

# January 2024

## Bulletin



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

January 2024

3104 W. Windsor Road ☆ Champaign, IL 61822 ☆ (217) 352-8140 ☆ [www.sinaitemplecu.org](http://www.sinaitemplecu.org)



### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

#### **FRIDAY, JANUARY 05**

5:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service and First  
Friday Dinner

#### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 06**

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan  
Service

#### **FRIDAY, JANUARY 12**

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

#### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 13**

10:00 AM Bar Mitzvah Service  
for Asher Watson

#### **FRIDAY, JANUARY 19**

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

#### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 20**

9:30 AM Bar Mitzvah Service for Jacob Epstein  
(Note: earlier start time!)

#### **FRIDAY, JANUARY 26**

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

#### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 27**

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan Service

## *From Rabbi Alan Cook's Desk*



I recently read a novel that I've been wanting to read for a few years. Go Set a Watchman is a book by Harper Lee, presented as a sequel to her better-known, award-winning work To Kill a

Mockingbird. Published in 2015, the book stirred up a great deal of controversy because, at the time of its release, Ms. Lee was quite elderly, and many saw the publication as a money grab that took advantage of the author's advanced age and was counter to her earlier expressed wishes. It has since emerged that the work was never intended as a stand-alone sequel and was actually a first draft of what would become To Kill a Mockingbird.

Without divulging too many spoilers, I'll say that the novel was controversial for another reason. Atticus Finch, one of the most revered figures in American literature (whose image was also burnished by Gregory Peck's excellent portrayal in the film), is significantly re-imagined in this text. He is no longer the standard-bearer for civil rights as we knew him in the earlier novel, but rather displays many of the same prejudices found among the other citizens of Maycomb, Alabama who populate the book.

While I am glad to have read the book, as I think Harper Lee is a compelling writer, it was difficult to find that this character whom I had so admired and respected over the years had been recast in this manner.

It is never easy when our heroes—those whom we look to for guidance and leadership and strength of character—disappoint us. In an era of increasing polarization, it seems perhaps we're

experiencing this at an increased rate. Those whom we once viewed as allies are standing on the sidelines in silence, or even making statements that run counter to our beliefs and ideals. Leaders whom we relied upon to govern with respect for all their constituents adopt partisan stances that leave some feeling abandoned and betrayed.

But I believe there is room for hope. The start of a new [secular] year allows us to turn a new page. We can forge new friendships and alliances with those who share our interests and will uphold the values we hold dear. We can redouble our efforts to build bridges of trust and friendship, even with those with whom we disagree. In the chill of winter, there is always the promise of a coming spring.

May this new year 2024 be a year of health, happiness, and blessing for us all.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Alan Cook

# *From President Lil Levant*

Once again, in December, we had some wonderful congregational events. In case you missed it, this year's Chanukah celebration was wonderful. The dinner was sold-out with over 130 people in attendance! The concert performance by Rabbi Neal Katz was entertaining and inspiring. We learned about the trials and tribulations of being a Rabbi in the small town of Tyler, Texas. He performed some wonderful songs, including some co-written by Rabbi Alan. It was especially fun to hear him reminisce about HUC days with Rabbis Alan and Jody. I look forward to another chance to get together at Chinese Dinner and a Movie on December 24. Always a fun night!

If you have not already attended one of Rabbi Alan's Sunday Adult Education Classes, you are missing out! Each of the weekly topics is distinctive and informative; the recent session on non-Ashkenazi food was a stand-out. Sunday Adult Education will resume on January 22 with the topic "The Muppets Take on Torah."

I thought I would bring you up to date on some of what the Board of Trustees has been doing.

Several of us participated in discussions with CliftonLarsenAllen, the CPA firm, as they are preparing an assessment of financial best practices. Their findings will be presented to the Board in an upcoming meeting. We look forward to following up on their recommendations, as appropriate.

The Board has approved a new building use policy to cover life-cycle events as well as event space that is requested by members and outside organizations. I am pleased that we have developed a policy that should be clearer and more equitable. I want to thank Amy Roady and Celia Arnold for their leadership in this effort.

Creating a deeper, more inclusive volunteer infrastructure has also been a primary focus of the Board. We have begun to tackle ways to engage our congregants in new initiatives to sustain and improve Temple life. For example, several of us have had preliminary discussions on improving membership engagement, especially how to engage new members in activities that resonate with them. Ideally, we would like to start an onboarding program for new members, so they are sufficiently welcomed into Temple life. If you are interested in helping with this, please let me know.

We have also started to map out a communications strategy to make certain we reach as many of our congregants as possible. While e-Newsletters are currently the primary form of communication, not everyone reads them. We need to develop effective ways to reach all our members and yet be nimble enough to reach different interest groups or ages.

Board members are excited to be addressing these important issues as we embark on a post-COVID, active, largely in-person community, once again; but we cannot do this alone. We need your help! If you have an interest in giving a little of your time to any number of projects ranging from security to membership engagement to Onegs, please let us know. There is something for everyone. I know that it may be difficult for you to spare time; I realize that most of us have very busy lives. But I promise you, no matter how much you give back, it will be rewarding.

As always, if you have questions or comments, or if you would like to help out on a project, please let me know. I can be reached best at [ljlevant@gmail.com](mailto:ljlevant@gmail.com) or (217) 402-3615.

Take good care,

Lil

## *From Rabbi Jody Cook's Desk*

There is a book that I recommend to teachers who cover Shavuot and the 10 Commandments. It is called, The 11th Commandment: Wisdom from our Children. The premise of the book is self-explanatory – children were asked what they thought the 11th Commandment should be (note: In religious school we do teach that there are 613 Commandments in the Torah). It allows learners to think about the mitzvot (commandments) in the Torah and also asks them to generate a commandment that they think might be the next commandment if we were to expand on the original ten given at Mount Sinai. It also allows learners to think about the most important rules and to consider the difference between a rule and a mitzvah/commandment.

In the book, the child authors share that we should take care of the environment, treat others kindly, feed the animals and not fight. Along with the 11th commandment, there are drawings that show an interpretation of the rules that the children suggest are important rules for humanity.

As part of a monthly, online meeting I have for OSRUI faculty, a colleague offered a d'var Torah recently. In his teaching, my colleague referenced a well-known Jewish philosopher and Reform rabbi named Emil Fackenheim. Fackenheim was born in 1916 and was a Holocaust survivor. Following the war, Fackenheim taught that there was a 614th Commandment – one that could not have been written in the Torah because it was only relevant because of the Holocaust. He teaches, “Thou shalt not hand Hitler posthumous victories. To despair of the God of Israel is to continue Hitler’s work for him.” I had learned this teaching in the past, and find that it is incredibly relevant right now, as our celebration of Chanukkah just concluded and as the war in Israel/Gaza continues. There are many scholars who are critical of Fackenheim’s teaching, explaining that we should not guilt the next generation into practicing Judaism and learning about their Jewish identity because of the Holocaust and Hitler. If we think about our history as Jews, the story of our enemies trying to destroy us repeats throughout the generations. As we continue to pray for our family in Israel, and as we continue to see acts of antisemitism in our country and around the world, let us also continue to be engaged in Jewish activity, find ways to practice Judaism by incorporating relevant mitzvot into our lives, and stand proudly as Jews.

### **January Religious School Calendar and Upcoming Events**

- Sundays – January 21, 28
- Wednesdays – January 17, 24, 31
- Winter Camp – January 2-5 (pre-registration required)
- Annual Ice Skating Event – January 7, 1:15-4:00 (RSVP to Rabbi Jody – [educator@sinaitemplecu.org](mailto:educator@sinaitemplecu.org))
- Shabbat Rocks/Next Dor – January 19 (Please Note: We may only offer Shabbat Rocks due to space limitations that weekend). RSVP for dinner to Rabbi Jody by January 17 – [educator@sinaitemplecu.org](mailto:educator@sinaitemplecu.org)
- Impact Life – Blood Drive – January 28 (ages 16+) Please watch for sign up information in the email blast

Rabbi Jody Cook

Director of Education



# Green Team and Events

## Green Team Tip

### RE-EXAMINING RECYCLING

Many folks in the community were disappointed to find that we no longer have a polystyrene recycling facility since the closing of Dart Container in East Urbana.

We can continue our efforts to reduce disposables and foster recycling by taking actions every day. At Sinai Temple, we can make sure recyclables placed in the bins are clean (throw away cardboard with food or stains) and that no plastic bags are included.

Bring your own reusable containers when you visit a restaurant. Your container may be more sturdy/leakproof for leftovers compared to a restaurant disposable to-go container, and you'll reduce items going into the landfill.

Have reusable bags always at hand when you shop for groceries. If you have an accumulation of bags at home, remember you can include more than just grocery bags when you drop them off at the grocery store recycling bin. Some items you can take to Meijer stores are pictured here.

It's always best to think of **REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE** in that order, **REDUCE** is the most important! Together we can make a difference in our community.



## Kibbitz and Cook – Cooking Series (for adults)

Community member, Dana Mor, will be offering baking/cooking demonstrations in January. We will begin each session at 7:00 at Sinai Temple – South Pod/Kitchen areas. Please feel free to share with friends! In some instances, you may take your items home to bake – depending on number of participants.

January 10 – Babka

January 17 – Bagels

January 24 – Date Bars (for Tu Bishvat)

January 31 – Homemade Pasta

Participants will be able to make each of the recipes, take samples home and we will have time for some drinks, snacks and conversation.

Cost for each session - \$10 – to help cover the cost of ingredients and snacks. Please watch for the sign up link via email blast and register by the Sunday prior to each session so we can purchase ingredients. You can sign up for the full series or do weekly sign ups based on availability and interest in the food being prepared.

Note: We will be asking participants/community members to help provide some of the tools needed to make the recipes. Please watch for specifics, but if you have a pasta roller, hand mixer, and/or rolling pin that you can bring, please let us know when you sign up!

## January B'nai Mitzvah

### Asher Parrish Watson Bar Mitzvah



Asher Parrish Watson will be called to the Torah on January 13, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Asher began his Jewish education in Sinai's Hand-in-Hand program and has been an engaged and enthusiastic participant in Jewish education ever since. He is currently a seventh grader at Urbana Middle School. He is a member of the cross-country and track and field teams, excels in math and social studies, and plays trombone and electric bass. Outside of school, Asher enjoys rock climbing, playing all types of games, road trips to visit family in Montana, and playing with his cat, Esther.

We would like to thank B'nai Mitzvah teacher Sara Topolsky for engaging the class in mitzvot and supporting preparation for this important occasion. Additionally, we would like to express our gratitude to Rabbi Jody Cook, not only for tutoring Asher for his bar mitzvah, but for her years-long commitment to his Jewish learning.

### Jacob Leo Epstein Bar Mitzvah



Jacob Leo Epstein will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on January 20, 2024 at 9:30am. Jacob is a fourth generation member of Sinai Temple — the son of Dan & Shira Epstein, grandson of Ira & Lynn Wachtel, and Ed & Nancy Epstein both of blessed memory, and the great-grandson of Leo & Anne Weisel, Z"L. He's been attending Sinai Temple for religious school since the very start.

Jacob is a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Countryside School, where he runs Cross Country. He is learning guitar, loves spending time playing video games, dreaming up creative and elaborate stories with his massive collection of Legos, and hanging out with his two dogs, Jasper & Whiskey. Jacob is passionate about the outdoors, completing an Outward Bound course in Colorado this past summer where he backpacked through the Rockies for a week, summited a 13,000 ft peak, and completed an overnight 'solo' experience where he cooked his own meal and slept out under the stars all alone for 15+ hours. Jacob is in his 8<sup>th</sup> year of studying the Chinese language at school and thinks it may be something he wants to explore as part of his future career.

Jacob is naturally curious and interested in the world around him, especially when it comes to history, science and social issues. He regularly volunteers at the Champaign County Forest Preserve District helping to remove invasive species, and often chooses a park or greenspace around CU to spend an hour or two picking up litter. He's been working to arrange a special Holocaust lecture with Dr. Gingold at his school this coming spring and is enjoying delivering challahs on Friday nights to Sinai members needing a pick-me-up with his B'nai Mitzvah class for their mitzvah project.

Jacob wants to express his special thanks to his tutor, B'nai Mitzvah class teacher and family friend, Sara Topolosky. She has helped him so much getting ready for his big day with the perfect mix of fun, encouragement and tough love. Sara was there when Jacob was born (just a few room doors down at Carle, with 'little' Shira) and has been there for him ever since!

We hope you can join us in person, or via the Sinai Temple live stream on January 20<sup>th</sup> ([www.youtube.com/sinaitemplecu](http://www.youtube.com/sinaitemplecu))



# 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 began 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 & during Sinai Temple Religious School Hours!

Please contact **Jessica Kopolow** to set up an appointment. You can reach her by email at [jessicakopolow@yahoo.com](mailto:jessicakopolow@yahoo.com) or by phone at 217-417-8699.

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

## January Book Group

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

During January and February, we will meet via Zoom.

**January 14:  
The It Girl  
by Ruth Ware  
Facilitator: Cyndi Smyser**

**RSVP's required by Friday, January 12 to  
[nataliefr@comcast.net](mailto:nataliefr@comcast.net)**

## 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](mailto:robinfans1@gmail.com).

# *Sinai Temple Donations*

## Temple Donations November 16 to December 15, 2023

### **BUILDING FUND**

Judy Bach  
Linda Bauer  
Brenda Berg  
Dov Cohen & Andrea Aguiar  
Stephen Downie & Deborah Katz-Downie  
William & Reva Egherman  
Sandy Helman  
Marc Hertzman & Ikuko Asaka  
Perry Kohn  
Scott Lerner  
Joan Miller  
Rob & Diane Ore  
Margaret Saks  
Alexander Scheeline & Alice Berkson  
Sonya Sholem  
Anthony & Penelope Soskin

### **CEMETERY MAINTENANCE FUND**

Jan & David Sholem

### **CONDOLENCE FUND**

Pamela Scheinman in Memory of Charles Kozoll

### **EINHORN GARDEN & GROUNDS**

Michael & Peggy Grossman

### **FRIENDS OF RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**

Stephen Downie & Deborah Katz-Downie  
Diane Gottheil in Memory of Charles Kozoll  
Edward & Nancy Tepper in Memory of Charles Kozoll

### **GENERAL FUND**

Linda Bauer  
Marjorie Gibbs in Memory of John and Jane P. Walter  
William & Phyllis Gingold in Memory of Charles Kozoll  
Margaret Jobe in Memory of Charles Kozoll

John & Benita Katzenellenbogen in Memory of Charles Kozoll

Paula Kaufman in Memory of Charles Kozoll  
Eileen & William Kohen in Memory of Charles Kozoll  
Jordan Konisky in Memory of John and Jane P. Walter  
Wynne Korr  
Sam & Mimi Krug in Memory of Charles Kozoll  
Mark Sapoznik in Memory of Charles Kozoll  
Alexander Scheeline & Alice Berkson  
Sonya Sholem  
Arthur & Marcia Siegel in Memory of Gerry Friedman  
Vernon Snoeyink in Memory of Charles Kozoll  
Michael Vodkin in Memory of Linda Vodkin  
Ira & Lynn Wachtel in Memory of Charles Kozoll  
Paul & Linda Weichsel in Memory of Charles Kozoll  
and in Honor of Eliana Weichsel

### **KITCHEN FUND**

Judy Bach  
Linda Bauer  
Brenda Berg  
Stephen Downie & Deborah Katz-Downie  
Michael & Peggy Grossman  
Sandy Helman  
Marc Hertzman & Ikuko Asaka  
Perry Kohn  
Joan Kozoll  
Scott Lerner  
Lee & Evan Melhado  
Rob & Diane Ore  
Margaret Saks  
Alexander Scheeline & Alice Berkson  
Sonya Sholem  
Anthony & Penelope Soskin



# *Sinai Temple Donations*

## Temple Donations November 16 to December 15, 2023

### **LIBRARY FUND**

Susan Brim in Memory of Abraham Lapedes

### **MLK SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Annette & John Buckmaster  
William & Reva Eggherman  
William & Phyllis Gingold  
Miriam Greenberg-Boby  
Stephen & Anita Hamburg  
Frances & Mitchell Harris  
Charles Kahn & Jennie France  
Paula Kaufman  
Wynne Korr  
Warren Lavey & Holly Rosencranz  
Benjamin & Jessica LeRoy  
Lilyan Levant  
Lee & Evan Melhado  
Rob & Diane Ore  
Alexander Scheeline & Alice Berkson  
Ira & Lynn Wachtel

### **MUSIC FUND**

Robin & Bruce Goettel in Memory of Barbara Orden  
Garth Gersten in Memory of Barbara Orden  
Deborah Langosch in Memory of Barbara Orden  
Arthur & Marcia Siegel in Memory of Barbara Orden

### **RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Edward & Robin Hoffman in Memory of Charles Kozoll  
Wynne Korr in Memory of Charles Kozoll  
Lilyan Levant in Memory of Charles Kozoll  
Leslie Mason in Memory of Richard Newman and Ann Sapoznik  
Jennifer Noparstak & Jonah Geller in Memory of Richard Newman

### **RENOVATION FUND**

Paula Kaufman

### **SAFETY & SECURITY FUND**

Judy Bach  
Linda Bauer  
Brenda Berg  
Stephen Downie & Deborah Katz-Downie  
William & Reva Eggherman  
Michael & Peggy Grossman  
Sandy Helman  
Marc Hertzman & Ikuko Asaka  
Perry Kohn  
Joan Kozoll  
Scott Lerner  
Lee & Evan Melhado  
Joan Miller  
Rob & Diane Ore  
Margaret Saks  
Alexander Scheeline & Alice Berkson  
Sonya Sholem  
Anthony & Penelope Soskin

### **SOCIAL ACTION FUND**

Arthur & Marcia Siegel in Memory of Charles Kozoll  
Anthony & Penelope Soskin in Memory of Charles Kozoll  
Ellen and Thomas Swengel in Memory of Charles Kozoll

### **TRADITIONAL MINYAN**

Michael & Peggy Grossman

# Sinai Temple Memorials for January 2024

Friday, Jan. 05	Nancy Abelman ( 6 Jan) Walter H. Abelman ( 6 Jan) Aaron Averbuch (10 Jan) Jacob Berland (11 Jan) Morton A. Blum ( 8 Jan) Harry Burack (29 Tev) Fanny Goldberg ( 7 Jan) Mort Heller (27 Tev)	Ruth Manis Kahn ( 8 Jan) Hattie Freudenstein Kaufman (11 Jan) Viola Koenigsberg ( 9 Jan) Cecelia Klein Pearle (28 Tev) Ruth A. Robinson ( 7 Jan) David Rous (12 Jan) Mildred Nandel Senn ( 8 Jan) Edward Arnold Shapiro ( 2 She)	Irving Siegel (28 Tev) Marvin Phillip Steinberg (26 Tev) Babette Bloch Stern ( 6 Jan) Florence K. Weinberg ( 8 Jan) Philipp G. Weisskopf ( 9 Jan) Herman Weissman (12 Jan)
Friday, Jan. 12	Vivian Adelston (19 Jan) Samuel Jerome Arnold ( 9 She) Lillian Berland (18 Jan) Lillian Schuster Braun ( 6 She) Harry Burack (19 Jan) Louis P. Fiedler (16 Jan) Julian Frankenberg (13 Jan) Mariette Gahvari (14 Jan)	Harold Goldberg (16 Jan) David Krakower ( 5 She) Alma Mautner (18 Jan) Abraham H. Reizman ( 4 She) Aaron Rosenberg (13 Jan) Robert Rosenberg ( 8 She) Henry W. Schwartz (19 Jan) Herbert L. Shapiro ( 7 She)	Chester P. Siess (14 Jan) Jessica Tager Underberg (15 Jan) Neil Underberg (14 Jan)
Friday, Jan. 19	Herman Bernstein (20 Jan) Tanya Estrin (23 Jan) Gwen Focazio (23 Jan) Heini Halberstam (25 Jan) Isaac Kuhn (21 Jan) Samuel Lachman (24 Jan) Samuel Lachman (24 Jan)	Matthew Mischakoff (23 Jan) Lillian Radeloff (21 Jan) Harry Sherman (26 Jan) Samuel Small (12 She) Mathlia Zimmerman (20 Jan)	
Friday, Jan. 26	Abraham Adler ( 2 Feb) Adolph A. Adler ( 2 Feb) Alan David Berenbaum (27 Jan) Benjamin Davis Braun (31 Jan) Elwood L. Fabert ( 2 Feb) Dorothy Finkin ( 2 Feb) Jean Reitzman France ( 2 Feb) Sarah Frydman ( 1 Feb) Zelda Ginsberg ( 2 Feb)	Orie Earl Greenstein (28 Jan) Abetta L. Helman (22 She) Michael Herman (22 She) Mollie Herman (27 Jan) Iosif Ionin ( 1 Feb) Mischa Mischakoff ( 1 Feb) Louis Rudolph (29 Jan) Rosalie Goodfriend Rudolph (30 Jan) Morris Sapoznik (30 Jan)	Samuel Shmikler (30 Jan) Jerome J. Sholem (31 Jan) Louis Spelke (27 Jan) Ruth Weinberg Strauss (27 Jan) Pearl Seltzer Sweital (30 Jan) Ruth Waxman (28 Jan) Sam Weingarten (27 Jan) Helen Kuhn Wiese ( 2 Feb) Lida Kuhn Wolff (27 Jan)
Friday, Feb. 02	Frances Aub Bloomfield ( 8 Feb) Sidney R. Cooperband (30 She) Max Creinin (28 She) Abram Dankowicz ( 9 Feb) Lena Garber ( 8 Feb) Loretta Lee Goldberg (28 She) Charles Hammer ( 6 Feb) Ursula Rothfels Konigsberg (27 She) Michael Langendorf ( 8 Feb) Herman Lewis ( 4 Feb)	Tony Novak ( 8 Feb) Alice Ore ( 8 Feb) Ann Brodsky Pass ( 8 Feb) Shirley S. Porton (29 She) Channa Reizman (27 She) Frances Rosenberg ( 8 Feb) Jean Dash Rosenberg (28 She) Edward Louis Roth ( 6 Feb) Faye Roth ( 8 Feb) Florence Schutz ( 6 Feb)	Bernice E. Schwartz ( 9 Feb) Faye Siegal Sholem ( 6 Feb) Florence Ethel Viscomi (29 She) Rufina Vyshedskaya ( 3 Feb) Florence F. Weingarten ( 7 Feb) Stanley J. Wolowiec ( 7 Feb) Leon Zibel ( 4 Feb)

**Bulletin Submission:** The deadline for the **January Bulletin** is **January 15**. All submissions may be edited for length and content. **EMAIL submissions to:** Gary Bernstein at [stoffice@sinaitemplecu.org](mailto:stoffice@sinaitemplecu.org)