manner. But however you define God, or a godly Presence, or the mysterious Driver of the Universe, I pray that each of us will find a way in the coming New Year to be a faithful witness, bringing holiness into our midst through faithful, loving acts of kindness toward others. Acting in this way, may we each be deemed worthy of being inscribed in the Book of Blessing for a good year.

Shanah Tovah U'm'tukah,

May we each be blessed with a sweet and healthy New Year,

Rabbi Alan Cook

Selichot

Selichot helps us to usher in the High Holiday season by focusing our minds and hearts on thinking about how we hope to behave in the coming year. All are invited to join us on **Saturday, September 9, at 6 PM** for a catered box dinner from Michael's, a movie (we'll show both Pixar's "Soul" and Disney's "The Straight Story"-- you pick your favorite), and a special Havdalah at which we'll change the Torah's covers to white and hear the shofar for the first time this season. RSVPs are required for dinner, which is only \$5 per person. Please RSVP at <https://sinaitemplecu.shulcloud.com/form/selichot23>



From President Lil Levant

Shalom and warm greetings to each of you.

As we approach the High Holidays, I am deeply grateful for the honor of serving as President of our Congregation. For me, Sinai Temple provides spiritual nourishment, connection and community. It is a place to come together and create a sense of belonging.

It has been very rewarding to have had recent conversations with some of you on what you want to see for the Temple and what we might do together to strengthen our community. The theme of Tikkun Olam, repairing the earth, has been at the forefront of many of these discussions. So, in anticipation of the New Year, I'm sharing several volunteer opportunities for you to consider.

1. **Join other congregants in writing a check to support the Eastern Illinois Foodbank:** It has been our annual High Holiday practice to support this local not-for-profit organization that works to alleviate hunger throughout our community. This year, rather than collecting food, we will be distributing donation envelopes at the High Holiday services. Please consider making a generous contribution.

2. **Join the Green Team:** Be a part of Sinai Temple's efforts to promote sustainable living and implement practical ways to reduce our environmental footprint. Please contact Alice Berkson at berksonalice@gmail.com if you are interested.
3. **Work in our Newman Garden:** Take an hour or two to volunteer to water our plants, and care for our garden. Please contact Art Siegel at building@sinaitemplecu.org to coordinate.
4. **Support NAMI Campaign's Strides Against Stigma Walk in Hessel Park on Saturday afternoon, October 7th:** Katherine Coyle is organizing a group from the Temple to walk in support of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) which seeks to improve the lives of individuals with mental illness as well as those who love them. Please contact Katherine at katherinecoyle2@gmail.com for more information.

L'shana tova. Here's to a year of good health, peace, and love,

Lil

Sukkot

On **Sunday, October 1, beginning at 5:30 PM**, join us for "Pizza in the Hut" (weather permitting) as we gather in Sinai Temple's Sukkah for a delicious pizza dinner from Garcia's Pizza in a Pan (with thanks to Temple member Ralph Senn). Following dinner, we'll have a chance to shake the lulav and etrog, then join in a fun community art project facilitated by John Odum, art teacher at Carrie Busey Elementary School.

Please RSVP so that we can have an appropriate headcount for pizza and for art supplies by visiting <https://sinaitemplecu.shulcloud.com/form/sukkot2023>. In case of inclement weather, the program will be held inside.

Simchat Torah

On **Saturday, October 7, beginning at 5:30 PM**, please join us for our Simchat Torah extravaganza. We'll begin with a freshly cooked dinner in celebration of the festival. Then we'll honor both our newest Sinai Temple Religious School students, and our newest Temple members (those who have joined in the last three years). We'll cap off the evening in celebration of the Torah, as Mitch Harris leads us in dancing to the music of local Klezmer band Papashoy! RSVPs are required for dinner, which is \$8 per person, with no household paying more than \$30. Please visit <https://sinaitemplecu.shulcloud.com/form/ST2023> to RSVP.

Please note: Because of our holiday celebrations, there will **NOT** be a First Friday dinner in October. Our service on October 6 will still be held at 5:30 PM., and all are encouraged to bring their own dinner to enjoy in the pods following the service. We will provide challah.



Religious School News

September Events:

September 4, 9:00-12:00 – Labor of Love

September 8 – Shabbat Rocks!

(Note: date change due to Rosh Hashanah)

September 10 – First Day of Hebrew/Religious School

September 16 – Jewnior Congregation for Rosh Hashanah (registration required)

September 25 – Jewnior Congregation for Yom Kippur (registration required)

September 13, 20, 27 – Wednesday Hebrew School

Our 2023-2024/5784 Sinai Temple Religious School year is off to a great start! A couple of weeks ago, we had an amazing Pancake Breakfast to kick off the year. We had over 15 Sinai Temple/CUTY (Champaign Urbana Temple Youth) teens serving drinks, taking orders, setting up and cleaning tables. The CUTY teens did an incredible job, and their efforts were noticed – they received over \$600.00 in “tips” that will be used for CUTY and other youth programming this year. We are grateful for the adult volunteers who ran everything in the kitchen flawlessly.

The Pancake Breakfast also marked the opening of Sinai Temple Religious School Registration. It was great to reconnect with students and to hear about their amazing summer adventures and activities. Classes are filling nicely this year and I am looking forward to starting our sessions in early September. All registered families will receive a link to the religious school calendar, information about snack schedules and host family dates and other relevant information through email. Regular religious school email blasts will be starting. If you don’t receive a weekly email, please contact me so I can ensure you are on the recipient list. If you know of any children in the community who might want to register, please contact me!

Don’t forget to add upcoming events to your calendars! While we are adjusting to secular school calendars, sports schedules, theater rehearsals and more – fall is filled with holidays and celebrations at Sinai Temple. I want to highlight three programs and hope that you will be able to come to at least one as we celebrate as a community.

1. **Labor of Love – September 4.** Every year, we have a minhag (custom) of gathering at Sinai Temple to do some indoor and outdoor clean up. Supporters bring their own gloves, garden tools and other supplies that would be helpful as we clean up the building in preparation for the High Holy Days. This year, we will offer child care for younger kids who may not be able to work alongside parents – but we also have some projects that are available to children.
2. **Shabbat Rocks!** – September Shabbat Rocks will be moved up a week to **September 8**. Shabbat Rocks is an opportunity for families to celebrate Shabbat together with a meal, services and an oneg. Come to all or part of the evening – whatever works for your schedule. By joining the community for this joyous Shabbat experience, you will model the importance of Shabbat and community. Participating in Shabbat worship also helps children become fluent in liturgy, a skill that we work on during Hebrew School
3. On Wednesday, **October 4**, we will have a **BYO dinner in the sukkah**. We love to see pictures of your personal sukkot – but we also know that not all families have the ability to put up a sukkah each year. Bring your own dinner – home cooked or picked up from a restaurant – and dine with others. We will provide drinks and desserts. Event will begin at 5:45 (after Hebrew School) and you are welcome to stay as long as you would like!

Rabbi Jody Cook

Green Team

GREEN TEAM TIP

This year's FAITH IN PLACE meeting will be virtual, with a local Keynote Watch Party the evening of Oct. 8, 2023 at Copper Creek Church, on Curtis Road in Champaign.

You are invited to register for a series of lunchtime and evening sessions to be held on October 8-11. This year's Green Team Summit will explore ways to address our climate crises, amplify the voices of our communities, and care for our well-being.

The keynote speaker [Leah Thomas](#) is the founder of [Intersectional Environmentalist](#) and author of [The Intersectional Environmentalist: How to Dismantle Systems of Oppression to Protect People + Planet](#).

As a leading voice in the environmental justice community, Leah will invite us to explore ways to ensure the world we are building is rooted in caring for all people.

Along with a keynote address by Leah Thomas, additional topics include deepening western environmental perspectives, federal funding for houses of worship, spiritual and self-care practices in navigating climate trauma, the intersectional environmentalist book club, and a candlelight vigil.

Read more about the 2023 Green Team Summit, and find the registration link at <https://www.greenteamsummit.org/>

A donation is not required to register. Questions? Get in touch with Green Team chair Alice Berkson at berksonalice@gmail.com



Sinai Temple Announcements

Mi Shebeirach list

Sinai Temple maintains a Mi Shebeirach list, in order that we might lift up the names of those facing illness or hardship in our weekly healing prayers. This list has grown in the past year, and we are no longer certain that every name on it is current.

Starting with the first Shabbat after the High Holidays (Friday, Sept. 29), we will begin our Mi Shebeirach list anew. Rabbi Alan will maintain the list with the name of the individual, the name of the person who requested that they be added to the list, and the date that they were added to the list. Names will be removed from the list after one month (four Shabbatot), unless a specific request is made to maintain them. Thank you for your understanding.

Sinai Temple Gift Shop

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

The Gift Shop is now open by appointment only during the summer months

Please contact **Jessica Kopolow** to set up an appointment.
You can reach her by phone at
217-417-8699 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.

August Book Group

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

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.

September 10th:
Remarkably Bright Creatures
by Shelby Van Pelt
Facilitator: Natalie Frankenberg

RSVP's required by Friday, September 8th to
nataliefr@comcast.net

Labor Of Love

Monday, September 4th from 9AM - Noon

Please contact Art Siegel for more information
at building@sinaitemplecu.org

Sukkah Build

SUNDAY, September 24th at 10AM

Please contact Gary Bernstein for more information
at gary@bernsteins.info

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.

Sinai Temple Donations

Temple Donations July 16 to August 15, 2023

BUILDING FUND

Carl & Carol Belber
Brenda Berg
Laura & Anthony Bleill
Annette & John Buckmaster
Erez & Dana Cohen
Leslie Cooperband & Wesley Jarrell
William & Reva Egherman
Joyce Eisenstein
Shira & Dan Epstein
Robert & Patricia Ferrer
Mitch & Kim Fisher
Arne Fliflet & Deborah Levin
Natalie Frankenberg
Robin & Bruce Goettel
Marcey Goldstein
Barbara & Lawrence Gordon
Miriam (Mimi) Greenberg
Michael & Peggy Grossman
Frances & Mitchell Harris
Charles Kahn & Jennie France
Debra Karplus
Eileen & William Kohen
Lyle Konigsberg & Susan Frankenberg
Jessica & Daniel Kopelow
Wynne Korr
Faye Lesht
Lilyan Levant
Terry Maher
Lee & Evan Melhado
Greg Muchnik & April Keaton
Richard Newman
Richard Pikowsky
Dana Rabin & Craig Koslofsky
Amy Roady
Gene & Julia Robinson
Rachel & Sandi Roegman
Randall & Jill Rosenbaum
Jay Rosenstein
Carrie Schaffner
Alexander Scheeline & Alice Berkson

Anat Snir
Marc & Avigail Snir
Edward & Nancy Tepper
Judith & Steve Ullom
Marganit Weinberger-Rotman
Cynthia Weintraub
Jon & Kathryn Weisbaum

GENERAL FUND

Annette & John Buckmaster in
Memory of Bernice
Weinstein
Ann Einhorn in Memory of
Marianna Choldin
William & Phyllis Gingold in
Memory of Betty Shapiro
Julia Kling in Memory of Lotta
Kling
Judith Siess & Stephen Bremseth

KITCHEN FUND

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Susan Cohen & George Monahan
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Shira & Dan Epstein
Robert & Patricia Ferrer
Mitch & Kim Fisher
Arne Fliflet & Deborah Levin
Natalie Frankenberg
Robin & Bruce Goettel
Marcey Goldstein
Barbara & Lawrence Gordon
Miriam (Mimi) Greenberg
Michael & Peggy Grossman
Frances & Mitchell Harris
Brian & Jacquelyn Kahn
Charles Kahn & Jennie France
Debra Karplus
Eileen & William Kohen

Lyle Konigsberg & Susan Frankenberg
Jessica & Daniel Kopelow
Wynne Korr
Charles & Joan Kozoll
Faye Lesht
Lilyan Levant
Terry Maher
Lee & Evan Melhado
Greg Muchnik & April Keaton
Richard Newman
Richard Pikowsky
Dana Rabin & Craig Koslofsky
Amy Roady
Gene & Julia Robinson
Randall & Jill Rosenbaum
Susan & Michael Roughton
Carrie Schaffner
Alexander Scheeline & Alice Berkson
Anat Snir
Marc & Avigail Snir
Edward & Nancy Tepper
Judith & Steve Ullom
Cynthia Weintraub

RENOVATION FUND

Paula Kaufman

SAFETY & SECURITY FUND

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Jessica & Daniel Kopelow
Wynne Korr
Faye Lesht
Lilyan Levant
Terry Maher
Lee & Evan Melhado
Greg Muchnik & April Keaton
Richard Newman in Memory of
Sidney Newman
Richard Pikowsky
Dana Rabin & Craig Koslofsky
Amy Roady
Gene & Julia Robinson
Rachel & Sandi Roegman
Randall & Jill Rosenbaum
Jay Rosenstein
Susan & Michael Roughton
Carrie Schaffner
Alexander Scheeline & Alice Berkson
Anat Snir
Marc & Avigail Snir
Edward & Nancy Tepper
Judith & Steve Ullom
Marganit Weinberger-Rotman
Cynthia Weintraub

TRADITIONAL MINYAN

Gene & Julia Robinson in
Memory of Brian Braun

Sinai Temple Memorials for August 2023

Friday, Sept. 01	<p>John Boby (6 Sep) John Joseph Boby (6 Sep) Lester Burack (3 Sep) Beatrice Cossman (3 Sep) Loretta Dessen (4 Sep) Dorothy Ferrer (20 Elu) Joseph Freudenstein (4 Sep) Florence Nagel Howard (2 Sep)</p>	<p>Jana Katz (8 Sep) Jerry Levant (8 Sep) Minnie Levin (3 Sep) Blanche Loeb (8 Sep) Sadye Zimmerman Marco (4 Sep) Jennie Z. Mashkes (4 Sep) Albert E. Rigberg (2 Sep) Henrietta Schwartz (7 Sep)</p>	<p>William Sholem (4 Sep) Yetta Silver (3 Sep) Minnie Sosnoff (2 Sep) Alpiner L. Stern (3 Sep) Mildred Topolosky (2 Sep)</p>
Friday, Sept. 08	<p>Carrie Wiener Adler (15 Sep) Annette Bernstein (9 Sep) Daniel K. Bloomfield (12 Sep) Jorge Covarrubias (11 Sep) Curtis Coyle (12 Sep) Jerome Ex (12 Sep) Robert C Greenstein (13 Sep) Robert C Greenstein (13 Sep)</p>	<p>Robert C. Greenstein (13 Sep) Leonard Heumann (13 Sep) William Konick (10 Sep) Abe Leavitt (14 Sep) Abraham Levy (11 Sep) Albert Abraham Liebovich (10 Sep) Rachel Loeb (10 Sep) Jack H. Nessel (12 Sep)</p>	<p>Dorothy Selicovitz Novick (15 Sep) Leonard Ross (15 Sep) Wolf Shklair (26 Elu) Jean Siegel (15 Sep) Ruth Siegle (25 Elu) Samuel Slutsky (11 Sep) Sarah Spitzer (11 Sep) Rachel Towlen (9 Sep)</p>
Friday, Sept. 15	<p>Alejandro Victor Medina Abulafia (16 Sep) Gloria Liss Bortman (18 Sep) Florence Braverman (4 Tis) Donald Brieland (2 Tis) Selma Cooperband (19 Sep) Bertha Freudenstein (19 Sep) Steven Gingold (18 Sep) Pauline Gitler (18 Sep)</p>	<p>Beatrice Herman (5 Tis) Dorothy Katz (1 Tis) Marvin N. Lesht (5 Tis) Penny Elizabeth Magence-Ginsberg (20 Sep) Harold Manning Marsh (17 Sep) Zelda Hamburg Maus (19 Sep) Sol Orden (20 Sep)</p>	<p>Louis Roddis (7 Tis) Arthur David Rosenberg (3 Tis) Rose Rubinstein (19 Sep) William Savran (20 Sep) Joel Serlin (21 Sep) Anna Ruth Steigmann (18 Sep) John Walter (20 Sep)</p>
Friday, Sept. 22	<p>Shirley Silver Berenbaum (25 Sep) Lucille J. Birkett (24 Sep) Solomon Bernstein Cohen (29 Sep) Ralph L. Dietchweiler (25 Sep) Marion G. Eskow (23 Sep) Alvin Friedman (13 Tis) Sol Goldberg (27 Sep)</p>	<p>Allan Levy (29 Sep) Gabriel Lilienthal (29 Sep) Elsie Mautner (23 Sep) Ronald Senoff (12 Tis) Rachel Sitron (24 Sep) Esther Solomon (28 Sep) Marcia Robin Taylor (13 Tis)</p>	<p>Annette Winakor (23 Sep) Baruch Yairi (10 Tis)</p>
Friday, Sept. 29	<p>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) Ann Braun Goldfein (30 Sep)</p>	<p>Shirley Zibel Gunther (2 Oct) Merle Garber Hamburg (6 Oct) Jeffrey Paul Kaufman (17 Tis) Becky S. Kozoll (30 Sep) Estelle Langendorf (3 Oct) Sandra Lipson (1 Oct) Dorothy Lowenstein (5 Oct) Mortimer Merkel (4 Oct)</p>	<p>Emily Sara Peterman (6 Oct) Norma Rosenberg (5 Oct) Ceil Rubinstein (3 Oct) David L. Stone (1 Oct)</p>