

February 2024

Bulletin



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

February 2024

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



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 02

5:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service and
First Friday Dinner

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 03

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan
Service

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 09

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan Service

FRIDAY, MARCH 01

5:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service and
First Friday Dinner

Jewish Disability Awareness Month

Please join us on **Friday, February 16 at 7:30 PM** for a very special service. February is Jewish Disability Awareness Month, and we will be joined by Pam Kennedy, a disability advocate from Bismarck, North Dakota who will present on her personal experiences participating in worship and Jewish community while using adaptive devices. We will meet, as usual, in person and on Zoom and YouTube; Ms. Kennedy will join us via Zoom.

From Rabbi Alan Cook's Desk



The Torah teaches us that Moses lived to the age of one hundred and twenty. While certainly other figures in the Torah, particularly in the Book of Genesis, are said to have enjoyed

longer lifespans (Methusaleh tops them all at 969 years), it is Moses' longevity and legacy that we aspire to emulate. Many will say to friends on birthdays or other milestone occasions, "*Ad me'ah v'esrim*—may you live to be one hundred and twenty."

Per our anniversary publication, *Amid the Alien Corn*, our congregation was founded on February 7, 1904. This means that this month marks our 120th year as a holy community. We are blessed to have reached such a milestone; like Moses our legacy continues to resonate. Where our founders might barely have had the insight (or *chutzpah*) to say "*ad me'ah v'esrim*—until 120," we can look forward and declare, "*ad me'ah v'esrim v'hal'ah*—until 120 and beyond!"

Together, we can imagine what the next century, and onward, will mean for this sacred community as we continue to grow into a true center for Jewish life here in East Central Illinois.

We've accomplished quite a bit in our first 120 years: we were instrumental in the establishment of the Hillel Foundation at UIUC, the nation's first Hillel; we provided a training ground for Sally Priesand, who would go on to become the first American woman ordained as a rabbi; we successfully transitioned from our original home on Clark Street to our new building on Windsor Road, expanded in 1999, and renovated and revitalized in 2022; we built and sustained a world-class religious school program; we fostered meaningful relationships with interfaith

partners and within the broader C-U community; and so much more. Now is the time to think about what a vibrant congregation for the 21st century can aspire to be.

Rabbi Jody, the Board, and I welcome your participation in visioning what new projects and opportunities we might launch as we plan for our next 120 years. We invite your energies and enthusiasm in taking these goals from imagination to reality. And if you are so blessed as to be able to help underwrite some of our "wish list" items, we invite you to contact one of us to discuss your passions and figure out how we can bring these new ideas into fruition.

We are all so blessed to join with one another in sustaining this *kehillah kedosha*—this holy congregation.

May we continue to go from strength to strength.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Alan

From President Lil Levant

I hope you are doing well and getting through the winter with ease. Here is my February report:

The January Board of Trustees meeting focused on a presentation from CliftonLarsonAllen on financial and administrative best practices. There were no real surprises; however, their recommendations will help us implement the findings, some of which are long overdue. I am working closely with Gary Bernstein and the Board officers to develop a strategy and timetable for implementation. To give you a sense of what is in the report, for example, it outlines the need to implement policies and procedures to allow for better continuity of Temple leadership; and to better define roles and responsibilities for Board members and administrative staff. I am very excited to tackle this and other challenges to ensure those who follow us will have a defined template of best business practices.

I want to update you on membership dues. Currently, we are falling a little short on receiving pledge commitments and payments for membership dues for FY24. As you are aware, the major portion of our revenues come from membership commitments that fund everything from operations to security to staff salaries. If you have not yet fulfilled your pledge commitment, please do so as soon as possible. It is extremely important for us to know what funds are outstanding so we can make sure our budget projections are accurate. My sincere thanks to our congregants for your generosity. I am confident we will meet our membership goals with your generous commitment.

As you may be aware, a Nominating Committee will soon be appointed to select candidates to fill the FY25 Board Nominated Slate. These nominees will be presented at the May annual meeting for a vote by those members attending. Our by-laws require that the Nominating Committee consist of a total of seven members (three Board members whose terms do not expire at the next election and

four members of the Congregation who are NOT members of the Board). **If you are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee or on the Board of Trustees, please contact me as soon as possible.**

Board and volunteer development has been a key concern going forward. In my view, we need to cultivate and assign volunteer roles to our next generation of leaders. My generation, while integral to our Temple community, needs the next generation to assume leadership roles. Obviously, the sustainability of the Temple is reliant on this progression. The energy and ideas of a younger generation of leaders will strengthen our Congregation.

One of the highlights this year has been that we were able to fill the position of Student Board Representative. Sarah Bleill, who grew up in our congregation and celebrated both her Bat Mitzvah and Confirmation here, has been serving in this important role for several months now. Although Sarah serves in an ex-officio, non-voting role, her contributions, both concrete and symbolic, have been substantial. It has been such a pleasure having her with us every month. Her unique perspective along with her energy and enthusiasm for Temple life, have been inspirational. Sarah represents a group of phenomenal Temple youth who have great passion about the Temple community. We are grateful for her leadership and engagement.

These are just some of the many things going on at Sinai that make me feel excited and honored to serve as your president.

Take good care,

Lil Levant

ljlevant@gmail.com

217-402-3615

From Rabbi Jody Cook's Desk

Purim is (Almost) Here!

It's incredible to think that this year is the 16th year of doing the Purim Basket Fundraiser for Sinai Temple Religious School. When this fundraiser began, we raised just about \$1,000 for the religious school. Last year, we sold over \$14,000 worth of Purim Basket Greetings. The generosity of our congregants is incredible and I know that the Religious School program can count on our community members again this year. Please watch for your personalized letter in the mail and login to purchase Purim Basket Greetings

for friends, new members, classmates, and people who you just haven't seen in some time. As all Sinai Temple members receive Purim Baskets, we know that it is always exciting to read through the list of people whose names appear on our cards. If you haven't had a chance to participate in the past, I strongly encourage you to support our Religious School by sending a greeting or two (or more) this year.

If you aren't able to purchase a greeting, please consider helping by delivering a group of baskets to community members. As we get closer to the Purim Project packing date and delivery date, sign ups will be shared and you can select a delivery route or another way to help with the project. The baskets are scheduled to be delivered on Sunday, March 17, 2024.

Rabbi Jody Cook
Director of Education



Green Team and Events

Green Team Tip

DIVIDE and CONQUER??

Early in the spring, those of us with abundant perennials often divide them when cleaning up/rearranging the yard for the season.



Would Sinai Temple members like to participate in a **DIVIDE and CONQUER** day?

Those of us with perennial plants could **DIVIDE** our native plants and bring them to Sinai Temple on a Sunday morning in March. By giving them away to folks wishing to add perennials to the home landscape, we can **CONQUER** the lack of species diversification in our yards. We would emphasize native plants, but could include non-natives, especially those known to be beneficial pollinators.

DIVIDE and CONQUER needs a couple of folks to step up and organize the day! Send a message to Alice Berkson (berksonalice@gmail.com) if you are interested.

Your Voice Matters: A Survey of Older Adults and Family Caregivers in Champaign County

As our population ages, it's important that our communities have a clear understanding of what's needed to help support the health and well-being of our aging family, friends, and neighbors. Advocates for Aging Care (AAC), in collaboration with the Champaign County Public Health department, needs your help to understand how this issue is affecting our community. Share and take this survey, "Your Voice Matters: A Survey of Older Adults and Family Caregivers in Champaign County" conducted by the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District that assesses access, interest and utilization of rehabilitation, long-term and nursing-home care facilities in our county. With your help we can be better informed to find the healthcare solutions of tomorrow.

<http://bit.ly/ChampaignCountySeniorSurvey>

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 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.

February Book Group

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

During February,
we will meet via Zoom.

**February 11:
Just the Nicest Couple
by Mary Kubica
Facilitator: Debbie Hicks**

**RSVP's required by Friday, February 9 to
nataliefr@comcast.net**

Dr. Martin Luther King Scholarship Fund

Thanks to everyone who donated to the **Dr. Martin Luther King Scholarship Fund**! Sinai Temple was able to raise over \$3100 to help provide scholarships for area students.

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 December 16, 2023, to January 15, 2024

ALPINE STERN FLOWER FUND

Michael & Janet LeRoy in Memory of Barbara Nelson

BUILDING FUND

Richard Akresh
Allen Avner
Howard Berenbaum & Megan McLaughlin
Robert & Lauren Boucek
Dov Cohen & Andrea Aguiar
Norman & Andrea Klein
Wynne Korr
Lilyan Levant
Robert Manaster
Arne Pearlstein & Elizabeth Stern
Alexander Scheeline & Alice Berkson
Susan & Paul Schomer
Robert Silverman
Kenneth Stolarsky & Andrea Beller
Maury & Janis Topolosky
Bette & John van Es
Paul & Linda Weichsel
Elliot Weinberg
Ehud & Janie Yairi
William Youngerman
Steven Zimmerman & Sharon Shavitt

CEMETERY MAINTENANCE FUND

Robert Silverman

GENERAL FUND

Eve Becker & Bruce Adams in Memory of Merle Levy
Annette & John Buckmaster in Memory of Ralph Weinstein
Ann Einhorn in Memory of Charles Kozoll
Marjorie & Gregory Gibbs in Memory of John and Jane P. Walter
Lisa & Lee Greenstein in Memory of Orie & Helen Greenstein
Anne & Bill Heiles in Memory of Matthew Mischakoff and Mischa Mischakoff
Paula Kaufman
Jordan & Judy Konisky in Memory of Charles Kozoll
Faye Lesht in Memory of Charles Kozoll
Rob & Diane Ore in Honor of the Trager Family, Gordon Family, Rabin-Koslofsky Family, Goettel Family, and Berkson-Scheeline Family for lending toys, activities and car seats for our French family during their visit last summer.
Gary & Fraeda Porton in Memory of Charles Kozoll and Barbara Orden
Alexander Scheeline & Alice Berkson
Steven & Eva Scher in Memory of Charles Kozoll
Susan & Paul Schomer in Memory of Charles Kozoll

Marianne & Stuart Taussig in Memory of Charles Kozoll
Maury & Janis Topolosky in Memory of Charles Kozoll and Barbara Orden

KITCHEN FUND

Richard Akresh
Allen Avner
Howard Berenbaum & Megan McLaughlin
Robert & Lauren Boucek
Lilyan Levant
Robert Manaster
Arne Pearlstein & Elizabeth Stern
Alexander Scheeline & Alice Berkson
Susan & Paul Schomer
Robert Silverman
Kenneth Stolarsky & Andrea Beller
Bette & John van Es
Paul & Linda Weichsel
William Youngerman
Steven Zimmerman & Sharon Shavitt

MARCO HOLOCAUST FUND

Leslie Gould
Marcy Kurland

MLK SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Allen Avner
Carl & Carol Belber
Ann Einhorn
Joyce Eisenstein
Natalie Frankenberg
Barbara & Larry Gordon
Sanford & Elizabeth Hess
Faye Lesht in Memory of Joyce Deborah Meyer (z"l)
Stanley & Joan Levy
Joan Miller
Randall & Jill Rosenbaum
Alison Rosenblum & Yonatan Kahn
Margaret Saks
Susan & Paul Schomer
Bette & John van Es
Steven Zimmerman & Sharon Shavitt

MUSIC FUND

May Berenbaum & Richard Leskosky in Memory of Barbara Orden
Stephen Downie & Deborah Katz-Downie in Memory of Barbara Orden
Joyce Eisenstein in Memory of Barbara Orden
Natalie Frankenberg in Memory of Barbara Orden
Cheryl Herling & Jim Moore in Memory of Barbara Orden
Paula Kaufman in Memory of Barbara Orden
Randall Kay & Marjorie Meyer in Memory of Barbara Orden
Wynne Korr in Memory of Barbara Orden

Faye Lesht in Memory of Barbara Orden
Harris Lewin in Memory of Barbara Orden
Alexander Scheeline & Alice Berkson in Memory of Barbara Orden
Edward & Nancy Tepper in Memory of Barbara Orden
Maury & Janis Topolosky
Bette & John van Es in Memory of Barbara Orden
Ira & Lynn Wachtel in Memory of Barbara Orden

RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

Lilyan Levant
Stanley & Joan Levy in Memory of Charles Kozoll
Gene & Julia Robinson in Honor of Rabbi Alan Cook
Bette & John van Es in Memory of Barbara Nelson and Charles Kozoll

RENOVATION FUND

Natalie Frankenberg in Memory of Charles Kozoll and Barbara Nelson
Leslie Mason in Memory of Charles Kozoll, Barbara Nelson, and Barbara Orden
David & Jan Sholem and Sonya Sholem in Memory of Faye Sholem, Leon Ades, Ruth Ades, and Lois Mecklenburger

SAFETY & SECURITY FUND

Richard Akresh
Allen Avner
Howard Berenbaum & Megan McLaughlin
Robert & Lauren Boucek
Norman & Andrea Klein
Lilyan Levant
Robert Manaster
Arne Pearlstein & Elizabeth Stern
Alexander Scheeline & Alice Berkson
Susan & Paul Schomer
Robert Silverman
Kenneth Stolarsky & Andrea Beller
Maury & Janis Topolosky
Bette & John van Es
Paul & Linda Weichsel
Elliot Weinberg
Ehud & Janie Yairi
William Youngerman
Steven Zimmerman & Sharon Shavitt

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

Anthony & Penelope Soskin in Memory of Barbara Orden

SMITH BUILDING ENDOWMENT FUND

Robert Smith

TRADITIONAL MINYAN

Gene & Julia Robinson in Honor of Deborah Katz-

Sinai Temple Memorials for February 2024

Friday, Feb. 02	<p>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)</p>	<p>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)</p>	<p>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. Wolowicz (7 Feb) Leon Zibel (4 Feb)</p>
Friday, Feb. 09	<p>Marilyn E. Adleman (12 Feb) Allen Bach (12 Feb) Nora Beloff (12 Feb) Herbert Yale Ehrich (1 1Ad) Joshua Eisenstein (12 Feb) Samuel Garber (12 Feb) David Gingold (12 Feb) Martin Glezer (11 Feb) Harriett Gore (14 Feb)</p>	<p>Betty Barker Greenstein (14 Feb) Florence Dorothy Hamburg (12 Feb) Boris Isaac Katz (10 Feb) Edward P. Katz (2 Ada) Jacob M. Kaufman (10 Feb) Anna Klein (5 1Ad) Rose Adler Kuhn (14 Feb) Charles A. Kulwin (11 Feb) Marian Brenner Matzkin (16 Feb)</p>	<p>Juliana Wertheimer Neuwirth (10 Feb) Gerald William Pafford (13 Feb) Isadore William Pearlman (14 Feb) Lionel (Rick) Romero (10 Feb) Harriet Sherman (14 Feb) Edward S. Talley (12 Feb) Ruth Weinberg (5 1Ad) Howard E. Zimmerman (12 Feb)</p>
Friday, Feb. 16	<p>Mildred Brusiloff Appel (23 Feb) Milton Derber (19 Feb) Hannah Freudenstein (23 Feb) Robert Graff (18 Feb) Marcus Maxwell Joffe (18 Feb) Ann Kapulskey (14 1Ad) Barbara Klein (17 Feb)</p>	<p>Rossie Kohen (21 Feb) Alice Kushner (20 Feb) Edith Levy (19 Feb) Ruth Morton Lynx (21 Feb) Jenny Mandel (21 Feb) Leo I. Nagel (22 Feb) Rebecca Rous (20 Feb)</p>	<p>Maurice Silver (20 Feb) Dora Banks Simon (23 Feb) Martin Spatt (17 Feb) Lillian Spivak (21 Feb) Sylvia G. Stolurow (19 Feb) Anna Tepper (21 Feb)</p>
Friday, Feb. 23	<p>Malka Debra Agran (1 Mar) Beverly Rosenfeld Cohen (28 Feb) Adam Ira Feinberg (28 Feb) Orville S. Kahn (27 Feb) Lloyd Kraus (26 Feb) Malcolm Lachman (25 Feb) David Markoff (27 Feb)</p>	<p>Ralph Newman (24 Feb) Harry Rosenberg (27 Feb) Aron Rosenstein (28 Feb) Dorothy Rosenstein (26 Feb) Daniel L. Smith (26 Feb) Stephen Nathaniel Tager (25 Feb) David Tepper (29 Feb)</p>	<p>Fay Tepper (26 Feb) Judy Green Tupac (26 Feb) Louis Vineberg (26 Feb) Arthur Winakor (25 Feb) Edith Zecher (24 Feb)</p>
Friday, Mar. 01	<p>Sakip Altay (4 Mar) Mack Bernard Braun (8 Mar) David S. Choldin (6 Mar) Irving Cohen (3 Mar) Stanley Depper (24 Ada) Oscar Einhorn (25 1Ad) Arthur Fagan (7 Mar) Rita Mae Goodman (22 1Ad)</p>	<p>Bernice Goldstick Hess (3 Mar) Ethel Hymowitz (22 Ada) Bernard Karsh (7 Mar) William Klaiman (6 Mar) Sam Klugman (8 Mar) Clarence Libman (2 Mar) Jack Marco (4 Mar) Shirley M. Newman (8 Mar)</p>	<p>Charles O. Silverman (25 Ada) Mortimer B. Sitron (2 Mar) Minnie Slutsky (8 Mar) Joseph Solon (2 Mar) Ruth Marieke van Es (6 Mar) Jerome S. Wachtel (28 1Ad) Rosalie Willis (3 Mar) Colonel Uzi Yairi (6 Mar)</p>

Bulletin Submission: The deadline for the **March Bulletin** is **February 15**. All submissions may be edited for length and content. **EMAIL submissions to:** Gary Bernstein at stoffice@sinaitemplecu.org