# February 2025 Bulletin



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

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Dear friends,

You may have noticed that we did not publish our monthly newsletter in December and an abbreviated newsletter in January. We are currently undergoing a redesign process to ensure we are communicating Temple news to you in an engaging and informative manner. Starting in 2025, we will publish a print edition of our newsletter four times a year, approximately on a quarterly basis. We will still communicate timely information in our weekly email newsletters.

In the meantime, this abbreviated edition lists recent and upcoming Yahrtzeits, and the generous contributions made to Sinai Temple from December 16 to January 15, 2025.

We appreciate your patience as we continue to evolve our communications.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 31** 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1** 10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan Service

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 75:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service, Shabbat Shira, and First Friday Dinner

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14** 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15** 10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan Service

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21** 5:30 pm Shabbat Rocks! 7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28** 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

**SATURDAY, MARCH 1** 10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan Service

Since the COVID-19 quarantine, we have broadcast most Shabbat evening services taking place in the sanctuary via Zoom. Please note that starting in January 2025, we will be discontinuing our Zoom link for these services. Services taking place in the sanctuary may still be accessed through our YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/@sinaitemplecu

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

# From Rabbi Alan Cook's Desk



As I write this, I can still see piles of snow blanketing the grass, remnants of the storm that visited CU during the first weekend of January. With that view, it seems a bit odd to be thinking ahead to the forthcoming holiday of Tu B'Shvat, the "New Year of the Trees," which falls on February 12-13 this year.

I think Tu B'Shvat is a fabulous holiday—not just because there's little for a rabbi to worry about liturgically in observance of the day. It teaches us important lessons about our responsibility in the stewardship of this planet.

Tu B'Shvat falls on the fifteenth day of the Hebrew month of Shevat. The holiday gets its name from the fact that the Hebrew letter tet stands for nine, the Hebrew letter vav stands for six, and 9+6=15. (Yes, 10+5 also equals 15, but that would mean combining yud and hey, which spells one of the names of God, so the ancient calendar-makers opted for nine plus six instead)

The Talmud delineates four times during the year when we celebrate New Years. We are familiar with Rosh Hashanah on the first of Tishrei, but the first of Nisan is designated as the New Year for counting royal reigns, and the first of Elul is assigned as the New Year for animal tithes in the Temple (we can see why these have fallen out of contemporary usage). Tu B'Shvat is the New Year for trees (originally for tithed produce; nowadays as a time of environmental awareness). Though the streets and sidewalks of East Central Illinois may still be covered with snow and frost, in Israel the almond trees are beginning to blossom, bringing the promise that springtime and its rebirth will once again arrive.

But we know that these cycles do not take place without human intervention. It is up to us to care for the earth and ensure that future generations enjoy bounteous plants, fresh water, and clean air just as we have. A character named Honi in the Talmud teaches that, "Just as my ancestors planted for me, so I must plant for those who will come after me."

We can be proud of the steps that Sinai Temple has taken, thanks in large part to the guidance of Alice Berkson and our Green Team, to heed this lesson. We are thrilled by the tremendous congregational support for our solar project, which is now up and running. We also appreciate the tips that the team regularly provides us to guide us toward responsible environmental practices. On this Tu B'Shvat, let us rededicate ourselves to caring for our precious planet so that she may continue to prosper.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Alan

# From President Lil Levant

Dear Temple Family,

We are undoubtedly living in challenging times, where change seems to come at us faster than we can fully process it. These times test our patience, our faith, and our unity. But one thing that fills me with pride is the incredible diversity of thought and perspective within our congregation. We speak our minds, and we often have very differing opinions.

Among us, we may find a variety of feelings about the recent elections in our country, and a mixture of emotions about what the next four years may bring. Our reactions to the ongoing conflict in Israel and Gaza are similarly multifaceted. The point is that most of us hold views that are nuanced, that shift and evolve from day to day on these complex issues.

I want to remind us all of something very important: what matters most is not where we stand politically or what we may feel about the world's direction. What truly matters is how we stand together, how we show up for each other, and how we choose to support one another through all the turbulence.

We are here to nurture one another's wellbeing, to listen, to offer empathy, and to build each other up in our shared faith. I ask only one thing: that you show up. It is not your opinions or beliefs that define you in this community; it is your actions, your commitment, and your heart.

Let us continue to build a community based on mutual respect, care, and understanding. As your president, I am proud to be part of this incredible family, and I am committed to showing up for all of you. I ask you to do the same for one another.

On another topic, Rabbi Alan, Rabbi Jody, Gary Bernstein and I have been working, with the support of our Board of Trustees, to find ways to add value and distinctive perks for our members. As part of this effort, we are working on a communications strategy that will help to better communicate the Temple's wide range of offerings more effectively.

As you may know, we are in the process of reconfiguring our Bulletin. We plan to mail out a quarterly Bulletin to our members to replace the monthly electronic version. Our goal is to develop more interesting content that may include such features as a Calendar of Events (or Save-The-Date), profiles of board members and/or congregants and an overall retooling of the look and feel of the bulletin. This may take some time, but we hope to launch the first edition around the first of April. In the meantime, we will continue to rely on electronic communications and an abbreviated electronic bulletin in the interim.

Take good care of yourselves,

Lil

# Board Minutes Summary—January

#### Sinai Temple Board of Trustees Summary Minutes for Monthly Bulletin January 13, 2025

Attendance: Justin Aronoff, Andy Bernstein, Sam Bernstein, Sarah Bleill, Rabbi Alan Cook (ex-officio), Rabbi Jody Cook (ex-officio), Shari Fox, Lil Levant, Mariel Middlebrook, Michael Parrish, Amy Roady, Bob Smith, Stacy Trager.

Staff: Gary Bernstein

Absent: Richard Akresh, Ben LeRoy, Julia Rietz, Audrey Thompson.

Lil Levant called the meeting to order at 7:00.

- Rabbi Alan spoke about the unfolding tragedies associated with the fires in Southern California and connected it with the week's Torah portion. He reminded the Board of the upcoming Martin Luther King Day program at which he will give the invocation. Sinai Temple congregants have contributed approximately \$3,600 to the MLK Scholarship Fund. He also informed the board of other upcoming events and a professional facilitator for future Conversations at Sinai.
- Minutes of the Board's December meeting were approved unanimously with two abstentions.
- Lil provided an overview of the purpose and composition of the Nominating Committee and proposed a slate of members: Sam Bernstein (chair), Laura Bleill, Wynne Korr, Ben LeRoy, Michael Parrish, Rae Spooner, and Kirstin Wilcox. The Board unanimously approved the slate.
- Lil presented a proposal to implement an affiliation program with Sinai Temple for U of I students through Hillel. A goal is for Jewish college students to have a positive experience with a temple, thereby encouraging their future membership with temples in their future communities. Shari moved to adopt the proposal as written; Stacy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Rabbi Jody reported on the Religious School Winter Camp program in collaboration with PJ Library with 13 participants over the course of the camp, the New Year's Day Game Day with 61 attendees and 5 puzzle competition teams, and the annual ice-skating event.
- Stacy reported on the work of the Membership Committee. Their primary goal currently is the establishment of an overall membership policy (dues pledges and payments, membership considerations, costs for events, etc.).
   This policy is to be a living document that is consistent in implementation. They also discussed membership recruitment at well-attended events.
- As his administrator's report, Gary provided a demonstration of a cloud-based system for record retention and board sharing and reported on other operational projects.
- Sam provided the treasurer's report, highlighting key elements of the operating statement. Dues revenue picked up in December, which has improved the temple's overall bottom line. He and Amy reviewed the budgeting process for FY2026 and a timeline in preparation for the congregation's annual meeting in May.
- Art provided written reports as financial secretary and shared that there are 43 "member" families that have not paid dues at all in FY2022 through FY2025 to-date. Calendar year 2024 contribution statements will go out to members soon as information for tax return preparation.
- Art reported on upcoming building maintenance projects and financial aspects of the solar energy project.

Lil adjourned the meeting at 8:32.

# Green Team and Events

#### **GREEN TEAM TIP**

Many folks turn their attention to improving their diet and exercise early in the calendar year. It's a great time to think about adding more fish to our diet. Eating fish can be beneficial to our personal health as well as reducing dependence on resources that go into producing meat and dairy products.

The Monterey Bay Aquarium website and guide for consumers has excellent specific information about types of fish that are both healthy and environmentally friendly. You can read about the Super Green List of Seafood no-brainers at <u>https://www.seafoodwatch.org</u>, which details varieties of sustainable fish like rainbow trout and albacore tuna, which are readily available locally.

Take a few minutes to read about the types of fish and why the location and method of harvesting matters a great deal in maintaining a healthy and sustainable supply. For instance, some types of albacore tuna are recommended, while others are to be avoided.



You can check on specific fish when you're shopping through their website, or you can download a Seafood Guide that is specific to the central United States. It folds into a pocket or purse size so you can consult it any time.

Also, remember our friends at Koss Family Farms <u>https://www.kountry-fresh.com/about</u> who have delicious locally produced tilapia!



### Visiting Scholar Rabbi Dalia Marx, PhD

On **Sunday, February 2, at 7 PM**, we are thrilled to welcome Rabbi Dalia Marx, PhD. Rabbi Marx is the author and editor of several books and scholarly articles, including her most recent, From Time to Time: Journeys in the Jewish Calendar. She will speak on "**The Secrets of Jewish Time: Celebrating the New Year of the Trees.**" There is no charge for the program, but we do ask that you RSVP by to help us ensure sufficient seating at <a href="https://sinaitemplecu.org/RabbiDaliaMarx-2025">https://sinaitemplecu.org/RabbiDaliaMarx-2025</a>.

If you'd like to order your own copy of Rabbi Marx's book, you may do so through the CCAR Press at: <u>https://www.ccarpress.org/shopping\_product\_detail.asp?pid=50602</u>. Order before February 10, and use code **ST20** to receive 20% off your order.

Rabbi Dalia Marx, Ph.D., is the Rabbi Aaron D. Panken Professor of Liturgy and Midrash at HUC-JIR's Taube Family Campus in Jerusalem, and teaches in various academic institutions in Israel and Europe. She is highly sought after as a teacher and guest lecturer, and we are honored to have the opportunity to learn from her at Sinai Temple.

Rabbi Marx, a tenth generation Jerusalemite, earned her doctorate at the Hebrew University and her rabbinic ordination at HUC-JIR in Jerusalem and Cincinnati in 2002. She is involved in various research projects and is active in promoting liberal Judaism in Israel. Marx writes for academic and popular journals and publications.

Rabbi Marx is the lead editor of the Israeli Reform siddur, Tfillat HaAdam (2020).

Rabbi Marx lives in Jerusalem with her husband, Roly Zyblersztein, Ph.D. They have three children.

We gratefully acknowledge generous funding assistance for this program from the Marvin and Esther Steinberg Scholar-in-Residence Fund of the Champaign-Urbana Jewish Endowment Foundation.

## Sinai Temple Donations

### Temple Donations December 16, 2024, to January 15, 2025

#### **BUILDING FUND**

Frank Adleman Allen Avner Judy Bach Howard Berenbaum & Megan McLaughlin Brenda Berg Peter & Judy Braunfeld Dov Cohen & Andrea Aguiar Stephen Downie & Deborah Katz-Downie Ann Einhorn Tamra Gingold Achsah Guibbory Joanna Kling Rudi & Judi Laufhutte Scott Lerner Robert & Sondra Libman Robert Manaster Michael Parrish Richard & Jacqueline Ross Karen Rudolph & David Donnini Susan & Paul Schomer Glen & Lisa Schwartzberg Kenneth Stolarsky & Andrea Beller Bette & John van Es Paul & Linda Weichsel

#### FRIENDS OF RELIGIOUS SCHOOL Susan & Paul Schomer

#### MARCO FUND (HOLOCAUST EDUCATION)

Shirley Marco Kulwin Leslie Gould

#### GENERAL FUND

Scott Birnbaum Annette & John Buckmaster in Memory of Ralph Weinstein Ann Einhorn in Memory of Diana Lenik Joyce Eisenstein in Honor of Wynne Korr's birthday Lisa & Lee Greenstein in Memory of Orie & Helen Greenstein Alayna Hirsch & Tessi Taylor Anita Hocherger Paula Kaufman Rabbi Norman & Dr. Andrea Klein Lilyan Levant in Honor of Wynne Korr's birthday Stanley & Joan Levy in Memory of Florence K. Weinberg and Viola Koenigsberg
Rabbi Gabe Miner & Rachelle Grossman Michael Vodkin in Memory of Linda Vodkin
Ira & Lynn Wachtel in Honor of Wynne Korr's birthday
Ira & Lynn Wachtel in Memory of Leo

Weisel

#### **KITCHEN FUND**

Frank Adleman Allen Avner Judy Bach Howard Berenbaum & Megan McLaughlin Brenda Berg Peter & Judy Braunfeld Stephen Downie & Deborah Katz-Downie Ann Einhorn Joanna Kling Rudi & Judi Laufhutte Robert & Sondra Libman Robert Manaster Rabbi Gabe Miner & Rachelle Grossman Karen Rudolph & David Donnini Susan & Paul Schomer Glen & Lisa Schwartzberg Kenneth Stolarsky & Andrea Beller Bette & John van Es Paul & Linda Weichsel

#### MLK SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Mary Alexander Mildred Barnett & Sarah Barnett Nemeth Edward & Rachel Brandt Annette & John Buckmaster Jennie France & Charles Kahn Natalie Frankenberg William & Phyllis Gingold Barbara & Larry Gordon Frances & Mitchell Harris Anita Hocherger Ellen Jacobsen-Isserman Michael Jay Kurt Lenschow Fave Lesht Lilyan Levant Michelle Perry

Alison Rosenblum & Yonatan Kahn Steven & Eva Scher Susan & Paul Schomer Glen & Lisa Schwartzberg Bette & John van Es Arthur & Charlotte Westle Steven Zimmerman & Sharon Shavitt

#### **RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Carl & Carol Belber in Memory of Susie Cook
Andrew & Tamarra Bernstein in Memory of Rosalyne Spindel Bernstein
Eileen & William Kohen in Memory of Susie Cook
Bernice Lieberman in Memory of Susie Cook

SAFETY AND SECURITY FUND

Frank Adleman Allen Avner Judy Bach Howard Berenbaum & Megan McLaughlin Brenda Berg Peter & Judy Braunfeld Dov Cohen & Andrea Aguiar Stephen Downie & Deborah Katz-Downie Ann Einhorn Tamra Gingold Achsah Guibbory Joanna Kling Rudi & Judi Laufhutte Scott Lerner Robert & Sondra Libman Robert Manaster Michael Parrish Richard & Jacqueline Ross Karen Rudolph & David Donnini Susan & Paul Schomer Glen & Lisa Schwartzberg Kenneth Stolarsky & Andrea Beller Bette & John van Es Paul & Linda Weichsel

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

Larry Adelston & Katherine Coyle in Memory of Vivian Adelston

## Sínaí Temple Memoríals for February 2025

Marilyn E. Adleman (12 Feb) Ella Marmor Adler (10 Feb) Allen Bach (12 Feb) Frances Aub Bloomfield (08 Feb) Eva Blum (14 Feb) Lawrence Chonoles (08 Feb) Abram Dankowicz (09 Feb) Harry Danowitz (13 Feb) Kenneth deFreese (09 Feb) Laura Dubin (09 Feb) Joshua Eisenstein (12 Feb) Lena Garber (08 Feb) Samuel Garber (12 Feb) David Gingold (12 Feb) Martin Glezer (11 Feb) Harriett Gore (14 Feb) Betty Barker Greenstein (14 Feb) Yoseph Banai (20 Feb) Leon Bankier (21 Feb) Nora Beloff (21 Feb) Milton Derber (19 Feb) Ronald Eugene Dolgin (18 Feb) Hyman Ginsberg (17 Feb) Morris Gordon (16 Feb)

Friday, Feb. 7

Friday, Feb. 14

Friday, Feb. 21

Friday, Feb. 28

Ronald Eugene Dolgin (18 Feb) Hyman Ginsberg (17 Feb) Morris Gordon (16 Feb) Robert Graff (18 Feb) Rose Goldstein Haff (17 Feb) Abetta "Abby" L. Helman (22 She) Marcus Maxwell Joffe (18 Feb)

Malka Debra Agran (23 Feb) Maybelle Alston (24 Feb) Mildred Brusiloff Appel (23 Feb) Beverly Rosenfeld Cohen (28 Feb) Sidney R. Cooperband (27 Feb) Morris Davis (25 Feb) Adam Ira Feinberg (28 Feb) Hannah Freudenstein (23 Feb) Dr. Leon Gilman (22 Feb) Audrey Goldstein (26 Feb) Rita Mae Goodman (28 Feb) William Greenberg (24 Feb) Orville S. Kahn (27 Feb) Joan Wendy Karp (25 Feb)

Sakip Altay (04 Mar) Hyman Joseph Berenbaum (01 Mar) Mack Bernard Braun (06 Mar) David S. Choldin (06 Mar) Irving Cohen (03 Mar) Lillian Ruttenberg Cohn (01 Mar) Marion Davidson (02 Mar) Oscar Einhorn (02 Mar) Irving Eisenstein (07 Mar) Arthur Fagan (07 Mar) Seymour Garber (06 Mar) Lillian J. Gross (02 Mar)

Yefim Grinberg (11 Feb) Florence Dorothy Hamburg (12 Feb) Michael Herman (10 Feb) Boris Isaac Katz (10 Feb) Jacob M. Kaufman (10 Feb) Alvin Keller (11 Feb) William Kugell (10 Feb) Rose Adler Kuhn (14 Feb) Charles A. Kulwin (11 Feb) Michael Langendorf (08 Feb) Evelyn Marks (12 Feb) Juliana Wertheimer Neuwirth (11 Feb) Lena Novack (11 Feb) Tony Novak (08 Feb) Alice Ore (08 Feb) Gerald William Pafford (13 Feb) Ann Brodsky Pass (08 Feb)

Ann Kapulskey (20 Feb) Edward P. Katz (20 Feb) Barbara Klein (17 Feb) Rossie Kohen (21 Feb) Alice Kushner (20 Feb) Natan Kuznetsov (15 Feb) Edith Levy (19 Feb) Norma Lewis (20 Feb) Esther Liebersohn (15 Feb) Dorothy L Linowes (21 She) Ruth Morton Lynx (21 Feb)

Howard King (24 Feb) Daniel Klaiman (22 Feb) Ursula Rothfels Konigsberg (27 She) Lloyd Kraus (26 Feb) Rose Kuznetsov (23 Feb) Malcolm Lachman (25 Feb) David Markoff (27 Feb) Leo I. Nagel (22 Feb) Vera Negruta (27 Feb) Ralph Newman (24 Feb) Shirley S. Porton (29 She) Harry Rosenberg (24 Feb) Dorothy Rosenstein (26 Feb) Aron Rosenstein (28 Feb)

William R. Hohmann (04 Mar)
Dr. Harry Israel Janoff (03 Mar)
Bernard Karsh (07 Mar)
William Klaiman (06 Mar)
Arthur Lewis (06 Mar)
Clarence Libman (02 Mar)
Jack Marco (04 Mar)
Stephanie Siegel Morgan (01 Mar)
Nissim "Isadoro" Morhaim (06 Mar)
Walter Morris (01 Mar)
Fruma Movshevna Movshovich (01 Mar)
Abraham M. Reider (06 Mar)

Isadore William Pearlman (14 Feb) Channa Reizman (10 Feb) Lionel "Rick" Romero (11 Feb) Frances Rosenberg (08 Feb) Faye Roth (08 Feb) David Ruttenberg (08 Feb) Bernice E. Schwartz (09 Feb) Jacob Schwartz (14 She) Harriet Sherman (14 Feb) Julian Simon (08 Feb) Anna Stolkin (08 Feb) Edward S. Talley (12 Feb) Cornelia Elisabeth van Es-Van Riet (13 She) Howard E. Zimmerman (12 Feb)

Jenny Mandel (21 Feb) Marian Brenner Matzkin (16 Feb) Rebecca Rous (20 Feb) Maurice Silver (20 Feb) Dora Banks Simon (17 Feb) Martin Spatt (17 Feb) Lillian Spivak (21 Feb) Sylvia G. Stolurow (19 Feb) Anna Tepper (21 Feb) Abraham David White (18 Feb)

Robert M. Rothbaum (28 Feb) Frieda Rothfuss (25 Feb) Samuel Small (30 She) Daniel L. Smith (26 Feb) Alex Sorkin (26 Feb) Stephen Nathaniel Tager (25 Feb) Edward Tartakovksy (27 Feb) Fay Tepper (26 Feb) Judy Green Tupac (26 Feb) Louis Vineberg (26 Feb) Florence Ethel Viscomi (29 She) Arthur Winakor (25 Feb) Edith Zecher (24 Feb)

Carolyn Caine Riggins (05 Mar) Gershon Rosenstock (01 Mar) Samuel Rosenthal (03 Mar) David Seitzman (07 Mar) Mortimer B. Sitron (02 Mar) Joseph Solon (02 Mar) David Tepper (29 Feb) Frances Tinkle (06 Mar) Ruth Marieke van Es (06 Mar) Jerome S. Wachtel (02 Mar) Rosalie Willis (03 Mar) Colonel Uzi Yairi (06 Mar)

# Sínaí 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!



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.



<u>February Book</u> <u>Group</u>

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

During February and March we will meet via Zoom.

Sunday, February 9: Lady Tan's Circle of Women by Lisa See Facilitator: Susan Schomer

To receive the Zoom link, please RSVP by Friday, February 7 to <u>nataliefr@comcast.net</u>

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!

**Bulletin Submission:** The deadline for the **March Bulletin is February 10**. All submissions may be edited for length and content. Send **EMAIL submissions to** Gary Bernstein at <u>stoffice@sinaitemplecu.org</u>