

November 2024

Bulletin



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

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The Debbie Friedman Experience Saturday, November 16 at 7:30 PM

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.

For tickets: Scan the QR Code or go to <https://sinaitemplecu.shulcloud.com/form/debbiefriedman.html>



We are grateful to the **Milton and Annette Glaser Concert Fund** of the **Champaign Urbana Jewish Endowment Foundation** for their generous funding of this program. Additional support has been provided by **Richard and Judith Kaplan; Susan and Paul Schomer; and Barry Weiner**, in memory of **Linda Weiner, z"l**.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

FRIDAY, NOV 1

5:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service and First Friday Dinner

SATURDAY, NOV 2

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan Service

FRIDAY, NOV 8

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, NOV 9

10:00 AM Brit Mitzvah Service for Aaron Fisher

FRIDAY, NOV 15

5:30 pm Shabbat Rocks!

7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service

FRIDAY, NOV 22

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, NOV 23

10:00 AM Bar Mitzvah Service for Jakob Wolff

FRIDAY, NOV 29

7:00 PM Erev Shabbat Service **ONLINE ONLY** (note the earlier time) with Congregation Beth El in Tyler Texas (see page 2 for links)

FRIDAY, DEC 6

5:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service and First Friday Dinner

SATURDAY, DEC 7

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan Service

From Rabbi Alan Cook's Desk



As we enter the month of November, our thoughts turn to Thanksgiving—at least, the version with a capital “T” that comes at the end of the month. Perhaps in the midst of planning menus or strategizing for Black Friday shopping sprees, we find some time to consider thanksgiving with a lower-case “t” and we start to exercise our gratitude muscles.

On Yom Kippur, I spoke about the ways in which individual and tribal grievances have begun to color Western society so that we are unwilling or unable to form meaningful relationships and hold meaningful conversations with those who are not like-minded. I cited New York Times author Frank Bruni, who offers that one cure to this rise in grievances is for us to strive to adopt humility. Bruni goes on to

suggest that one path toward achieving this goal is to learn to express heartfelt gratitude for the influence of others in our lives.

I came across a quote by Pope Francis, who puts it thusly:

Rivers do not drink their own water;
trees do not eat their own fruit;
the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves.
Living for others is a rule of nature.
We are all born to help each other.
No matter how difficult it is...
Life is good when you are happy,
but it is much better when others are happy because of you.

When we step outside of our cone of personal interest and concern to engage with others and build a community, we embrace the pattern of nature to which Pope Francis refers. We begin to develop a greater sense of thankfulness as we realize how our lives are intertwined with others.

The past year has seen much anxiety, sadness, and disagreement, both within the Jewish community and in our larger society. It would behoove us to relearn ways to communicate effectively and respectfully, even when we have differences of opinion. Jackson Arn, in an essay in the *New Yorker* about his emotion at viewing the paintings of Claude Monet, writes, “there is community in feeling divided and anguished together, in knowing that nobody is having the proper, official emotional response because no such thing has ever existed.”

Sinai Temple recently resurrected our Conversations at Sinai program that we initially piloted this summer. Each Wednesday evening through the end of 2024, you are invited to join us at Temple from 7-8:30 PM for an opportunity to strengthen our community. Some evenings, we will have moderated conversations about difficult topics; other evenings will be purely social. The idea is to break down some of the silos we have built around ourselves and our closely-held convictions, and rediscover ways that people with diverse backgrounds and opinions can interact meaningfully with one another, bolstering our holy congregation. We hope that you will strive to join us occasionally for these sessions. Please note that at this time, the sessions are open only to Sinai Temple members.

Wishing you and your family a meaningful season of Thanksgiving.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Alan Cook

Shabbat Service - November 29 at 7 PM - Online only!

Service online with Congregation Beth El of Tyler, Texas.

Please go to <https://www.bethelytyler.com/sinaitemple> to find Zoom and YouTube links and password.

From President Lil Levant

A Message of Hope and Commitment

“Hope is like peace. It is not a gift from God. It is a gift only we can give one another.”- Elie Wiesel

Rabbi Alan beautifully explored the theme of “hope” in his Rosh Hashanah sermon, prompting me to reflect on the spirit of hope and resilience that the High Holidays embody. As we enter the New Year 5785, it is hope that can guide us through both challenges and opportunities.

I have heard from many of you that you found this year’s series of High Holiday services to be incredibly fulfilling. Sinai Temple continues to elevate our offerings – providing our congregants a space for communal worship, spiritual growth, and connection to Jewish tradition. We are proud to serve as a hub for educational programs, cultural events, and social support, fostering a sense of community and belonging among all members.

Our congregation inspires hope within me, yet we face ongoing challenges. As I shared during the High Holidays, while we are fortunate to have a strong financial foundation bolstered by reserve funds and the generous endowments of our congregants, we must acknowledge that membership revenues — essential for covering our annual operating expenses—have remained stagnant over the past few years, even as costs continue to rise.

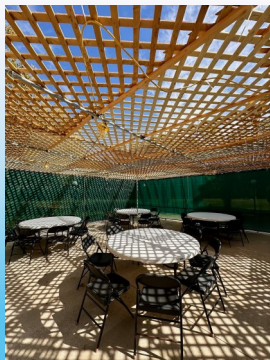
Currently, only about 40% of our congregation has completed a pledge commitment for FY25, leaving us seriously short of meeting our anticipated revenue goals. As a reminder, Sinai Temple utilizes a two-stage process for our dues. First, we ask each

household to consider the commitment they can comfortably make to Temple, and to complete a pledge form indicating this amount. We ask all families to complete this step as early in the year as possible. The second stage is to establish a payment schedule; while we certainly welcome and encourage households to make payments early in the fiscal year, every household can set a plan that is appropriate for them. If, over the course of the year, circumstances require you to alter your pledge, you may contact the Temple office and confidentially make an adjustment.

Thank you to those of you who have made your generous membership pledge commitments and payments. If you have not yet submitted your pledge form through Shul Cloud, I urge you to do so very soon. Payments can be made at any time during the year, but your immediate pledge commitment is crucial for our planning and sustainability. Should you need assistance with your pledge, please reach out to Gary Bernstein at SToffice@sinaitemplecu.org or call him at 217-352-8140.

I am hopeful that with your support, our Temple will not only endure but thrive. Together, let us continue to foster a community that embodies hope and commitment. Thank you in advance for making your membership commitment a priority for the Year 5785.

Shana Tova,
Lil



Sukkah at Sinai!

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who helped with the community Sukkah on the Sinai Temple patio!

Volunteers included: **Larry Adelston, Richard Akresh, Gary Bernstein, Liz Kellner, Dan Kopolow, Ben Fox, Sebastian Haro, Sanford Hess, Ben LeRoy, Sam Mall, Amy and Jacob Roady, Sara Schwebel, and Bob Smith.**

November Celebrations



Aaron Fisher—Nov 9

Aaron Ranen Richard Fisher will be called to the Torah on Saturday, November 9th, 2024. Aaron is the child of Kim and Mitch Fisher and has three siblings: Isaac (19), Moses (16), and Helen (15). Aaron is a 7th grade student at Jefferson Middle School.

Aaron loves to both play and listen to music. They play trumpet for the Jefferson Middle School (JMS) Concert Band and Jazz Band. Aaron also is a member of the JMS cross country and archery teams, and performs in Champaign Park District theater musicals. In their free time, Aaron enjoys reading, playing Nintendo Switch games, D & D, and hanging out with friends at the library!

A very special thank you to Sara Harkins, Rabbis Jody and Alan, and their Sunday School teacher Ray, who have helped Aaron prepare for this special day.

Photo credit: Pancho Moore at More by Moore Media

Jakob Wolff—Nov 23

Jakob Moshe Wolff will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on the morning of Saturday, November 23, 2024. Jakob is the child of Aaron Smith and Amy Wolff and the older brother of Yonatan (Yoni) Tuvya Wolff. He and his family are thrilled to celebrate this simcha with their religious home at Sinai Temple.

Jakob is in seventh grade at Urbana Middle School, where he is involved with band. A music lover, Jakob plays the bass clarinet, bassoon, and is also learning how to spin records with his developing 90s hip-hop collection. Additionally, Jakob enjoys traveling, *tae kwon do*, and learning about martial arts.

We are so very grateful to Norah Kopolow for her abundance of patience and knowledge as Jakob's tutor. We also extend our sincere gratitude to Sara Harkins, Rabbi Jody, and the many others who are making this day possible.



Green Team and Events

GREEN TEAM TIP

America Recycles Day is Nov. 15, 2024. Nationally, the event is sponsored by Keep America Beautiful so you might see trash collection days connected to this effort such as our Boneyard Creek Cleanup last month on Oct. 26, 2024.

You can participate year-round at the household level! It's important to keep in mind what can and cannot be recycled locally and be aware of up-to-date information.

We're familiar with recycling cardboard and other paper. We can also recycle pizza cartons and cardboard take-out boxes, even stained parts. Just remove any food residue and recycle the entire carton. We can also recycle cartons from refrigerated juice and milk after rinsing.

Remember it's equally or even more important to keep non-recyclables out of the recycling bin. Don't put plastic bags into household recycling along with paper, cans, and bottles; instead, drop off plastic bags with a 2 or 4 symbol at grocery store bins. Polystyrene (Styrofoam) can no longer be recycled locally. If you're unsure about a type of plastic, it's better to put it in the trash than to put it with the recycling.



These are NOT equal!

REDUCE comes first—see if it's possible to forego that material object or piece of packaging altogether.

REUSE materials when possible, resulting in a reduction of purchases.

RECYCLE whenever possible.

Conversations at Sinai

Over the summer, Sinai hosted two sessions designed to promote respectful dialogue about challenging topics. We felt that these sessions were important and well-received, and provide significant opportunities for community building.

We are pleased to announce the return of Conversations at Sinai on Wednesdays from 7-8:30 PM. Some sessions will be designed for discussion about difficult topics; other weeks will provide space for more social opportunities. At the moment, these conversations are intended for Sinai Temple members only. We hope you will join us. Here are the dates and proposed topics for November:

November 6: Responding to the US Elections

November 13: Visioning for Sinai Temple's Future

November 20: Game Night-

Bring your favorite game, or join a game of Mah Jong, Poker, or other favorites

November 27: No session due to Thanksgiving.

Sinai Temple Announcements

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!



Mark Your Calendars for the Chanukah Showcase, Sundays, Dec 8 and Dec 15

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.



November 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.

November 10:
The Fraud
by **Zadie Smith**
Facilitator: **Judy Ullom**

RSVP's required by Friday, November 8 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.

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 Donations

Temple Donations September 16, 2024, to October 15, 2024

ALPINE STERN FLOWER FUND

Natalie Frankenberg and Miriam
Greenberg-Boby in Memory of
Julian Frankenberg, John Boby,
and Gertrude & Max Kushner

BUILDING FUND

Lauren Aronson & Paul Orr
Eugene Avrutin & Yingying Guo-
Avrutin
Andrew & Tamarra Bernstein
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Melissa Ferdman
Marshall & Karen Garrick
Stephen & Anita Hamburg
Sanford & Elizabeth Hess
Tania Ionin & Timur Oikhberg
Michael & Janet LeRoy
Terry Maher
Mariel Middlebrook
Yoram & Carol Mizrahi
Mildred Rosenberg
Alexander Scheeline & Alice Berkson
Sophia Segev
Pete & Cyndi Smyser
Robert & Sherry Steigmann
Emily Stone & Chris Napolitano
Barry Weiner
Jacob & Suzanne Woolfson

GENERAL FUND

Alina & Alan Brener
Marjorie & Gregory Gibbs in Memory
of Jane P. Walter and John H.
Walter
William & Phyllis Gingold in Memory
of Steven Gingold
Arthur & Catherine Gross

Sandra Hynds in Memory of David
Adam O'Connor-Shoresman
Diana Jaher in Memory of Frederic
Jaher
Rudi & Judi Laufhutte
Jennifer & Melanie Pridemore
Alexander Scheeline & Alice Berkson

KITCHEN FUND

Lauren Aronson & Paul Orr
Eugene Avrutin & Yingying Guo-
Avrutin
Andrew & Tamarra Bernstein
Samuel & Judith Bernstein
Marshall & Karen Garrick
Stephen & Anita Hamburg
Sanford & Elizabeth Hess
Tania Ionin & Timur Oikhberg
Brian & Jacquelyn Kahn
Mariel Middlebrook
Michael Parrish
Alexander Scheeline & Alice Berkson
Sophia Segev
Robert & Sherry Steigmann
Emily Stone & Chris Napolitano
Barry Weiner
Jacob & Suzanne Woolfson
MLK SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Lee & Evan Melhado

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Jeffrey & Claire Newman in Memory of
Richard J. Newman

RENOVATION FUND

Natalie Frankenberg in Memory of Ken
Spector

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Lauren Aronson & Paul Orr
Eugene Avrutin & Yingying Guo-
Avrutin
Andrew & Tamarra Bernstein
Samuel & Judith Bernstein
Marshall & Karen Garrick
Stephen & Anita Hamburg
Sanford & Elizabeth Hess
Tania Ionin & Timur Oikhberg
Brian & Jacquelyn Kahn
Michael & Janet LeRoy
Terry Maher
Mariel Middlebrook
Yoram & Carol Mizrahi
Michael Parrish
Mildred Rosenberg
Alexander Scheeline & Alice Berkson
Sophia Segev
Pete & Cyndi Smyser
Robert & Sherry Steigmann
Emily Stone & Chris Napolitano
Barry Weiner
Jacob & Suzanne Woolfson

Solar At Sinai

The Solar at Sinai Fund received generous and timely donations and loans from Sinai Temple members beginning in mid-summer 2024. We plan to list the supporters in a future Sinai Temple Bulletin, and further recognize them at a celebration of our solar array installation in 2025

Sinai Temple Memorials for November 2024

| | | | | |
|------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| Friday, Oct. 25 | Miriam Cornman Ampolsk (27 Oct) Paltiel Bach (28 Oct) Helen Yedwal Berenbaum (28 Oct) John Berry II (31 Oct) Jacob Bower (01 Nov) Bernice Cohen (28 Oct) Jeannetta S. Cohen (01 Nov) Joli Ginsberg (29 Oct) | Kurt Gottschalk (26 Oct) Nathan Gullan (28 Oct) Ann Gullan (30 Oct) Joyce Hall (26 Oct) Libby Halpern (27 Oct) Esther Cohen Hays (30 Oct) Sara Kuhn Kaufman (27 Oct) Myron Korry (26 Oct) | Fannie Kurland (30 Oct) Audrey Libman Leavitt (01 Nov) Nathan Meyerson (26 Oct) Boris Mirensky (26 Oct) Michael Neuwirth (31 Oct) Bernard Press (29 Oct) David Rabin (26 Oct) Lee Reineberg (31 Oct) | Sidney Rosen (27 Oct) Suzanne Shapiro (01 Nov) Ilsie Shure (30 Oct) Larry E. Skinner (31 Oct) Morris Solomon (30 Oct) George Allan Swartz (27 Oct) Richard Weinberg (30 Oct) Hannah Libman Weiner (31 Oct) |
| Friday, Nov. 1 | Percel Alston (06 Nov) Ann Aprill (03 Nov) Allen Bach (02 Nov) Sarah Blockman (02 Nov) Nathan Brusiloff (03 Nov) Samuel Costin (06 Nov) Charles Davidson (03 Nov) Milton Glaser (04 Nov) Ruth Jacobs Gordon (07 Nov) | Bessie Greenberg (04 Nov) Louis Greenstein (03 Nov) Alex Horwitz (03 Nov) Andrew Mark Isserman (04 Nov) Ruby Kanfer (07 Nov) Rose Eva Keller (07 Nov) Meyer Klorfine (07 Nov) Joseph Lasker (05 Nov) Sylvia Leary (07 Nov) | Dr Eli B. Mandel (03 Nov) Louis M. Mashkes (02 Nov) Harold Miller (02 Nov) Aili Bykkonen Monahan (1 Ches) Solomon Rosenberg (05 Nov) Sam Rosenblum (04 Nov) Morris G. Rosenstein (03 Nov) Lester G. Seligman (02 Nov) Rima Siegel Fox (2 Ches) | Bernard Spitzer (02 Nov) Jim Stewart (04 Nov) Susie Stewart (08 Nov) Arlen Tepper (05 Nov) Lena G. Wax (02 Nov) Archie Werth (07 Nov) Lionel Wheeler (04 Nov) Norma Yates (02 Nov) |
| Friday, Nov. 8 | Jesse Belber (09 Nov) Louie Blockman (09 Nov) Tobi Leah Cohen (12 Nov) Eva Cutler (12 Nov) Edythe Davis (13 Nov) Lawrence Martin Davis (14 Nov) Steven Diamond (12 Nov) Donald Gant (11 Nov) Craig Gastwirth (13 Che) | Florence Goldberg (13 Nov) Bette Green (8 Ches) Elinor Wildstein Harris (12 Nov) Josephine Hedges (12 Nov) Jacob Herman (15 Nov) Sophie Lipschutz (8 Ches) Lev Oykhberg (15 Nov) Marvin Perlman (12 Nov) Dorothy Poticha (13 Nov) | Joseph Schmidt (12 Nov) Florence Schwartz (12 Nov) Ephraim Shalev (11 Che) Sanford Marvin Siegel (13 Nov) Susan Melanie Sirkis (13 Nov) Isadore Soll (15 Nov) Louis Isaac Steinberg (11 Che) Walter W. Stern Jr (11 Nov) Abe H. Waxman (09 Nov) | Rosalind Faiman Weinberg (14 Che) Lawrence Weingarten (12 Nov) Irving Weissman (12 Nov) Reba Wolf (14 Nov) Eliezer Zangvil (10 Nov) |
| Friday, Nov. 15 | Sara Barnett (21 Nov) Louis L. Bing (21 Nov) Joseph B. Bloomfield (20 Nov) Julius Brodsky (16 Nov) Paulette E. Deckard (22 Nov) William Francisco (19 Nov) Molly M. Friedman (22 Nov) Helen Goldberg (20 Che) Libby Goldberg (21 Nov) Manuel Gomez (18 Nov) | Jenny Gottheil (17 Che) Robert H. Harris (20 Nov) Helmut Heumann (22 Nov) Mildred Hirsh (17 Che) Martha Kaplan (17 Che) Reatha Hamburg Katz (22 Nov) Miriam Korogodsky (18 Nov) Charles Kozoll (22 Nov) Della B. Kranson (22 Nov) Kate Kuper (18 Nov) | Samuel Lederer (18 Nov) Rose Weinberger Levy (18 Nov) Aaron Linder (20 Nov) David F. Linowes (17 Che) Kevin J. Middlebrook (21 Nov) Stuart S. Nagel (18 Nov) Molly Newman (16 Nov) Arthur Joseph Richmond (16 Che) Dorothy Rosen (18 Nov) Ida Rosenblum (20 Che) | Moshe Rosenshine (21 Nov) Minnie Rosenstein (18 Nov) Bessie Siegal (22 Nov) Dorothy Silverman (15 Che) Estelle Spelke (21 Nov) Vasilisa Tsugui (22 Nov) Larry Vodkin (17 Che) Morton Wagman (21 Nov) Lisa Ellen Weichsel (18 Che) Sylvia Zinger (18 Nov) |
| Friday, Nov. 22 | Rose Beaver (27 Nov) Nathan Berenbaum (26 Nov) Ann Black (23 Che) Myrtle Berenson Braun (26 Nov) Rosa Lee Brill (29 Nov) Julius Cohen (26 Nov) Anne Cohn (24 Nov) George Davidson (25 Nov) | Molly Denenholz (26 Che) Bertel Forst (25 Nov) Barbara Friedberg (23 Nov) Alex Goldman (23 Nov) Rabbi Louis Kaufman (24 Nov) Bernice L. Lewis (24 Nov) Samuel Arthur Libman (26 Nov) Rabbi Isaac Neuman (24 Che) | Doris Paprocki (27 Nov) Sarrah Privina (27 Nov) Ada Feinstein Roth (25 Nov) Sylvia Selicovitz (26 Nov) Frieda Sherman (28 Nov) Jennie Shmikler (24 Nov) William H. Sholem (24 Nov) Brian Silverman (26 Che) | Clara Wannemuehler (23 Nov) Dorothy Weinbaum (26 Nov) Paul Yates (25 Nov) |
| Friday, Nov. 29 | Maxine Applebaum (30 Nov) Philip Applebaum (04 Dec) Stephen Henry Bauer (30 Nov) Harry Cohen (04 Dec) Isadore Cornman (03 Dec) Dr. Max Costin (01 Dec) Morton Dunn (30 Nov) Sidney Feinberg (06 Dec) | Ida Friedberg (01 Dec) Lena V. Garfinkel (01 Dec) Louis Nathan Glaser (02 Dec) Sara Goldring (1 Kisl) Beatrice Karan (01 Dec) Ben Karol (30 Nov) Jerry Keller (1 Kisl) Edgar Myron Kling (05 Dec) | Abraham Lapedes (06 Dec) Fred Lewin (04 Dec) Herbert Elsworth Lyon (05 Dec) Harry David Nelson (01 Dec) Sam Norris (02 Dec) Benjamin Pearlstein (02 Dec) Julius Rutenberg (03 Dec) Melvyn Silver (30 Che) | Ruth Simon (05 Dec) Marilyn Rife Smith (06 Dec) James Strauch (30 Nov) Sybelle Timberlake (06 Dec) Jacob Toby (4 Kisl) Jane P. Walter (4 Kisl) Gertrude Wolf (29 Che) |

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