

# March 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 we sent an abbreviated newsletter in January and February. 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 Yahrzeits, and the generous contributions made to Sinai Temple from January 16 to February 15, 2025.

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

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### SATURDAY, MARCH 1

10:00 AM Egalitarian Traditional Minyan Service

### FRIDAY, MARCH 7

5:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service and First Friday  
Dinner

### THURSDAY, MARCH 13

5:30 PM Purim Dinner and Shpiel

### FRIDAY, MARCH 14

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

### FRIDAY, MARCH 21

5:30 pm Shabbat Rocks!

7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service

### FRIDAY, MARCH 28

7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service

### FRIDAY, APRIL 4

5:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service and First Friday Dinner

### SATURDAY, APRIL 5

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 as of January 2025, we have discontinued 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>

# From Rabbi Alan Cook's Desk



The rabbis teach, “*mishenichnas Adar, marbim b’simcha*—when the month of Adar begins, our joy increases.” Most of us could certainly use some increased joy as life presents challenges and worries. We look forward to our Purim celebrations (see elsewhere in this bulletin for full details) as a fun means of marking this special month, and basking in the joy of community.

Another phrase that we hear in connection with Purim is “*v’nahafoch hu*—and it was turned upside down. (Esther 9:1)”. In the context of the megillah, it reminds us that although Haman sought to do evil, his nefarious plan was turned upside down and good prevailed. In a similar sense, we are reminded that we have the power to determine our destiny. If we are unhappy with the way things are

unfolding—be it in our own lives or in the world at large, we have the opportunity to turn things on their head, so to speak, and to take steps toward positive change.

Which brings us to a third important phrase associated with Adar and with the festival of Purim. In Esther 4:14, Mordecai comes to Esther to tell her of Haman’s cruel intentions. He notes that as queen, she is perfectly positioned to intercede with Ahashuerus on behalf of the Jewish people. “*Mi yodea im l’eit kazot higa’at l’malchut*—who knows if it was for a time such as this that you were made queen?” he asks.

Each of us is here for a purpose. Each of us can make a difference in the world. Each of us can create light and joy and laughter, even when the world seems to have a preponderance of darkness and despair. This is our moment. May we each come to appreciate the pleasure of the month of Adar by working in our own ways to share gladness with others and bring our world one step closer to peace and wholeness.

Happy Adar, and Happy Purim!

L’Shalom,  
Rabbi Alan Cook



## Sinai Temple Gift Shop Passover Showcase

Sunday, April 6, 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 South Lobby / Levin Lounge (near the Gift Shop) 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!

# *From President Lil Levant*

As I approach the end of my term as Temple president, I often think about how this position has allowed me to take a birds-eye view of our operational and fiscal health.

My primary responsibility, along with our Board of Trustees, has been to ensure fiscal sustainability, not only in the short term, but far into the future. As I have written in the past, we need to focus on building our financial infrastructure to support and sustain Sinai Temple as a Center for Jewish life in Champaign-Urbana.

I understand the critical importance of maintaining a strong financial foundation to ensure the long-term sustainability and growth of our community. While our spiritual mission remains central, the practical reality is that synagogues, like any organization, require adequate, multi-tiered resources to function and thrive. This is why I believe it's crucial for our congregation to focus not only on membership as our primary source of income, but to develop additional initiatives to support our collective goals.

Additional fundraising initiatives are essential for generating the funds needed to augment membership dues to support staffing and programming, maintain our building, and expand our outreach. Organizing regular fundraising events and campaigns as part of a strategy would help meet our immediate needs and strengthen our sense of community. Furthermore, these events create opportunities for congregants to come together, share in the joy of giving, and contribute to causes that impact us all.

Planned giving is another vital component. Encouraging members to consider long-term contributions through bequests or endowments ensures that future generations will benefit from the same vibrant, meaningful community we enjoy today. This form of giving would allow our congregation to build a financial legacy that will provide for ongoing staffing, programming, and maintenance needs.

Under the leadership of Rabbi Alan and Rabbi Jody, we have significantly increased the pace of a wide range of activities and events. Many of our members have responded well to these opportunities and are actively involved. My hope is that when our members feel more connected to our Temple's mission, they are more likely to contribute both time and resources. By fostering a spirit of collaboration and shared responsibility, we can build a solid foundation for the future of our congregation.

Developing and formalizing a fundraising strategy to include these and other initiatives is critical. In the coming months, it is my hope to gather a group of members to work on this strategy and help lead the charge. If you are interested in playing an important role in our financial sustainability, please let me know. I'd love to learn more about your ideas and commitment to his effort.

Lil

# Board Minutes Summary—February

## Sinai Temple Board of Trustees Summary Minutes for Monthly Bulletin February 10, 2025

Attendance: Richard Akresh, Justin Aronoff, Sam Bernstein, Shari Fox, Lil Levant, Michael Parrish, Amy Roady, Audrey Thompson, Stacy Trager.

Staff: Gary Bernstein

Absent: Andy Bernstein, Sarah Bleill, Rabbi Alan Cook (ex-officio), Rabbi Jody Cook (ex-officio), Ben LeRoy, Mariel Middlebrook, Julia Rietz, Bob Smith

Lil Levant called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Minutes of the Board's January meeting were approved unanimously.

Lil presented two new member applications, which the Board approved unanimously.

The Board voted to remove seven households previously on the membership roster from active member status. Lil had contacted or attempted to contact all of them. None have paid dues since 2022.

Stacy Trager provided an update on the work of the Membership Committee, which is working on policies to clarify meaning of membership, enhance and emphasize the value of membership, and enhance security at high holy days. The Board had a brief discussion on some of their ideas, and Stacy will take that feedback to the committee at their next meeting.

The Board went into executive session for the remainder of the meeting.

Lil adjourned the meeting at 9:17 pm..

*Minutes submitted by Shari Fox, secretary.*

# Green Team and Events



## Sinai Temple SOLARbration

Noon March 30, 2025

Join us at Sinai Temple as we celebrate and dedicate our new 300-panel rooftop solar array!

Solar at Sinai members will give project highlights and we'll acknowledge our generous lenders and donors, with a brief dedication in a focused half-hour program beginning at 12:00.

At 12:30 pm we'll have refreshments, and you can learn about solar and geothermal energy at a Resource Fair - chat informally with industry representatives and Illinois companies involved with alternative energy. In addition, you can learn more about environmental justice programs from our partners at Faith in Place and the health impacts of climate change from Dr. Holly Rosencranz.

The SOLARbration is open to everyone – bring friends and neighbors. Plan to be there and learn about the benefits of sustainable energy!

## Purim Celebration



Purim this year is going to be Wicked! We're defying gravity by theming our Purim festivities around the hit Broadway musical/ movie musical Wicked. Join us on Thursday evening, **March 13 at 5:30 PM** as our Purim celebration begins. (Please note, March 13 is the first day of Unit 4 Spring Break. We hope that you'll make your vacation plans so that you can still join us for all of the Purim fun)

We'll start with a delicious festival dinner, featuring Diane Ore's famous Purim fish. Sinai will provide the entrée; you are asked to bring an accompaniment to share with 10-12 people. Suggestions of what to bring can be found on the RSVP form below.

Following dinner, at about **6:45 PM**, we'll move to the sanctuary for our fabulous Purim shpiel. Our dedicated cast has been working hard to defy gravity and transport you to the magical land of Oz. Bring your graggers, and wear your favorite costume—whether inspired by Wicked or any other theme.

After our shpiel, please stick around for a brief egalitarian traditional festival evening service, and a reading of the whole megillah!

Please also be sure to join us on Sunday, March 9 for the best Purim Carnival in East Central Illinois. We can't wait to have you join in all the fun!

<https://sinaitemplecu.shulcloud.com/form/purim-dinner-registration.html>

# *Sinai Temple Donations*

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## Temple Donations January 16, 2025, to February 15, 2025

### **BUILDING FUND**

Mark Althouse & Anna Mehl  
David Dorman & Barbara Jones  
Matthew & Eleanor Finkin  
Melissa Frydman  
David Helman in Memory of Abbie Helman  
Faye Lesht  
Amy Odell & Lee DeVille  
Michael Parrish  
Julia Rietz & Al Johnston  
Bob Smith & Elyse Rosenbaum  
Sara Topolosky  
Ira & Lynn Wachtel  
Ma'ayan Weinberg

### **GENERAL FUND**

Lynn & Finny Aronson in Honor of their Children  
and Grandchildren  
Amy Fuller in Memory of Tony Novak  
Elizabeth Hanauer  
Paula Kaufman  
Maury & Janis Topolosky in Memory of Susie Cook

### **KITCHEN FUND**

David Dorman & Barbara Jones  
Matthew & Eleanor Finkin  
Melissa Frydman  
Faye Lesht  
Amy Odell & Lee DeVille  
Bob Smith & Elyse Rosenbaum  
Ira & Lynn Wachtel  
Ma'ayan Weinberg

### **MARCO FUND (HOLOCAUST EDUCATION)**

Marcy Kurland

### **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND**

Carrie Schaffner in Honor of Rabbi Jody

### **SAFETY AND SECURITY FUND**

Mark Althouse & Anna Mehl  
David Dorman & Barbara Jones  
Matthew & Eleanor Finkin  
Melissa Frydman  
Faye Lesht  
Amy Odell & Lee DeVille  
Julia Rietz & Al Johnston  
Bob Smith & Elyse Rosenbaum  
Sara Topolosky  
Ira & Lynn Wachtel  
Ma'ayan Weinberg

# *Sinai Temple Memorials for March 2025*

**Friday, March 7**

Sylvia Baron (09 Mar)  
 Thelma Bernstein (12 Ada)  
 Saul Blumenthal (10 Mar)  
 William F. Buscombe (13 Mar)  
 Sylvia Kadish Cohen (12 Mar)  
 Murray Friedman (09 Mar)  
 Zola Joseph Goodfriend (12 Mar)  
 Frances Kain Greene (12 Mar)  
 Sam Klugman (08 Mar)  
 Harriet Mildred Lavey (09 Mar)  
 Mollie Leavitt (09 Mar)  
 Joyce Deborah Meyer (13 Ada)

Hyman Miller (11 Mar)  
 Paul Michael Mischakoff (12 Mar)  
 Shirley M. Newman (08 Mar)  
 Donald Keith Paisley (13 Mar)  
 Ruth Prashker (10 Mar)  
 Solon Aaron Reyman (09 Mar)  
 Gayle Riches (14 Ada)  
 Eugenia Coleman Roddis (13 Ada)  
 Judy Sadowsky (14 Mar)  
 Edith Sapoznik (10 Mar)  
 Ted Sher (11 Mar)  
 Tauby Shimkin (14 Ada)

Haley Shippel (09 Mar)  
 William Shumka (08 Mar)  
 Leo Silverstein (13 Mar)  
 Hiram Gene Slottow (11 Mar)  
 Minnie Slutsky (08 Mar)  
 R. B. Stolkin (12 Mar)  
 Rosetta Kuhn Victor (09 Mar)  
 Maxine Weiner (8 Adar)

**Friday, March 14**

James Adler (17 Mar)  
 Ellis Bernstein (19 Ada)  
 Fritz Braunfeld (18 Mar)  
 Allan Burman (17 Mar)  
 Stanley Depper (20 Mar)  
 Sid Doppelt (17 Ada)  
 Judy Steigmann Feldman (15 Mar)  
 Sidney S. Feldman (19 Mar)  
 Bess Frankenberg (15 Mar)  
 Philip Freedman (15 Mar)  
 Annette Lewis Glaser (20 Mar)

Anne Goldstein (15 Ada)  
 Carl Greenstein (15 Mar)  
 Maria Grosz (16 Ada)  
 Emanuel Heller (21 Ada)  
 Arthur Norman Hill (16 Mar)  
 Christopher Kanis (21 Mar)  
 Shirley L. Kaplan (15 Ada)  
 Sarah Westerman Konick (15 Mar)  
 Pamela Jean Kramer (15 Mar)  
 Rebecca Levin (20 Ada)  
 Harry Lipson Sr. (20 Mar)

Chaim Movsowitz (15 Mar)  
 Raymond Perlov (15 Mar)  
 Pauline Lou Rabin (15 Mar)  
 Jerome Rosenbaum (19 Ada)  
 Delores Jean Rosenbaum (15 Mar)  
 Nathan Siegel (15 Mar)  
 Helen Zelda Steen (20 Ada)  
 Stephen David Storch (20 Mar)  
 Daniel Terry (19 Mar)  
 Irving Weinberg (21 Ada)  
 Bill Wiese (21 Mar)

**Friday, March 21**

Henry Baich (26 Mar)  
 Edwin M. Banks (24 Mar)  
 Phillip Bedein (28 Mar)  
 Abraham Burack (22 Mar)  
 Samuel Cossman (28 Mar)  
 Edward L. Edlitz (26 Mar)  
 Herbert Yale Ehrich (24 Ada)  
 Rozalia Faynzilberg (26 Mar)  
 Fannye S. Freed (26 Ada)  
 Gary Fromm (23 Mar)  
 Bertha Ginsburg (28 Mar)  
 Samuel Isaac Goldberg (22 Mar)  
 Pearl Gordon (28 Mar)  
 Joshua David Gottheil (28 Ada)

Bernice Goldstick Hess (27 Ada)  
 Harry Hirshenson (25 Mar)  
 Ethel Hymowitz (22 Ada)  
 Theodore "Ted" Hymowitz (23 Ada)  
 Ben Kaufman (26 Mar)  
 Ida Klugman (28 Mar)  
 Sadie Le Fevre (22 Mar)  
 Joyce Levy (22 Mar)  
 Charles F. Loeb (25 Mar)  
 Charles Miller (26 Mar)  
 Harry Miller (28 Mar)  
 Lynne Muller (24 Mar)  
 Abraham Neider (25 Mar)  
 Alan Pall (22 Mar)

Sonya Pearlman (23 Mar)  
 Minnie Pritikin (28 Mar)  
 Max Rich (25 Mar)  
 Gayle Rosenthal (26 Mar)  
 Evan Gordon Sarney (25 Mar)  
 Annette Schoenberg (27 Mar)  
 Edward I. Siegal (25 Mar)  
 Charles O Silverman (25 Ada)  
 Samuel Spahn (23 Mar)  
 Helen Tepper (22 Mar)  
 Anna B. Vineberg (27 Mar)  
 Miriam Wertman (23 Mar)

**Friday, March 28**

Ethel "Mabel" Wickert Ampolsk (01 Apr)  
 Rose Shore Applebaum (30 Mar)  
 Werner Baer (31 Mar)  
 John Porter Davis (29 Mar)  
 Jack Diamond (03 Apr)  
 Elizabeth Edelman (03 Apr)  
 Barbara Ferdman (04 Apr)  
 Isadore Ginsburg (29 Mar)  
 Jennifer Hodges (01 Apr)  
 Rose Kadans (02 Apr)  
 Sylvia Kaplan (01 Apr)

Paul Karsh (01 Apr)  
 Martin H. Katz (4 Niss)  
 H. Philip Kessler (31 Mar)  
 Clara Koslofsky (01 Apr)  
 Adam Koslofsky (04 Apr)  
 Ruth Krasnow (02 Apr)  
 Aaron Kurland (5 Niss)  
 Arthur Lerner (31 Mar)  
 Fania Levin (30 Mar)  
 Wolf Lewis (02 Apr)  
 Irma Lipson (04 Apr)

Abraham Loeb (04 Apr)  
 Rose "Bebbe" Mandel (29 Mar)  
 John P. Melhado (1 Niss)  
 Beverlee Mirell (01 Apr)  
 Irma Reiner (04 Apr)  
 Nina Nelson Seidenberg (04 Apr)  
 Marcus Tager (04 Apr)  
 Anne Weisel (3 Niss)

# Sinai Temple Announcements

## Sinai Temple Gift Shop

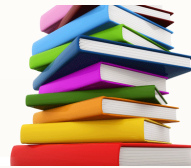
**\*All Gift Shop profits go to  
support the Religious School\***

The Gift Shop is now open by appointment &  
during Sinai Temple Religious School Hours!



Please contact **Jessica Kopolow** to set up an  
appointment. You can reach her by email at  
[jessicakopolow@yahoo.com](mailto: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.



## March Book Group

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

During March we will meet via Zoom.

**Sunday, March 9:  
This Tender Land  
by William Kent Kruger (464 pages)  
Facilitator: Justin Aronoff**

To receive the Zoom link, please RSVP by  
Friday, March 7 to [nataliefr@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto: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 **June Quarterly Bulletin** is **April 15**. All submissions may be edited for  
length and content. Send **EMAIL submissions** to Gary Bernstein at [stoffice@sinaitemplecu.org](mailto:stoffice@sinaitemplecu.org)