

September 2024

Bulletin



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

September 2024

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



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

FRIDAY, SEPT 06

5:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service and
First Friday Dinner

FRIDAY, SEPT 13

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, SEPT 14

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan Service

FRIDAY, SEPT 20

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

FRIDAY, SEPT 27

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, SEPT 28

5:30 PM Selichot (see page 3)

High Holidays coming in October

Schedule of events:

<https://sinaitemplecu.org/HighHolidays>

Labor of Love!

Monday, September 2, 9 AM—Noon

Our annual Labor of Love event is an opportunity to help prepare and clean our physical space ahead of the High Holiday! There are opportunities for all family members to get involved. Coffee, juice, and bagels will be provided for volunteers.

Please let us know if you will be available to help.

<https://sinaitemplecu.org/LaborOfLove>

Memorial Service

Sunday, September 29, 4 PM

Please join Rabbi Alan at Mt. Hope Cemetery for a brief reflective service as we pay tribute to those loved ones of our community who are no longer with us. It is appropriate during this season of reflection to honor their memories and reflect on their legacies.

From Rabbi Alan Cook's Desk



As I write this, schools are beginning to start back up; by the time you read this, the UIUC campus will be in full swing, and Champaign and Urbana grade schools will be fully underway. I pray that

all those enrolled in any form of educational pursuit will have a meaningful and intellectually stimulating year.

A number of individuals connected to Sinai Temple are educators yourselves. I pray that you will find fulfillment in your teaching, inspiring your students to broaden their horizons and explore new areas of inquiry.

Whether we are students or teachers in formal settings, or whether we are engaged in learning the lessons of life, Judaism encourages us to always be asking questions and always be seeking knowledge. As the proverbial “People of the Book,” we are driven to always be excited about the opportunities to absorb new information, to delve into the layers of our tradition and seek out new insights. In the Mishnah, Rabbi Ben Bag Bag taught, “Turn it (the Torah) and turn it again, for everything is in it.” We repeat the reading of our sacred text each year because there’s always something new that can be uncovered.

As we prepare for the arrival of the new Jewish year 5785, we certainly pray that it will be a year of happiness and blessing for each of us. Yet we also hope that it will be a year of great enlightenment and understanding. It is no secret that there is a great deal of tension in our world at the moment, both domestically and internationally. Some of this could perhaps be diffused if we were willing to be curious about those who differ from us in their practices, beliefs, and values. If we asked questions of our neighbors with whom we disagree, and sought to learn from them, might we not find better paths toward peace and understanding within our world?

The prophet Isaiah has written, “When all your children are taught about Adonai, great shall be the peace of your children.” It’s a worthy lesson in its own right. But a classic rabbinic commentary suggests that the verse is misunderstood: we should not read Isaiah as speaking of children (banaich) but rather translate the word as builders (bonaiach), for when people (children or adults) truly learn about the precepts transmitted to us by God, they begin to become builders, setting the world on a firm foundation of justice and love.

May we all be builders this year. May we all be learners this year. And, in learning from one another, may we all move one step closer to peace this year.

L’Shalom,
Rabbi Alan Cook

From President Lil Levant

As we approach the High Holidays, our world feels heavy with concern and uncertainty, it becomes even more vital for us to come together as one unified community. We are acutely aware that local, national, and global issues can weigh on our hearts and minds, Differences in opinions and perspectives are natural, but they can sometimes create distance between us.

I was filled with relief and satisfaction that the Conversations at Sinai that were held for our members in June were a success by every measure. Many of the participants made a point to express how important and meaningful these sessions were. At Sinai Temple, we have always prided ourselves on being a sacred space where every voice is valued and heard. We proved once again that our varying difference can be shared in a way that is respectful and productive.

We came away not necessarily thinking that any one's opinions were changed (that was not the point) but rather that we are one community, and that Sinai Temple can be a safe home for all of us. We felt that we needed to address topics (particularly the state of Israel) that are on everyone's mind but not often articulated in a safe space.

We hope to hold more of these open, conversational sessions for our membership in the future. The topics can range, and we have received many ideas for such topics. Soon after the High Holidays we hope to invite you to participate in another conversation. This time, we hope to think about the value of Sinai Temple membership.

We'd like to ask questions like: What does Temple membership mean for you? How can we provide more? What ideas do you have for furthering our community? What interests do you have that you would like us to explore? What is the nature of your connection to the Temple? Are there areas of volunteerism or projects that would interest you? How can we do a better job for our members? How can we expand on the work we have done to provide a Center of Jewish Life here at Sinai Temple?

Stay tuned.

And I wish you the best of health and richness as we prepare for the High Holidays.

Lil

Selichot—Saturday, September 28, 5:30 PM



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. This year, we'll have a fun Selichot event for the entire family. Everyone is invited to join us on **Saturday, September 28, at 5:30 PM** for dinner and a movie. Our two movie options are scheduled to be Pixar's "Inside Out 2" (2024); and "One Life" (2023), the story of Sir Nicholas Winston, who rescued 669 children from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia.* Following our movies, we'll have a

family-friendly Havdalah service in which we will change our Torah covers to white and hear the shofar for the first time this season. RSVPs are required for dinner, which is only \$10 per person (no household pays more than \$40).

Please RSVP at <https://sinaitemplecu.shulcloud.com/form/selichot-2024.html>

*Movie titles are subject to change, pending availability

From Board of Trustees

Sinai Temple Board of Trustees

August 12, 2024

Summary of Minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting

Attendance: Richard Akresh, Justin Aronoff, Andy Bernstein, Sam Bernstein, Rabbi Alan Cook (ex-officio), Rabbi Jody Cook (ex-officio), Shari Fox, Lil Levant, Mariel Middlebrook, Michael Parrish, Julia Rietz, Amy Roady, Audrey Thompson, Stacy Trager.

Staff: Gary Bernstein

Guests: Alice Berkson, Warren Lavey, Randy Rosenbaum,

Absent: Sarah Bleill, Ben LeRoy, Art Siegel, Bob Smith

Lil Levant called the meeting to order at 7:00

- The Board heard a presentation from the Solar at Sinai Committee (SaS), summarizing a written report to the Board. Representing SaS at the meeting were Alice Berkson, Warren Lavey, and Randy Rosenbaum. Other members of the committee are Debra Karplus, Art Siegel, and Bob Smith (of Champaign).
- A motion was made by Sam Bernstein to approve the SaS proposal for a solar energy project; it was seconded by Andy Bernstein and passed unanimously. Lil Levant and Alice Berkson provided a summary of the project to temple members via email on August 14.
- The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the meeting on June 10 following a motion by Amy Roady, seconded by Sam Bernstein.
- The Board heard a report from Rabbi Alan regarding planning for High Holidays and other fall holidays, as well as Labor of Love and a community concert planned for November.
- Rabbi Jody presented a report on Religious School, reminding the Board of the High Holiday Greetings fundraiser and the upcoming pancake breakfast sponsored by Champaign-Urbana Temple Youth (CUTY) on August 25.
- The Board approved new membership applications from three households.
- Gary Bernstein presented the administrator's report and discussed preparations for High Holidays and digitization of temple files.
- The Board reviewed reports from the treasurer; financial secretary; and membership committee, chaired by Amy Roady, Vice President.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35.

Submitted by Shari Fox, Secretary

Green Team and Events

Solar at Sinai

Sinai Temple members can help make Solar at Sinai a reality in 2024! The Board of Trustees just accepted a proposal from Route 66 Solar which will include: a 300-panel solar array that will produce more than 155,000 kWh of electricity annually, covering 100% of our electrical usage -- a savings of more than \$20,000 per year. The system has a 25-year product, performance, and labor warranty but will continue to generate electricity well beyond this period.

We are rushing to get construction underway this fall to ensure receiving federal and state incentives, which over time, will reimburse more than 60 percent of the system cost. While the total cost is \$321,750, the net cost to Sinai Temple after receiving all incentives is around \$118,570.

We are seeking loans and donations from Sinai Temple members to pay for the significant upfront costs. The loan program includes a \$10,000 minimum with 5% interest, paid back in less than 10 years through rebates (the incentives) and energy cost savings.

A few generous members have made commitments already! With both loans and donations, we have commitments of 70% of the total construction cost.

Won't you join us? This is your chance to personally help Sinai Temple move to a renewable energy system that will save us a significant amount of money for decades to come.

Solar at Sinai committee members are Alice Berkson, Debra Karplus, Warren Lavey, Randy Rosenbaum, Art Siegel, and Bob Smith. Please let us know if you can join us in making Solar at Sinai a reality this year!

We will be happy to answer your questions. Contact Alice at berksonalice@gmail.com, or Art at building@sinaitemplecu.org, or Bob at elboco@comcast.net for more information.

Lil Levant, President

Alice Berkson, Solar at Sinai Committee

The Debbie Friedman Experience

Saturday, November 16

Save the Date! Saturday evening, November 16, Sinai Temple will host The Debbie Friedman Experience live in concert! In the 1970s, Debbie Friedman helped to transform Jewish music by applying folk melodies to classic texts. Since her passing in 2011, her legacy has continued to resonate, with her compositions heard in worship throughout the Jewish world. This special concert unites her original band members with acclaimed Jewish musician Shira Kline to share Debbie's melodies and explore her lasting impact. Tickets will be \$18 for Sinai members, \$25 for non-members, and \$10 for college students. Children in high school or younger will be admitted free with a paying adult. Watch for more information, including how to purchase tickets, coming soon!

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 as 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 oneg

<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.

September 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 08:
The Women of Chateau LaFayette
by Stephanie Dray
Facilitator: Tamarra Rennick

RSVP's required by Friday, September 06 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 July 16, 2024, to August 15, 2024

BUILDING FUND and SAFETY & SECURITY FUND

Nathan & Maggie Ackerman
Linda Bauer
Laura & Anthony Bleill
David & Sadie Braun
Robert & Patricia Ferrer
Shari & Ben Fox
Natalie Frankenberg
Carolyn Fulton & Cynthia Larson
Michael & Peggy Grossman
Frances & Mitchell Harris
David Helman
Richard & Judith Kaplan
Paula Kaufman
Eileen & William Kohen
Wynne Korr
Warren Lavey & Holly Rosencranz
Ira & Cecile Lebenson
Stanley & Joan Levy
Andrew & Lisa Libman
Lee & Evan Melhado
Michael Parrish
Amy Roady
Sara Schwebel
Jacob Sherkow & Amanda Fein
Drs. Arthur & Marcia Siegel
Robert & Marion Smith
Audrey Thompson & Matthew Goldman
Amy Wolff & Aaron Smith

GENERAL FUND

Annette & John Buckmaster in Memory of Bernice
Weinstein
Harvey Choldin in Honor of Lilyan Levant
William & Phyllis Gingold in Memory of Betty Shapiro
Barbara & Larry Gordon in Honor of the marriage of
Alex Gordon to Dani Huffman
Elaine Katz in Memory of Nancy Glass
Paula Kaufman
Susan & Paul Schomer in Memory of Sandy Helman

KITCHEN FUND

Nathan & Maggie Ackerman
Linda Bauer
David & Sadie Braun
Shari & Ben Fox
Natalie Frankenberg
Carolyn Fulton & Cynthia Larson
Michael & Peggy Grossman
Frances & Mitchell Harris
David Helman
Richard & Judith Kaplan
Paula Kaufman
Eileen & William Kohen
Wynne Korr
Warren Lavey & Holly Rosencranz
Ira & Cecile Lebenson
Stanley & Joan Levy
Andrew & Lisa Libman
Lee & Evan Melhado
Michael Parrish
Amy Roady
Sara Schwebel
Jacob Sherkow & Amanda Fein
Drs. Arthur & Marcia Siegel
Audrey Thompson & Matthew Goldman
Amy Wolff & Aaron Smith

MUSIC FUND

Wynne Korr in Honor of the marriage of Paula
Kaufman's granddaughter
Ira & Cecile Lebenson in Memory of Nancy Glass

RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

Stephen Downie & Deborah Katz-Downie

RENOVATION FUND

Natalie Frankenberg in Memory of Sandy Helman
Leslie Mason in Memory of Nancy Glass and Sandy
Helman

STEINBERG SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE FUND

Ira & Lynn Wachtel in Memory of Nancy Glass

TRADITIONAL MINYAN

Shira & Dan Epstein in Memory of Nancy Glass
Natalie Frankenberg in Memory of Nancy Glass

Sinai Temple Memorials for September 2024

Friday, Sept. 06

Annette Bernstein (09 Sep)
Daniel K. Bloomfield (11 Sep)
Sarah Handleman Cornman (10 Sep)
Jorge Covarrubias (11 Sep)
Curtis Coyle (12 Sep)
Tod Egberman (8 Elul)
Pearl Estrin (11 Sep)
Jerome Ex (12 Sep)
Dorothy Ferrer (07 Sep)
Roy Greenberg (11 Sep)
Robert C. Greenstein (13 Sep)
Leonard Heumann (13 Sep)
Mordechai Iackobishvily (07 Sep)
Jana Katz (08 Sep)
Jeffrey Hunter Kent (11 Sep)

William Konick (10 Sep)
Arnold Harold Leavitt (10 Sep)
Jerry Levant (08 Sep)
Ronald Levy (10 Sep)
Abraham Levy (11 Sep)
Merle Levy (9 Elul)
Albert Abraham Liebovich (10 Sep)
Juel Cecil Little (11 Sep)
Blanche Loeb (08 Sep)
Rachel Loeb (10 Sep)
Rozalia Kotarba Majda (07 Sep)
Anne Linsider Melhado (7 Elul)
Jack H. Nessel (12 Sep)
Cecelia Riaff (12 Sep)
Elizabeth Robinson Kruger (9 Elul)

Andrew Rosenblum (11 Sep)
Henrietta Schwartz (07 Sep)
Reva Seligman (10 Elu)
Milton Shapiro (08 Sep)
Samuel Slutsky (11 Sep)
Sarah Spitzer (11 Sep)
Benjamin Telcser (7 Elul)
Rachel Towlen (09 Sep)
Vladimir Tsugui (11 Sep)
Gloria M. Waksman (08 Sep)
Frances Diana White (12 Sep)
Malkah Wisotzky (09 Sep)

Friday, Sept. 13

Carrie Wiener Adler (15 Sep)
Harold Black (15 Elu)
Gloria Liss Bortman (18 Sep)
Lisa Anne Busjahn (12 Elu)
Selma Cooperband (19 Sep)
Marvin Freeman (20 Sep)
Bertha Freudenstein (19 Sep)
Steven Gingold (18 Sep)
Pauline Gitler (18 Sep)
Max Greenberg (17 Sep)
Miles Klein (15 Sep)

Abe Leavitt (14 Sep)
Harvey Levensow (17 Sep)
Penny Elizabeth Magence-Ginsberg (20 Sep)
Harold Manning Marsh (17 Sep)
Zelda Hamburg Maus (19 Sep)
Abraham Mizrachi (14 Sep)
Ion Negruta (14 Sep)
Dorothy Selicovitz Novick (15 Sep)
Richard Francis Paisley (16 Sep)
Arthur David Rosenberg (18 Sep)
Leonard Ross (15 Sep)

Rose Rubinstein (19 Sep)
Ann Sapoznik (18 Sep)
Arthur David Savran (15 Elu)
George Schwitzer (18 Sep)
Jean Siegel (15 Sep)
Harold Silverman (18 Sep)
Irene Slottow (15 Sep)
Anna Ruth Steigmann (19 Sep)
Phillip M. Wax (14 Sep)

Friday, Sept. 20

Shirley Silver Berenbaum (25 Sep)
Lucille J. Birkett (24 Sep)
Gerald Creatchman (21 Sep)
Jon Davidson (23 Sep)
Ralph L. Dietchweiler (25 Sep)
Marion G. Eskow (23 Sep)
Sol Goldberg (27 Sep)
Marlene Goodfriend (25 Sep)

Beatrice Herman (27 Sep)
Cecia Hess (21 Elu)
Ida Lee (25 Sep)
Janice Libman (27 Sep)
Yetta Margolis (25 Sep)
Hugh Martin Maus (26 Sep)
Elsie Mautner (23 Sep)
Joel Serlin (21 Sep)

Arthur Shapiro (24 Sep)
Rachel Sitron (24 Sep)
Marcia Robin Taylor (26 Sep)
Annette Winakor (23 Sep)

Friday, Sept. 27

Jerome Aprill (03 Oct)
Sali Wintner Blum (03 Oct)
Florence Braverman (28 Sep)
Donald Brieland (2 Tish)
Solomon Bernstein Cohen (29 Sep)
Rose Creinin (04 Oct)
Samuel Faynzilberg (04 Oct)
Behrooz Gahvari (02 Oct)
Hormozd Gahvari (03 Oct)
Harry Gibbs (25 Elu)
Lewis Ginsberg (03 Oct)
Ann Braun Goldfein (30 Sep)
Polya Gorelik (01 Oct)
Shirley Zibel Gunther (02 Oct)

Dr. Joseph Huelsing (03 Oct)
Dorothy Katz (1 Tish)
Becky S. Kozoll (30 Sep)
Estelle Langendorf (03 Oct)
Allan Levy (29 Sep)
Gabriel Lilienthal (29 Sep)
Harold Lindsey (02 Oct)
Sandra Lipson (01 Oct)
William Margolis (30 Sep)
Mortimer Merkel (04 Oct)
Mordchai Neuman (1 Tish)
Sara Rachel Neuman (1 Tish)
Henderson Keith Paisley (01 Oct)
Bert Reizman (30 Sep)

Sylvia Held Rosenthal (25 Elu)
Ceil Rubinstein (03 Oct)
William Savran (2 Tish)
Milton Stanley Schneller (28 Sep)
Wolf Shklair (26 Elu)
Ruth Siegle (25 Elu)
Esther Solomon (28 Sep)
Minnie Sosnoff (25 Elu)
Herman Stern (30 Sep)
David L. Stone (01 Oct)
Marilyn Trupin (28 Sep)
Jacob Weichsel (28 Elu)
Rose Wisotzky (29 Elu)

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