

April 2024

Bulletin



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

April 2024

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



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

FRIDAY, APRIL 05

5:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service and
First Friday Dinner

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan Service

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

5:30 PM Shabbat Rocks! (in person at Sinai)

7:00 PM Erev Shabbat Service

(online only—Note earlier time!)

See page 7 for more details

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

10:00 AM Pesach I - ETM

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

10:00 AM Pesach VIII - ETM

FRIDAY, MAY 03

5:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service and First Friday Dinner

Interfaith Seder Returns

Sunday, April 14 at 5:30 PM, Sinai Temple will hold our Interfaith Seder. After a few years' hiatus, this popular event is back. We will welcome members of other local faith communities for a pre-Passover event focusing on celebrating peace and freedom. We will enjoy a meal and a creative seder ritual drawing from a number of cultural and religious traditions. Space is limited; please register at:

<https://sinaitemplecu.shulcloud.com/form/IFseder.html>



Community Seder Opportunities

Sinai Temple will once again be partnering with Illini Hillel to provide seder opportunities for the community. Information will soon be live at <https://www.illinihillel.org> Please watch your email blasts for further details.

From Rabbi Alan Cook's Desk



In December, at the memorial service of Barbara Orden, z"l, her family honored her memory by singing Simon and Garfunkel's song, "April Come She Will." It was a fitting tribute to a

dearly missed congregant,

whose musical and artistic legacy continues to reverberate in our community and our congregation.

Though I'm familiar with most of the duo's greatest hits, "April Come She Will" was lesser-known to me. Paul Simon has indicated that he wrote it in tribute to a former girlfriend and her changing moods, but I think it works more generally as a rumination on the fact that time does not stop for any person. April, and the rebirth that we experience in springtime, are part of the natural order of things and we expect its arrival in due season. At the same time, we should indeed be grateful that after the darkness and cold of the winter months, April comes "when streams are ripe and swelled with rain."

In April, we will celebrate Passover. It's perceived as being "late" this year in its position relative to our secular calendar, partially because this year we've had a leap year in the Hebrew calendar with the insertion of an additional month. But April (and Passover) come, they will.

This year, we will return to a tradition we had begun prior to COVID and celebrate an Interfaith Seder. On Sunday, April 14 (one week prior to the actual beginning of Passover), we will welcome friends and neighbors from other faith communities to join in a service and dinner that builds on the familiar Seder rubrics to express our longing for freedom for all. Drawing from a variety of faith expressions, we'll share songs and readings that celebrate what we all have in common. We hope that, as in the past, this program will allow the blossoming of friendships and continued paths toward love and understanding. This is a family-friendly event, and all are welcome, but

space is limited and RSVPs are essential. You may register via Shulcloud at <https://sinaitemplecu.shulcloud.com/form/IFseder.html>

We will be preparing the meal for the Interfaith Seder much in the same way we prepare our First Friday dinners. If you would like to assist me in the kitchen on Saturday April 13 or Sunday April 14, please email me at rabbialan@sinaitemplecu.org.

Passover begins on the evening of Monday, April 22. We once again will partner with Hillel to offer community seder options. Please call Hillel, or visit <https://www.illinihillel.org> for more information and to register. Hillel will also be providing Kosher for Passover lunch options during the week of Passover. Pre-registration is required, and information will be available on the Hillel website.

I wish you a happy and meaningful Passover.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Alan

From President Lil Levant

Purim was out-of-sight wonderful!

As I write this, we are coming off another fabulous weekend. The Purim celebrations were amazing this year! Big crowds, the energy was high, and the kids were so darn cute in their various costumes. Thank you to all our volunteers over this weekend!

And thanks to everyone who participated in the Spiel. What a wonderful cast! Notable thanks to Rabbi Alan for writing the Broadway-level production of “Little Mermaid-elle”. Also, a big shout out to Jessica Koplow for her talented direction of the Spiel. Having this much fun and a lot of laughs was a precious gift to all of us. Especially these days. Am I right?

And sincere thanks to Rabbi Jody for organizing an extraordinary carnival this year. So much activity! This, on top of putting together a sky-rocketed success of a Purim Basket blast. Wasn't it fun getting these beautiful blue boxes dropped on your doorstep? And what a fundraiser! More than \$17,000 was raised from the generous contributions from our congregation with all proceeds going to our religious school!

Your dues payments now PLEASE

Thank you again to our members for your very generous and continued support of Sinai Temple. To those of you who still have an outstanding pledge commitment, we would very much appreciate your payment as soon as possible, well before the end of our fiscal year on June 30th, to better project our budget outcomes. There are also some members, not many, who have not yet pledged or made a financial commitment to Sinai Temple this year. To remind you, you can make a payment directly in your Shulcloud account. Please feel free to contact the Temple office, if you need assistance in making a payment.

To remind you, membership dues are by far, the primary and most significant source of revenue for the Temple currently. For us to maintain our programming, operational costs, and staffing, we are totally reliant on your generosity. In the coming months our Board of Trustees and other member volunteers will be working on new strategies in the areas of fundraising and membership engagement and development. It is my fervent hope that with a new focus on these areas along with fresh ideas, we can establish a broader funding portfolio. But until then, membership dues, optimally 2% of your household income, is what we are depending on. Please make your dues payments as soon as possible for FY24.

And coming up before we know it, the Annual Meeting.

Please save the date of Sunday, May 19th at 11am for our important annual meeting. It is important that all members make an effort to be present – we will walk through the state of our congregation, present the FY25 Budget for your approval, and present the slate of new Board of Trustees members for your approval. To entice you this year, we are planning a delicious brunch, free of charge (although reservations will be mandatory, and donations always appreciated). We will be sending out the proposed budget and slate well in advance of the meeting, as required in our bylaws. Stay tuned in the coming weeks for more details. I sincerely hope that we will have a huge turnout, as the issues presented will be of outmost importance to our congregation's sustainability and vibrancy.

Take good care,

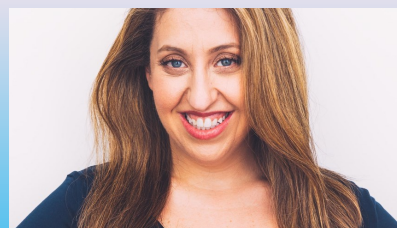
Lil

Pamela Rae Schuller - April 7

On Saturday evening April 6, cellist YoYo Ma will be at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts as a stop on his farewell tour. It's an event not to be missed.

But Sinai Temple is pleased to present another not-to-be-missed event on **Sunday, April 7 at 7 PM**, we will welcome disability advocate and comedienne Pamela Rae Schuller. Ms. Schuller's presentations combine comedy and storytelling to talk about valuing differences and inclusion through telling her story of growing up with Tourette Syndrome and her journey to embrace it. Her comedy has been seen and heard on Netflix, NBC, and Sirius XM. It will be an evening of laughter and learning. The evening will include a dessert reception. There is no cost for the event, but please RSVP to <https://sinaitemplecu.shulcloud.com/form/schuller-rsvp.html> so that we have adequate seating. This program is intended for those 18 and older.

This event is generously supported by the Mathlia Zimmerman B'nai Israel Fund of the Champaign-Urbana Jewish Endowment Foundation.



From Rabbi Jody Cook's Desk

The new couch is set up in the youth lounge!

Stop by and visit – just don't sit down (because you might never want to get up!) Students are using the lounge for class, for socializing and occasionally for short naps. We also have a foosball table, giant Connect 4 and other games. If you have games that you want to rehome (with all the pieces and in good condition) please consider donating to the youth lounge collection!



Muppets and Judaism, Book Censorship and Jewish artists – Chuggim/Electives

Thank you to Rabbi Alan, Barbara Jones and Sam Berkowitz (a regular teacher in our program) for leading engaging and learning filled electives. The conversations and projects in your chuggim enhance our program – and it is always a treat to have community members sign up to teach electives in the religious school!

Intergenerational Hamantaschen Baking

We collaborated with PJ Library/CUJF for a baking program and, despite being up against a pretty significant Illini basketball game, we still had over 50 attendees and baked somewhere in the vicinity of 750 hamantaschen. Chocolate filling was the most popular flavor (no surprise there). What a fun way to end spring break for those who had a week off of school!



Mishloach Manot Fundraiser

Each year, the Purim Greetings fundraiser seems to grow – we reach more people in so many ways. We see more people purchasing greetings for the entire Sinai Temple community, we have new people sending greetings to friends, we send more baskets, we bake more and engage more volunteers. Thank you to all who are involved – even if you think your contribution is a small one – every bit of help makes this fundraiser successful. This year, roughly 6,700 greetings were sent, 300 baskets were made up and delivered and we had about 45 volunteers. I am so proud of our community and am thrilled to share that our gross revenue this year was \$17,465 – the support of the Sinai Temple Religious School and of our community is both appreciated and awesome!

Rabbi Jody Cook
Director of Education

Green Team and Events

Green Team Tip

Spring cleaning before Pesach is a good time to get back to basics with our cleaning habits. You may get good results by using the old standbys that are likely on the shelf: distilled white vinegar and baking soda. Some advice includes making a solution of half vinegar and half water that can be put into a spray bottle for general cleaning. A paste of baking soda and water can be effective for non-abrasive scrubbing, including rejuvenating non-stick pans. For adding an excellent scent, use lemon juice on surfaces that are appropriate.

Be sure to check on the safety of any homemade combinations – there are good resources for safe alternatives to the usual cleaning products.

For everyday use in the kitchen, consider reusable cloths such as the popular Swedish cloths that are more absorbent than paper towels. (You got one a couple of years ago at Purim!) A recent article in The Guardian included the estimate that using a roll of paper towels is the equivalent of more than using 5 gallons of gasoline, in terms of the product manufacturing. Earth911.com estimates that a three-pack of the Swedish dishcloths has the same carbon footprint as a roll of paper towels, so you would be helping to reduce carbon emissions if you reuse the dishcloths and just put them in with other laundry.



"Divide and Conquer: Propagating Perennial Plants"

Share divided plants with friends and fellow gardeners to spread joy and beauty.

Sunday, April 14th
Sinai Temple (on the patio)

Drop off your extra plants from 9:00am - 10:00am

Please do not bring any invasive species! (Questions? Call Kathryn Weisbaum 217-840-8512)

Pick up new plants from 11:30am - 12:30pm



Sinai Temple Gift Shop Passover Showcase

Sunday, April 14, 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!

Sinai Temple Announcements

Host an Oneg!

"Oneg Shabbat" means "Enjoyment of Shabbat," and refers to the reception following services. Sinai Temple congregants are encouraged to help provide onegs, which may be as simple or elaborate as you wish-- challah, cookies, cakes, fruit, cheese and crackers, or other treats give us a chance to enjoy a light snack following services and visit with friends.

To see the calendar and sign up for a date to provide an one

<https://sinaitemplecu.org/OnegSignup>

or use your phone to scan the QR Code!



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.

April 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.

April 14:
The Girl with the Louding Voice
by Abi Dare
Facilitator: Joyce Francisco

RSVP's required by Friday, April 12 to 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.

Sinai Temple Donations

Temple Donations February 16, 2024, to March 15, 2024

BUILDING FUND

Mari & Joseph Altshuler
David Dorman & Barbara Jones
Drs. Arthur & Marcia Siegel
Cynthia Weintraub

FRIENDS OF RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

William & Reva Egherman
William & Phyllis Gingold

GENERAL FUND

Lynn & Finny Aronson in Honor of grandchildren
Bucky and Max Aronson-Orr
Samuel & Judith Bernstein
Lee Feldman
Linda & Ken Hoffman in Memory of Charles Kozoll
Paula Kaufman
Dvora Tager in Memory of Pauline Tager, Marcus
Tager, Jessica Underberg, Marianne Melnikoff,
Florence Reyman, Isaac Reyman, Solon Reyman,
Ruth Tager, and Stephen Tager

KITCHEN FUND

Mari & Joseph Altshuler
Marcey Goldstein
Cynthia Weintraub

NEUMAN GARDEN FUND

Ella Vuernick in Honor of Jacob Epstein's Bar Mitzvah

RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

Carl & Carol Belber in Memory of Charles Kozoll,
Barbara Nelson, Richard Newman, Barbara Orden,
and Ann Sapoznik
The W. Penn and Barbara Nelson Trust
Jeffry & Claire Newman in Memory of Shirley M.
Newman

SAFETY & SECURITY FUND

Mari & Joseph Altshuler
Cynthia Weintraub

Special Friday evening service on April 19th at 7 PM (online only)

We will be hosted by Rabbi Neal Katz at Congregation Beth El in Tyler, Texas
Sinai's Mi Shebeirach and Yahrtzeit lists will be read.

Please visit <https://www.bethelytyler.com/sinaitemple> to join

This applies only to the "late" service this evening; Shabbat Rocks! Will take place in person.

Sinai Temple Memorials for April 2024

Friday, April 05

Helen Gold Beller (10 Apr)
 Robert Depper (06 Apr)
 Gertrude H. Francisco (07 Apr)
 Maxwell Garret (10 Apr)
 Benjamin Grossman (12 Apr)
 Louisa Guise (07 Apr)
 Daniel Leon Harlib (09 Apr)
 Donald Imlay (10 Apr)
 Martin H. Katz (4 Niss)
 Edward R. Kerman (12 Apr)
 Lena Loeb Kuhn (08 Apr)

Ruth Lachman (07 Apr)
 Helaine Stone Lane (09 Apr)
 Robert Otto LeRoy (2 Niss)
 Florine Lesht (08 Apr)
 Sidney Levin (08 Apr)
 Leonard D. Lewis (10 Apr)
 Ruth Marshak (12 Apr)
 Patricia McGinty (11 Apr)
 John P. Melhado (1 Niss)
 Louis Novack (29 Ada)
 Woodrow Pearlman (06 Apr)

Lenore Levy Simon (06 Apr)
 Gladys Singman (11 Apr)
 Abraham Sitron (12 Apr)
 Sidney Sorkin (12 Apr)
 Henryk Stiefel (07 Apr)
 Harold Stolkin (12 Apr)
 Ethelda "Tedde" Williams (12 Apr)
 Simone Annie Zingerevitz (12 Apr)

Friday, April 12

Louis Cutler (19 Apr)
 Saerree K. Fiedler (14 Apr)
 Wahei Fujimoto (18 Apr)
 Sadie Goldstein (17 Apr)
 Fred Gottheil (11 Nis)
 Morris Halpern (14 Apr)
 Wilhelmine Heumann (14 Apr)
 Miriam B. Kaplan (9 Niss)
 Harry Kaufman (10 Nis)

Clara Koslofsky (10 Nis)
 Aaron Kurland (5 Niss)
 Gary Lyon (16 Apr)
 Rose Maus (18 Apr)
 Amelia A. Reineberg (16 Apr)
 Lee W. Reineberg (16 Apr)
 Sonja Robinson (9 Niss)
 Alex Rubin (10 Nis)
 Thelma Rubinstein (13 Apr)

Anne Weisel (5 Niss)

Friday, April 19

Leon M. Ades (25 Apr)
 Joel Lee Agran (21 Apr)
 Molly Belber (26 Apr)
 Dr Samuel Bojar (17 Nis)
 Evelyn Nelson Bros (21 Apr)
 Hannah Choldin (21 Apr)
 Benjamin Conner (21 Apr)
 Betty Shure Fish (20 Apr)
 Lillian Gingold (17 Nis)
 Emmanuel Gitles (26 Apr)

Alvin Hamburg (12 Nis)
 Claire Hutner (21 Apr)
 Sidney Kadish (20 Apr)
 Dorothy Evelyn Pollard Liebovich (22 Apr)
 Mathilde Loeb (24 Apr)
 Kenneth H. Ober (26 Apr)
 Bob Riches (14 Nis)
 Jack Robinson (14 Nis)
 Bella Roginsky (24 Apr)

Myer Joseph Rosenfield (13 Nis)
 Natalie M. Smith (21 Apr)
 Dina Gilbert Steinberg (25 Apr)
 Gertrude Katz Tax (21 Apr)
 Beatrice Tepper (12 Nis)
 David Uzrad (24 Apr)

Friday, April 26

Samuel Adleman (30 Apr)
 Frank A. Berg (27 Apr)
 Abraham Joseph Bernstein (19 Nis)
 Edward Israel Blum (29 Apr)
 Isidore Brill (29 Apr)
 Henia Shifreh Bursztyn (19 Nis)
 Michael Faiman (24 Nis)
 Fay Ferrer (24 Nis)
 Faye Garrick (29 Apr)
 Albert Grosz (03 May)
 Linda Gutman (29 Apr)

Philip Horwitz (03 May)
 Nathan Janoff (03 May)
 Blair Bernard Kling (02 May)
 Alfred Kohn (28 Apr)
 Celia Berman Kulwin (30 Apr)
 Mavis Betty Marco (27 Apr)
 Ethel Uritz Marcus (29 Apr)
 Ida Levine Markoff (30 Apr)
 Mary Ann Nathan (29 Apr)
 Penn Nelson (01 May)
 Herbert Rubinstein (29 Apr)

Helen Kranson Siess (01 May)
 Sophia Simon (30 Apr)
 Ann Stein (27 Apr)
 Seymour Sudman (02 May)

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