



# ANNUAL REPORT *2023-2024*

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# TEMPLE SINAI CORE VALUES

**These Core Values further expand on the elements of our Vision and represent the fundamental reasons that people join Temple Sinai.**

We believe that the values of Reform Judaism and its rituals and prayers are the essence of our Temple Sinai community and a source of comfort, support, inspiration, and strength in our lives.

We believe in engaging individuals and families without judgment, and we welcome everyone seeking connection to our inclusive and diverse Reform Jewish community.

We believe that *tikkum olam* (repairing the world) and *tzedakah* (charity) are essential elements of Judaism, and we are committed to Temple Sinai continuing to be a strong, audacious leader for social justice.

We believe in being a caring community whose members feel a sense of belonging and support from the clergy and each other in times of celebration and need.

We believe in providing Jewish education that has a meaningful impact on its participants from early childhood through adult education.

We believe in and are committed to the State of Israel as the historical homeland of the Jewish people and as a democratic, pluralistic state.

We believe in responsible and transparent stewardship of our congregation's resources.

We believe that Temple Sinai should be a vibrant, joyful, and spiritually and intellectually stimulating place.

*See the full Strategic Plan at [templesinai.org/mission-values-plans](https://templesinai.org/mission-values-plans)*

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## FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

“**M**ay you live in interesting times!” Supposedly, this is an ancient Chinese curse, though no source for the phrase has been located in Chinese texts. And, surprisingly, there appears to be no counterpart in Yiddish. Perhaps this past year illustrates the reason for this gap. As Jews, we thrive in interesting times, because we know no other kind.

This year has certainly been interesting and, indeed, disheartening, for Jews in America and throughout the world. Members of our congregation have turned to Temple Sinai for comfort, community, and compassion in these challenging times. And the temple’s clergy, members, and leadership have responded. It has been thrilling to see our community come together to support each other and to engage with issues that we could not face alone.

We meet these challenges in a time of exciting transitions. This year, we welcomed our new senior cantor, Rachel Rhodes, who has ushered in a new era of music, joy, and spirit. We have also completed the second phase of the renovation and expansion project after more than a decade of planning, design, fundraising, and construction.

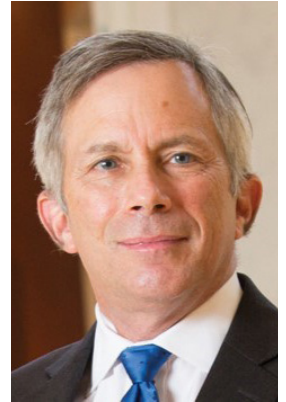
Through it all, we have continued to support one another, to fight for social justice, and to celebrate, worship, and learn together. This report speaks of numerous opportunities for members to deepen and strengthen their ties to the Temple Sinai community. I hope you add your voices by participating in the activities and programs that speak loudest to you.

– *Ken Jaffe, President*

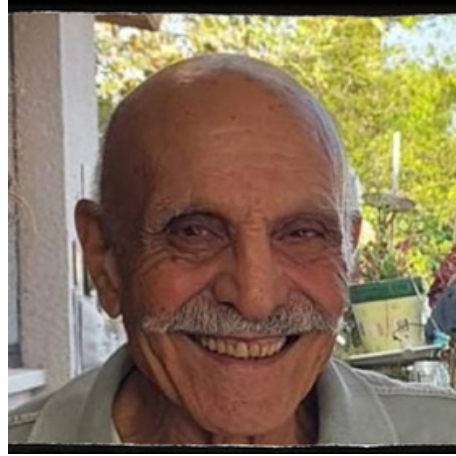
I greeted the Jewish New Year with a sermon on Saturday, September 16th, urging, “One of the most important things we can do this year is to evolve into a community where people see each other, know each other, and care about each other’s well-being.” Over 40 people answered that call to create a group of volunteers who would join the clergy team in providing support and company to other members in times of joy or challenge.

The year was off to a great start. Rabbi Stephanie Bernstein captured the spirit of the moment with words about the end of the pandemic. She encouraged us to, “weave the memories of communal *nivhal* (shock and pain) into the fabric of our lives.” She cited an important talmudic teaching about how to respond to tragedy: “Rabbi Joshua said, ‘Not to mourn at all is impossible, but to mourn overmuch is also impossible, because we do not impose on the community a hardship which the majority cannot endure.’” She used the image of Kintsugi pottery repair to demonstrate how a thing of beauty improves and becomes more precious over time as its cracks are fixed with golden seams.

Three weeks later was October 7th - the single most horrific day of slaughter of Jews since the Holocaust.



Hamas invaders murdered 1,200 people in Israel and took 253 hostage while many others were tortured, raped, and their homes and possessions destroyed by Hamas. At the time of printing this report, 129 of the hostages still remain in Gaza. The youngest of these hostages is Kfir Bibas, who turned one in January, and the oldest is Shlomo Mansour, 85. I want to expand my New Year's call so that we also see them – not directly members of this community but part of our larger Jewish circle. Their pictures are below. I dedicate this report and the work of this year to them and their families and to all the hostages and victims from October 7th.



The war that has ensued since October 7th has wrought destruction and death in Gaza at an unprecedented scale. While it is impossible to know accurately the number of dead, it is clear that the amount is massive and it outrages the spirits of peace and hope that sit at the heart of Judaism. From all corners of the land, God's biblical lament for Abel resounds: "Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground."

On Rosh HaShanah, we were just starting to see each other again and seeking ways to weave our pain from years of Covid into the broader, beautiful tapestry we create here. Now we are shattered into so many splinters that kintsugi-type repairs may not be possible. Even within our own community there are those who simply cannot see the other, let alone care for them. So let's end where we began. Rabbi Joshua's wisdom from the Talmud turns out to be an especially apt message for the year. Not to mourn at all is impossible, or at least it should be impossible anywhere that decency and justice still hold. To mourn overmuch is also impossible. Rabbi Joshua chides his neighbors and colleagues who fasted incessantly and lived only in the depths of pain. This year has brought some of the most joyful weddings, b'nei mitzvah, conversions, and baby namings that we have seen in years. The music echoing through our hallways gives the impression that a heavenly ensemble has taken up residence. Sweet and inspiring Torah has come from the lips of our oldest and greatest teachers alongside our newest, budding sages. Even the faces of Kfir and Shlomo, though captured from a past and better day, can bring a smile to your face.

It is different world – broken so badly over the past year – more changed than we ever imagined it would be. Despite it all, we need that Rosh HaShanah hopeful vision for the coming year. "One of the most important things we can do this year is to evolve into a community where people see each other, know each other, and care about each other's well-being." *Ken y'hi ratzon*. May it be so for us. May there be peace in Israel and across the Middle East and may 5785 see Kfir Bibas and Shlomo Mansour blessing again the apples and the honey.

– *Jonathan Roos, Senior Rabbi*

It is with immense gratitude that I present some highlights from my first nine months as the Senior Cantor at Temple Sinai. I am excited to share some of the behind the scenes work from the first months of my time here:



### **Community Engagement and Integration**

One of the most heartwarming aspects of my tenure thus far has been the opportunity to connect with this vibrant community. From the very beginning, I have been warmly welcomed and embraced by the members of our congregation. Thanks to the welcoming committee chaired by Deborah Smolover, I have had many opportunities to get to know members of all ages. Getting to know you, sharing stories, and forming meaningful connections has been a privilege beyond measure.

### **Musical Growth**

I have had the honor of leading many special services that have brought us together in both joyful and difficult moments. From our building dedication to Shabbat Shira, to the Shabbatot directly following the horrific events of October 7th, it has been a true honor to lead our congregation in worship.

I have also spent these months growing our musical groups. Together with Neil Weston, I run our Adult Choir and B'har Sinai Teen ensemble. I am also leading two youth choirs: Shir Shalom for grades 3-6 and Shirlings for K-2. Combined, these choirs engage more than 50 children. I have also been excited to introduce the pop-up choir- a group that comes together to learn a new song and perform it immediately. This idea has been met with so much joy and enthusiasm!

I have so much gratitude to the Temple Sinai Music Committee and the Circle of Music Lovers who support this vision and help me make it a reality!

### **B'nei Mitzvah Enhancement**

Recognizing the importance of the Bar/Bat/Bet Mitzvah (newly standardized terminology for a non-binary celebration) as a sacred rite of passage, I have dedicated time and effort to revamp the curriculum and process, aiming to make it more accessible and streamlined. With these changes we are ensuring that this significant milestone is celebrated with joy, meaning, and inclusivity.

### **Mentorship and Leadership Development**

Looking ahead, I am thrilled to announce the welcoming of a student cantor, Gabriel Lehrman, next year. This opportunity not only fills me with excitement but also with a deep sense of responsibility as I eagerly anticipate the chance to mentor and introduce him to the congregation.

I am also thrilled to share that Neil Weston will have an expanded role next year as our Keyboard Artist. Neil brings an incredible amount to our worship experience and his talent and warm spirit are invaluable to us!

### **Collaborative Spirit**

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the unwavering support and collaborative spirit of the clergy and staff team at Temple Sinai. Learning and leading alongside such a dedicated and passionate group of individuals have been truly inspiring, and I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to be part of this remarkable team.

As we reflect on the past nine months and look forward to the journey ahead, let us continue to embrace the power of music and the strength of community that defines Temple Sinai.

– *Rachel Rhodes, Senior Cantor*

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## COMMITTEES & AFFILIATES

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**Temple Sinai's Core Values are the heart of our Strategic Plan. These Core Values guide the actions and activities of our congregation, including those of our many committees. Through these committees, our members during this past year have found a *sense of belonging* in meaningful Jewish communities, pursued *social justice*, engaged in *intellectually stimulating Jewish learning experiences*, and helped to *thoughtfully steward the temple's resources*, all of which reflect our Core Values.**

### ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Administration Committee continues to work closely with the Executive Director to provide oversight and advice on the temple's technology, office, and human relations operations and to look for opportunities to cut costs and improve efficiencies. Consistent with Temple Sinai's values, we are particularly focused on making sure that all temple employees are treated well and fairly.

### ARCHIVES

This year, the Archives Committee worked with Director of Development Noah Benjamin to complete a series of visual displays of Temple Sinai's history to celebrate the opening of the South Addition. We also worked with the Library Committee to reorganize the Archives and to complete the Finding Aid that was developed to make the Archives more accessible.

The Archives Committee continues to serve as a resource for congregants, clergy, and researchers looking for information and documents about the history of Temple Sinai.



### ART AND DESIGN COMMITTEE

The Temple Sinai Art and Design Committee has spent this year cataloging, evaluating and selecting art from the existing collection that will be used in both the new and original synagogue spaces. In addition, we have been actively searching for artists to commission for works in several key areas. These include the large wall to the left of the new entrance doors and the center section of the new display cabinet directly across from that wall.

Our goals have been to find artists who can create work that reflects Temple Sinai's emphasis on being a welcoming, diverse community, since this piece will be one of the first things congregants and visitors see when they enter our doors.

After evaluating numerous submissions, the committee has embarked on a commission with painter Talia Levitt of Brooklyn, NY.

In addition, we have selected fifteen pieces from the existing collection that are being reframed and rehung in

new locations. Finally, we are working on consolidating and reframing the confirmation and adult b’nei mitzvah class photos that currently hang in the hallway leading to the Beit Am.

In the coming year, we will focus on finding a textile artist to create a work for the entry display cabinet and we will be looking at possibly redesigning the Yahrzeit wall.

## COMMITTEE FOR ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (CIESJ)

Our first year of operation has been very active. The committee size grew to 34 members as word of its activism spread to the larger congregation. True to its founding principles, CIESJ has enhanced the congregation’s spiritual and intellectual connection with Israel while prioritizing its commitment to *tikkun olam* by seeking to preserve Israel’s Jewish social justice values. These goals have been the through-line during the months of the internal attack on its democratic institutions by the current government and through the massacre of October 7, 2023, and the subsequent war. CIESJ has implemented these goals through an array of activities – educational programming, donations to worthy Israeli civil society organizations, communal connections with Reform and progressive organizations, and twinning with a progressive Reform Israeli congregation.



In November 2023, we welcomed Rabbi Arik Ascherman, Executive Director of Torat Tzedek

The Committee has worked to enhance the congregation’s knowledge base about Israel. It has organized six speaker programs over the course of the year, including the former Director of Rabbis for Human Rights, the Director of the Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC) of the URJ, and the former Provost of Hebrew Union College. Since October 7, the Committee has organized weekly curated readings in the Temple Sinai weekly email to provide congregants with context and analysis of the Israel-Hamas conflict.

The Committee’s deep commitment to support a shared society for Israelis and Palestinians and a peaceful and just resolution to the conflict is reflected in the donations that CIESJ has made to Israeli civil society organizations that are working on the front-lines of the conflict. These donations are made

from two funds that are supported by Sinai member contributions – the Israel Engagement and Social Justice Fund and the ARZA Fund. This year, over \$17,000 has been donated to organizations including the New Israel Fund, IRAC, Terrestrial Jerusalem, the Achord Center of Hebrew University, and the Joint Arab-Jewish Relief Center of Rahat.

CIESJ has sought to magnify its impact by partnering with like-minded progressive organizations, including J Street and the New Israel Fund, to deepen our knowledge, recruit speakers for CIESJ programs, and support their activities in the U.S. and Israel. CIESJ actively works with ARZA and The Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism (IMPJ) to support their progressive work on behalf of Reform Judaism in Israel, including participating in ARZA’s Israel Leadership Network and representing ARZA as a delegate to the American Zionist Movement’s Biennial Assembly. In addition, the Committee has made a concerted effort this year to partner with local Reform and Conservative congregations to network and organize programs.



In June 2023, CIESJ members toured the Museum of the Palestinian People in Washington, DC

Most recently, CIESJ has initiated a twinning relationship with a small Israeli congregation in Beer Sheva. Facilitated by IMPJ, this relationship will put a human face on Israel for young and old Sinai members by encouraging interaction among the members of our respective congregations.

## DAYTIMERS



In May 2024, we gathered in person (and online) for a program with Holocaust survivor Marion Ein Lewin.

During the past year, the DayTimers Committee has conducted eleven programs. Two programs have been in person at Temple Sinai, and the remainder were on Zoom. The programs usually are on the second Monday of the month at 1:00 PM and open to everyone. Subjects this year included the retirement of Cantor Laura Croen, U.S. political issues, Israel, Jewish culture and history, social action, and other timely and relevant subjects. In planning programs, we are aware of the Core Values of Temple Sinai, and our programs are designed to fall within those objectives. Our excellent speakers, both congregants and others, have presented to audiences from 40 to 100 people. The

audience includes Temple Sinai members, former members, and guests. We have an active committee of eight members who contribute to the recruitment of speakers, the success of our programs, and participate in the programs.

Here are a few of our speakers from the past year:

- Cantor Laura Croen and Rabbi Fred Reiner
- Naomi Karp on Nazi silver return
- Jennifer Rubin on threats to Western democracy
- Brendon Ballou on private equity plundering of corporations
- Mark Joseph Stern on the Supreme Court
- Cantor Rachel Rhodes on Jewish liturgical music
- Lauren Wistreich and Zoe Bierce on partner abuse
- Jonathan Greenwald what happens after the Hamas-Israel war ends
- Norman Ornstein on the future of American democracy
- Andrew Weiss on the possible menace of Vladimir Putin
- Marion Lewin on her Holocaust experience during World War II

Our programs this past year have helped Temple Sinai maintain contact with members of the congregation and provide a venue for timely information and discussion. We have received a number of comments concerning the important role DayTimer programs have played in keeping congregants in touch with others as well as keeping them informed. Pending the completion of construction work at Temple Sinai, we plan to increase the number of in-person programs with Zoom availability during the next fiscal year.

## TEMPLE SINAI LIBRARY

Most people think of a library as a place for borrowing books and this is certainly true of the Temple Sinai library. However, we see our role as being proactive in creating programs and events to forge a greater sense of community within the temple's membership as well as providing Jewish educational opportunities. We attempt to involve every segment of the congregation by meeting their special needs and interests, as the following highlights indicate.

### TEMPLE -WIDE PROGRAMS

- **Showcasing Temple Sinai authors:** Held in conjunction with the Chanukah Mart, nine temple authors read excerpts from their books, and sold and signed them.
- **Celebrating Rabbi Goldstein's 10th Anniversary:** In recognition of Rabbi Goldstein's 10 years of service to the Temple, the Library Committee organized a reception in her honor.

### ADULT PROGRAMS

- **Discussing Books at SinaiReads:** For the past nine years, the Library Committee has sponsored book discussions. This year, members of the Committee, in collaboration with Rabbi Goldstein, selected six books to discuss.
- **Staying Informed with Check it Out!:** A quarterly review of newly purchased books is emailed to all temple families.

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- **Subscribing to Circle of Book Lovers:** An email compendium of events, programs, lectures within the temple and the wider community. The Circle has over 200 subscribers.
- **Perusing Weekly Book Suggestions:** Three topical book suggestions from our collection is published in the temple's weekly email.

### KIDS' PROGRAMS

- **Attending Saturday Morning Story Time:** Ending with the blessings over challah and juice, tots are read a story and try their hands at crafts. Open to both members and non-members. Free books are available for each family to take home.
- **Requesting Book Bundles:** We put together bundles of books relating to various holidays and specific topics. Through contactless pickup, over 100 books have circulated through book bundles in the past year.
- **Collaborating with Neighborhood Book Store:** Thanks to a pioneering effort by Librarian Ruth Polk, Temple Sinai Library Committee, and People's Book, a store in Takoma Park, we sponsored a program in which four authors of Jewish-themed books read and signed their books. In addition, Ruth led holiday-themed story times at the bookstore.

### Join Our Vibrant Committee

With 13 active members, the Library Committee works to support the Temple Sinai community with a variety of programs, and constantly looks for additional ways to be of service to the congregation. We welcome new members and new ideas. Please feel free to join us.



Left to right: TS Authors' Showcase, Tot Storytime with Ruth Polk, Chanukah storytime at People's Book in Takoma Park

### MEMBERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT

This past year, Temple Sinai worked to create a sense of belonging for all members, both new and established. We welcomed 60 new families, and about two-thirds of these new members have children in our nursery or religious schools. Volunteers delivered welcome bags to our new members' homes, and we hosted a new member oneg before Shabbat services. We engaged with the young adult children of our members by sending them Chanukah greetings and a gift card, and we hosted a "Home for the Challah-days" discussion, where young adults gathered with clergy to talk about the impact of the October 7<sup>th</sup> attack in Israel and subsequent war in Gaza. In response to the conflict in the Middle East, we also offered space for members to connect with our social worker, Deb Gordis, and clergy, on how to handle Thanksgiving during a very challenging time.



"Home for the Challah-days" reunion and discussion.

Other membership events included hosting a dinner for over 50 parents of young adults at a member's home, inviting our neighbors at Ingleside to join us in our Sukkah, and staffing a booth at the Bethesda Central Farm Market before Rosh HaShanah to wish the community a sweet New Year.

## MUSIC COMMITTEE



The Music Committee enjoyed our first opportunity to partner with Senior Cantor Rachel Rhodes to plan and produce music programs in line with her exciting vision for music at Temple Sinai. All Music Committee programs and support have their roots in the temple's core value of Temple Sinai as a vibrant, joyful, and spiritually stimulating place.



In October, the committee funded New Orleans-style band the Bumper Jacksons, who brought fun and festive music (and a tuba!) to the Dedication Shabbat celebration of the South Addition.



January brought Shabbat Shira 2024: Tapestry in Song. The service, attended by over 350 congregants, highlighted the rich musical talent within our congregation. Cantor Rhodes was joined in song by Cantor Rebecca Robins, Rabbis Jonathan Roos, Hannah Goldstein and Noah Diamondstein, Keyboard Artist Neil Weston (making his impressive vocal debut at Temple Sinai), volunteer vocal soloists, in-house band Middle Matzah Conspiracy (MMC), the adult choir, and children's choir Shir Shalom for this celebration of vibrant and diverse Jewish music. Also featured: our first-ever "pop-up choir," comprised of congregants of all ages who, under the tutelage of Cantor Rhodes, learned one song to sing at the service. A festive oneg drew most of the lively crowd into the social hall following the service.

Top to bottom: Cantor Rhodes and the Bumper Jacksons; Shabbat Shira Pop-Up Choir, Shirlings Youth Choir

The committee is well underway in working with Cantor Rhodes to plan exciting music programs for the coming 2024/2025 year.

## SINAI CARES

Temple Sinai strives to be a caring community whose members feel a sense of belonging and support from the clergy and each other in times of celebration and need. This past year, we added a part-time professional social worker, Deborah Gordis, to our team as part of our commitment to ensuring the highest level of attention and support for our members and families across the cycle of life. Deborah supports pastoral care from a clinical perspective and focuses on enhancing community well-being in areas like bereavement, caregiving, mental health, addiction, and inclusion. She speaks with members one-on-one, provides resources for our members, develops and runs support groups for members, and provides trainings for our staff.

In addition to hiring Deborah, we continue to do our core member-to-member support work. Our SinaiCares volunteers delivered over 30 challahs to members who finished *shloshim* (the first 30 days of mourning), and 14 *yahrzeit* candles to members on the first-year *yahrzeit* of their loved one's death. We delivered over 50 *mishloach manot* bags on Purim to a group of our more senior members. We also expanded our SinaiCares team to include over 30 volunteers who call members on Shabbat and holidays, and are available to extend the clergy's pastoral care work by making home visits.

## TEMPLE SINAI MEN OF REFORM JUDAISM

The TSMRJ (Brotherhood) offers a sense of community and fellowship. Most of our programs are social, but we are also involved in service, charity, and the religious and cultural life of Temple Sinai. And we welcome everyone from the congregation, not just men (although usually just the adults), to enjoy our events that appeal to them.

For 2023-2024, we tried to build on the previous year's successful programming.

Near the beginning of summer, we enjoyed a group outing to TopGolf in Germantown, where we showed off our golf driving skill while enjoying some beers, bar food, and each other's company.

As we've done for about a decade, we had our Jewish year kickoff in the Sukkah, this year sampling products from DC-based and women-owned Republic Restoratives Distillery, alongside Chinese food from MaiWah.

Jim Jaffe and Ed Cohen have organized several opportunities for a group of volunteers to help at A Wider Circle in Silver Spring, ending with lunch at the nearby Parkway Deli.

In December, we held our first Brotherhood Book Club, with a discussion of *The Wager* by David Grann, author of *Killers of the Flower Moon*. We have already planned our next two book discussions.

The year also included a couple of casual gatherings at nearby restaurants, a Poker Night in the Social Hall, and competing in a Trivia Night at the World of Beer in Bethesda. (Our team, 50 Shades of Gray Hair, finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place.) And of course, we assumed our traditional roles as bartenders for the Adult Purim celebration.

In April, we hosted our second Comedy Club, where a group of TS members displayed their comedy skills, to benefit Sinai House. The event was an unqualified success – everyone had a great time, and we raised more than \$5,000 for Sinai House.

The Brotherhood showed its support for the temple by giving to the Capital Campaign and partnering with the Sisterhood to sponsor the Yom Kippur Break-Fast and gifts of kiddush cups for B'nei Mitzvot. We are a sponsor of the Tricia Davis 5K for Sinai House. We also contributed the cornstalks used to decorate the Sukkah for Sukkot.

TSMRJ is always looking for men who can help us with ideas and energy to expand what we do.



Top to bottom: Volunteering at A Wider Circle, Trivia Night at World of Beer, a "spirited" tasting in the Sukkah, and tending bar at the Adult Purim Celebration.

## TEMPLE SINAI WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM

The TSWRJ continued in 2023-2024 to offer a full calendar of opportunities for our temple community to get together, learn, pray, eat, give back, and even hike! Many thanks to TSWRJ Board Presidents Sally Greenberg and Cara Jablon, program leaders, and volunteers.

- **Fall 2023: Capital Area Food Bank Fundraiser.** Temple Sinai members responded generously to TSWRJ's annual High Holiday call for donations to help the Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB), which raised a total of \$35,200.



- **October 2023: TSWRJ & Davis Center Maj Fun Day supporting Abortion Access.** Maj players ranging from newbies to mavens gathered to play and learn about the urgent need for funding to help ensure continued reproductive health services for all. The costs of straightforward safe procedures are magnified when long distance travel and child-care have to be factored in for people who live in states with recently enacted draconian anti-abortion laws. We raised around \$7,500 for the three funds TSWRJ has selected to support, chosen for their impact on ensuring continuing access to abortion services.

- **November 2023: Chanukah Mart.** In-person once again! Congregants enjoyed schmoozing with others, shopping with vendors old and new, purchasing Chanukah items from the Judaica shop, and noshing on the ever-popular latkes, stuffed cabbage, spanakopita, chopped liver, sufganiyot, bagels, and kugel. TSWRJ offered pre-purchase of some foods and Chanukah packages of dreidels, gelt, and candles. Thanks to the more than 100 volunteers who made the Chanukah Mart possible.
- **January 2024: Mini-Retreat.** Our Biennial Retreat was a day-long program at new Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum. Following a tour with curator Jonathan Edelman, Rabbi Goldstein moderated a panel with Marcia Greenberger, Deborah Kalb, Judy Lichtman, and Robyn Helzner, who spoke with passion about their decades of commitment to *tikkun olam* through advocacy, protest, fighting for legislative changes, and reportage. Cantor Rhodes and Rabbi Goldstein then led us in a short, spirited service in the historic synagogue that has been rehoused in the museum. There were moving tributes to two Sister Friends whom we lost in the past year – Sally Kranz and Suzanne Eichhorn, z'l, both made invaluable and extensive contributions to TSWRJ rituals and activities, including our past retreats.
- **February 2024: Authors' Roundtable.** Over 100 people attended this always-popular event, online and in person, bringing together congregants and friends to hear from four noted local authors: Deborah Kalb, Susan Suleiman (both TS members), *Washington Post* columnist Alexandra Petri, and Michaela Weissman.
- **March 2024: TSWRJ Play Reading Group.** This continues to be an opportunity for TSWRJ members to have fun unleashing their acting talents. This time, the group read their third play, *DAI*: a play by Israeli Iris Bahr.
- **April 2024: Sisterhood Shabbat service.** TSWRJ leaders join the temple clergy in leading this special Shabbat service. Readings and special prayers add a personal touch and heighten the meaning of Shabbat of our community.
- **April 2024: Second Seder.** TSWRJ for many years has coordinated the Second Seder, with the help and support of temple staff. This year, Rabbi Roos and Cantor Rhodes lead the joyful occasion with a catered dinner and merry singing for all ages.



In the meantime, many of us joined ongoing activities, such as weekly Mah Jongg and monthly hikes in Rock Creek Park. **Come join us!**

## THE DAVIS CENTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

*Temple Sinai's social justice work continues to thrive through the work of the Davis Center for Social Justice. Through learning, action and advocacy, our Temple Sinai community is working to repair the world. We've been learning about reproductive rights, protecting our democracy, and more. We hosted several programs that dug deeper into racial equity issues like medical debt and housing discrimination to educate our congregation about these oft ignored by-products of systemic racism. This past year, we also hosted several inspiring Shabbat programs that touched on many of our initiatives: Multiracial Sinai, Reproductive Health & Rights, Refugees, and Green Shabbat. These shabbatot ground our justice work in Jewish text and tradition. In December, we hosted our largest event to date, with over 350 people registered. Called, "Rededicating Ourselves to Democracy", we learned from a panel of experts discussing our democracy and elections, and featuring Sinai members Ron Klain and Congressman Jamie Raskin.*

*To engage our teens, we offered SSL Days over the summer when students could earn SSL hours by volunteering at local organizations. Our Davis Center Youth Board hosted a fundraiser for Capital Area Food Bank. A group from the MRJ organized a regular volunteering opportunity at A Wider Circle. Our Green Team is working on bringing composting to Temple Sinai. Our Reproductive Health & Rights team, along with TSWRJ, hosted a Mah Jongg Fun Day which raised over \$8,000 for a trio of abortion access organizations. WIN's ongoing work with our interfaith partners involves affordable housing, climate change, public safety and more. The Refugee, Asylum, and Migrant support team continued assisting refugees working to build a life in the DMV. Our Gun Violence Prevention Group helped to raise funds for a gun buyback in upper Montgomery County. And we have continued to engage over 300 congregants in our postcard writing efforts to increase voter turnout through our Get Out The Vote campaigns.*

*These programs are just a sampling of the work the Davis Center has engaged in during the past year. We continue to organize, advocate and act on a wide range of social justice issues. You can follow our work at any time through our monthly newsletter and website, [daviscenter.org](https://daviscenter.org). Read on for more about the great work of our various initiatives.*



In November, members of all ages grocery shopped and assembled Thanksgiving bags full of food for several non-profit partners to distribute.

## GET OUT THE VOTE (GOTV)

Over 200 Temple Sinai teens and adults came together in 2023-2024 to ensure that eligible voters around the country are registered to vote and have the ability to have their voices heard. Temple Sinai continues to join with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism and Reclaim Our Vote in these efforts. Congregants wrote postcards, made phone calls, and sent texts to ensure that people knew where and how to register to vote, when and where to vote, and why it is important to vote.



GOTV Postcard Writing.

These efforts continued with elections in Wisconsin, Ohio, and Virginia in 2023 and the presidential election in 2024. At a meeting in February 2024, over 50 congregants joined a Zoom to brainstorm more ways to expand our GOTV footprint locally.

In December 2023, over 350 Temple Sinai members and friends came together to “Rededicate Ourselves to Democracy,” a panel discussion by leading experts on voting rights and keeping our nation democratic. We heard from Congressman Jamie Raskin; Barbara Weinstein, Associate Director of the Religious Action Center; Andrea Miller, of Reclaim our Vote; Dan Weiner, director of the Elections and Government Program at the Brennan Center for Justice; Scot Wilson, Vice President of Academics at Close Up; and moderator Ron Klain. Participants remarked that the program was timely and invigorating and a great kick-off for the 2024 election year.



Rededicating Ourselves to Democracy Panel (l to r): Congressman Jamie Raskin, Andrea Miller, Daniel I. Weiner, Ron Klain, Barbara Weinstein, and Scot Wilson.

## GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION GROUP

The GVP Group has continued to educate our members on the multi-faceted issue of gun violence prevention.

In this past year, our GVP Group has:

- Helped organize and co-sponsor two well-attended educational programs with St. John’s Episcopal Church and Temple Shalom in Chevy Chase. These were “Finding Common Ground with Gun Owners on Gun Safety Policies: Can Maryland Lead the Way?” and “Gun Industry Accountability: Seeking Justice for All in Maryland.”
- Kept the congregation informed on a regular basis on gun violence policy developments, news articles, judicial decisions, studies and reports on the federal, state and local levels, especially in the DMV area.
- Co-led the D.C. Interfaith Gun Violence Prevention Network, of which Temple Sinai was a founding member in 2017. This coalition now includes over 40 area churches, synagogues, mosques and temples most active in the fight to prevent and reduce gun violence in the DMV area and nationwide. Our group meets in monthly Zoom sessions to share and act on GVP information and to be inspired and informed by various guest speakers.
- Organized the first faith-based gun buyback in upper Montgomery County, MD via the Interfaith Network in April 2024. The buyback in Germantown, which has seen an uptick in gun violence, was co-sponsored by Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence and supported and endorsed by the Montgomery County Offices of the Sheriff and State’s Attorney.
- Continued to distribute a digital “toolkit” published by the Interfaith Network entitled *Turning Faith Into Action: An Interfaith Toolkit to Engage the Faith Community on Gun Violence Prevention*, to engage more houses of worship on GVP. The toolkit is available for download on the Davis Center website.

## GREEN TEAM

The Temple Sinai Green Team has been encouraging actions that reflect Jewish values by advancing the environmental sustainability of Temple Sinai’s building and grounds; by supporting climate legislation at the local, state and federal levels; and by promoting best practices for congregation members to take to increase sustainability at the individual level. This work helps to advance Temple Sinai’s commitment to *tikkun olam*.

Throughout the year, Green Team members were involved in ongoing activities, including maintenance of the wildflower garden and newly planted native trees on the Temple Sinai grounds. In addition, the Green Team engaged many in the Temple Sinai community, including administrative and buildings staff, TSWRJ, the Buildings & Grounds committee, the Davis Center, and religious and nursery schools, in the development of a Temple Sinai Climate Action Plan (CAP).

Development of a CAP is required of Temple Sinai as a member of the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition, a network of Jewish community organizations which recognizes the existential threat and moral urgency of climate change and commits to taking action. Our CAP’s goals are to (1) achieve organizational net zero CO2 (“greenhouse gas”) emissions; and (2) engage with the broader Jewish community to achieve other



sustainability goals.

The CAP involves an assessment of where we are as an organization and community

and where we reasonably can aspire to be in the short and medium term. Although there are already many environmentally-friendly features in place at our temple, there is more work to be done. One of the initiatives underway is bringing composting to Temple Sinai, which launched in May 2024 with support from TSWRJ and others.

## MULTIRACIAL SINAI

Throughout the past year, MRS has strived to broaden and deepen our congregation’s Core Values of belonging for all who participate in our synagogue, celebrating our inclusive and diverse community, and working towards our goal of being a multiracial and antiracist congregation.

In October 2023, the committee sponsored a program on “Equity Reimagined: Medical Debt Overhaul, Reparations and Policy Transformation in the DMV.” The program launched a campaign for contributions to buy back millions of dollars of medical debt which disproportionately burdens communities of color. This highly successful effort, spearheaded by MRS Committee member Nancy Liebermann, ultimately raised enough to eliminate \$4,302,881.02 of medical debt for 5,776 families in Washington D.C. and Montgomery County.

An MRS congregational learning and action discussion held in November 2023 addressed *The Legacy of Housing Segregation*. It focused on how, up until the mid-20th century, law and government policy enforced strict racial segregation in many of the neighborhoods where Temple Sinai members now live, how this legacy continues to affect our lives, and what actions we can take, in the spirit of *tikkun olam*, to help set things right.

On January 12, 2024, a special MRS Shabbat service celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King as an American icon who was not only the visionary of a beloved community, but also a challenging prophetic voice, calling us to take bold action to confront racism and economic injustice. The service spotlighted congregant reflections on what this prophetic challenge means to us today and tomorrow, and how we can respond to Dr. King’s call to be changemakers in our community. The service in-the-round also featured music that enmeshed Dr. King’s social justice campaigns with our liturgy.

MRS welcomes broad participation by congregants in its work. To join the MRS listserv or learn more about how you can support MRS activities, visit [templesinai.org/multiracial-sinai](https://templesinai.org/multiracial-sinai).

## REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & RIGHTS

Our reproductive freedom work engages temple members in *tikkun olam* as we fight to expand and protect abortion rights. We provide educational programs to inform and stimulate advocacy, as well as fundraising and volunteering opportunities to improve access to abortion on local and national levels. Thank you to our active group of volunteers who help carry out our mission. Specifically, we:

- Raised over \$38,000 in our fundraising campaign for abortion rights and access. This included Maj Fun Day, co-sponsored with TSWRJ, which engaged many Temple Sinai members not usually involved in our programs, having fun for a good cause and raising \$8,000 in one afternoon.
- Together with the Temple Sinai GOTV effort, we catalyzed our members to take action by writing postcards, texting, and making phone calls to encourage voters to vote and inform them of important elections, including several state campaigns where abortion was directly on the ballot (such as the Ohio abortion referendum) or indirectly on the ballot (such as the VA state legislature).
- Sent out our Google newsletter to keep our members informed of opportunities to donate, participate in planning, attend educational programs, volunteer, and speak out in protest. We also included news articles of interest.
- Held our annual Repro Shabbat with Maryland State Senator Jeff Waldstreicher as guest speaker. He highlighted Maryland's efforts to enshrine abortion rights in the state constitution.
- Held a brainstorming session with Rabbi Goldstein where we discussed ideas for programs and other activities related to reproductive health, and engaged members in carrying them out.



Rally at the Supreme Court in March 2024.



Our dedicated Repro Shabbat organizers with Maryland State Senator Jeff Waldstreicher.

## REFUGEE, ASYLUM, AND MIGRANT SUPPORT

In June 2023, Temple Sinai's sponsorship of the Noori family came to an end, with the family moving into a spacious, 3-bedroom apartment (with a spectacular view!) in Silver Spring, MD. Fortunately, the location enabled the four children to continue to attend the schools where they were previously enrolled. We wish them all the best.

In September, Temple Sinai assumed responsibility to assist a young, professional couple from Afghanistan, Assadullah Khudadadi and Fatima Mohammadi, to get a foothold in the US. They are energetic self-starters, having secured part-time employment at Walmart while they look for work more commensurate with their academic credentials. Member Sue Okun has worked closely with them to hone resumé's, pursue leads and prepare communications with prospective employers. Through a contact of Sue's, the couple was able to secure a car, passing their drivers' tests with ease.

In addition to these efforts, we have continued to provide "one-off" assistance to our broad family of refugee friends, including emergency rent assistance and financial support for unexpectedly large medical expenses. We are delighted to recognize the achievements of Elahe and Mina Darabi in opening their day care center, a success story that traces back several years to when we first met them. Support from our Refugee Support group's network helped their day care center get to the finish line!

## WASHINGTON INTERFAITH NETWORK (WIN)

As a multi-racial, multi-faith citywide organization, WIN is working on multiple campaigns to make the District of Columbia a more equitable and just community. These include:

- Black homeownership: The Black Equity through Home Ownership (BETH) effort is focusing on increasing rates of new home ownership among Black residents of DC as well as providing resources for maintenance and property tax relief to ensure that longtime owners can remain in their homes.
- Addressing climate change: WIN has been busy in the DC Council, advocating for passage of the Healthy Homes Act which will deploy new federal dollars to retrofit public housing and private residences of low-income homeowners with electric appliances and wean DC residents off gas.
- Public safety: While an increase in crime with deadly weapons is concerning, WIN is focused on evidence-based solutions to gun violence rather than simply increasing policing and punishment. WIN is advocating for actions such as increasing the number of "violence interrupters," and addressing productive opportunities for youth.
- In Upper Northwest, Temple Sinai members are leading the WIN Ward 3 Affordable Housing Group, organizing for development of affordable housing at the Chevy Chase Civic Core (as part of construction of a new public library and community center on Connecticut Avenue). Key partners include Adas Israel, Chevy Chase Presbyterian, National United Methodist, and St. Columba's. Over the summer of 2023, Temple Sinai congregants joined those from our partner congregations in knocking on over 650 doors to elicit community conversation and support for affordable housing in Chevy Chase.
- Looking inward, Temple Sinai's WIN core team will focus on two internal goals: 1) building the cadre of members of the congregation actively involved in interfaith dialogue, relationship building, and action, and 2) deepening collaboration with other Davis Center initiatives with common interests.



WIN congregants and clergy take to the Wilson Building to advocate for evidence-based approaches to violence prevention.



Members of Temple Sinai, Adas Israel, and St. Columba's knocked on doors in Chevy Chase and engaged residents in conversation about affordable housing.

# SINAI HOUSE



Top to bottom: Sinai House President, Amy Schear, and Executive Director, Renetta Armstrong at Homes & Hearts Shabbat; former Girl Scouts helping at the Sinai House Holiday Party; families taking off for the 2023 Fun Run before the 5K; a few of our 2023 runners--both two- and four-legged!

In 1992, Temple Sinai members, inspired by the spirit of *tikkun olam*, and seeking to make a significant contribution to the local community, founded Sinai House, to enable unhoused families to transition to independence by providing safe and affordable housing, comprehensive social services, and financial support. As we have for the last 30 years, Sinai House continued that endeavor in the past year, serving four families in residence at Sinai House and offering assistance to our alumni on an as-needed basis.

At our annual Homes & Hearts Shabbat Service, held on Friday, November 17, 2023, attendees were inspired by our guest speakers, DC Councilmember Matt Frumin and Sinai House's new Executive Director, Renetta Armstrong. After the service there was delicious food and wonderful live music.

The Sinai House holiday party for current and former families, board members, service providers, and tutors was held on Saturday, December 9, 2023, at Temple Sinai. Santa Claus visited Temple Sinai once again and the former members of Girl Scout Troop 34008 Bethesda returned to help the children choose gifts for their families and teachers in the Secret Santa Shop.

We had sunny skies at the Tricia Davis 5K for Sinai House on May 14, 2023 in Rock Creek Park! We are very grateful to our generous sponsors, donors, and participants who contributed more than \$160,000 to carry on the legacy of Tricia Davis by supporting the 5K. We are proud to report that in 2023 we surpassed the record amount we raised in year before! You can view race photos taken by JDBaker Photography and download them for free at [jdbakerphotography.com](http://jdbakerphotography.com).

At print time of this report, we are busy planning this year's Tricia Davis 5K for Sinai House on May 12, 2024.

# THE TEMPLE SINAI

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & YOUTH EDUCATION

*This year at Temple Sinai Religious School, we have been thinking about all the pieces of the puzzle that make us who we are: Our Tot, Kindergarten, Elementary, Middle, and High School programs, our spiritual, educational, and social experiences, and most of all - the sense of **significance, belonging, and fun** that we seek to both provide and develop for our students and their families. As we look back on the awesomeness and fun of the 2023-2024 year, we're excited to highlight some of the most impactful pieces of the puzzle!*

### Our remodeled Youth Education Team

- Réco Thomas, Youth Education Operations Manager
- Max Miller, Youth Education Program Manager
- Jennifer Quick, Sunday School Lesson Coordinator and Teacher Support
- Deborah Srabstein, Chug Ivrit Coordinator



### Our committed and engaged Lay Leaders

- The Youth Education Committee, led by Michelle Cooper
- Grades 1-6 Room Parents - essential partners in significance, belonging and fun

### Our Temple Facilities Team

- Diego Enriquez and the team of dedicated people who help make our building ready for learning, and take care of us all week long!
- Enrique Enriquez for his building out and development of our program storage spaces to support the new building
- Our space partnership with the Temple Sinai Nursery School
- A year of enthusiasm and flexibility as our South Addition is built





## Our Supporters

- So many of you give of your time, talent, and dollars to make TSRS a program of joy and excellence.
- With special thanks to Lauren and Harold Iselin for their generous gifts in support of youth engagement and teacher learning.
- With special thanks to Rabbi Stephanie Bernstein for the Michael Bernstein Endowment

## Our Time Together

- We introduced a "Friday Family Fun" night into the Temple Sinai calendar, with dinner, activities, a family-friendly worship experience and a To-Go-Neg! We can't wait for more in 2024-2025!
- Our 6th graders joined their middle school cohort on Tuesday evenings, making the middle school program at Sinai abuzz with energy and fun!

– Rebecca Robins, Cantor Educator

# THE TEMPLE SINAI NURSERY SCHOOL



**E**very year, we celebrate the tremendous growth we see in every child at TSNS! Scaffolded by the deep expertise and intentional work of our phenomenal educators, the children's curiosity propels countless explorations into materials, topics of interest, and experimentation. Dramatic play, block building, cooking, planting, writing, storytelling, and art are just some of the ways each child develops ideas, deepens connections with peers, and strengthens their confidence and positive sense of self.

As the renovation and expansion project continues at the temple, the children have remained fascinated by the process and have become experts in the many vehicles

and tools used by the building team. Our teachers have welcomed the opportunity to engage with the children in the keen observation of each new step in Temple Sinai's renovation and expansion journey, including inviting members of the construction crew to the classrooms to share updates about the ongoing work, much to the children's delight.

This year, the Nursery School enjoyed some significant changes brought about by the renovation and expansion project. New additions to the playground have been met with great enthusiasm, including a larger climbing



structure and



long double slides surrounded by boulders for the children to scale. Our new water feature, made possible through the generosity of the TSNS parents of 2022-2023, has supported exploration of the many possibilities of cascading water, from learning to work the pump to filling buckets and integrating water into both the sandbox and digging square. Additional changes inside the building included the addition of doors allowing children in two of our Twos classrooms to move more seamlessly between our Outdoor



Patio and their classrooms, and bringing our Movement Room, staffed by our in-house Occupational Therapist, the incomparable Kim Perks, to a new double-sized room to allow for extended gross motor experiences on swings, slides, balance beams, and more!

This year we have continued to solidify our partnership with Briya Public Charter School, with nearly \$2500 in tzedakah raised by TSNS families going to support a new healthy snack program at Briya. Three-year-old classes in each school participated in a holiday "art swap," and TSNS children have enjoyed play dates in Briya's outdoor classroom in the winter and spring. TSNS families also



enthusiastically participated in the Temple Sinai ConnectS Mini Mitzvah Morning held in early March, funded in part by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, at which activities supported a variety of local non-profits including the Hebrew Home, JSSA Meals on Wheels, Martha's Table, A Wider Circle, and Shepherd's Table.

While our values as a Jewish community are woven throughout our children's daily experiences at TSNS, we love to come together in celebration for Shabbat and holidays across the year. We continue to welcome our energetic and talented clergy to weekly Shabbat Sings, monthly Family Shabbats,

and holiday events like our Sukkah story times, Chanukah Party, Purim Parades, and Passover Sing-Along. Our annual Special Visitors' Day and Art Show in February and our Spring Soiree and Auction provide additional joyful and fun opportunities to connect and support our school. This year's auction proceeds will be used not only to fund school operations, but also for exciting new financial aid, professional development, and parent education initiatives.



– Ali Hurewitz, Director of Early Childhood Education

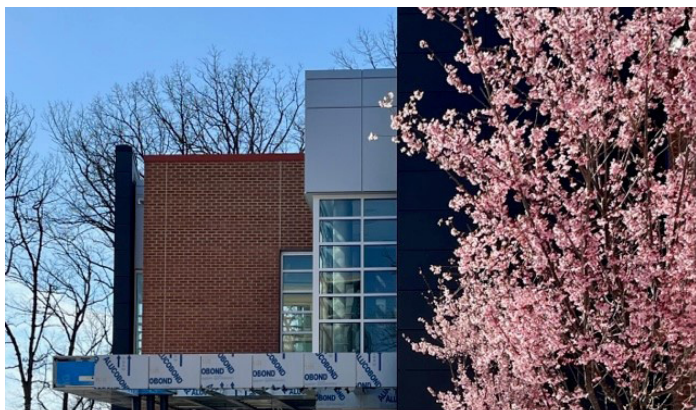
# WE HONORED OUR HERITAGE & BUILT OUR FUTURE

*Pitchu li sha'arei tzedek Avo vam odeh Yah.*

**פְּתַחוּ-לִי שַׁעְרֵי-צְדָק אָבָא בַּם אוֹדָה יְהוָה.**

*Open to me the gates of righteousness; I will enter into them, I will give thanks unto the Eternal.*

**W**e are thrilled to announce the impending opening of the South Addition! This marks a major congregational milestone and a culmination of 6+ years of dedicated work by members of our community, including all those who raised and donated funds, worked on the building design and project execution, and all those who planned and then adapted to the many curveballs the world had in store over these years.



The Honor our Heritage, Build our Future campaign closed at the end of 2023 having far surpassed the initial \$8 million goal, exceeded the secondary \$10 million stretch goal, and achieved the final \$12 million “phase 2” goal. As a congregation, we raised approximately \$12.1 million from over 550 families—more than Temple Sinai has ever raised before. \$10+ million is going to fund the renovation and expansion project, which included the 2021 sanctuary renovation and the South Addition project. \$2 million of funds raised went to the Sustaining Fund, supporting everything that happens inside our building, including establishment of the Davis Center for Social Justice, pastoral care, and our magnificent clergy.



After finishing reading a book of the Torah, it is tradition for the congregation to say the following phrase:

***Chazak, Chazak, V’Nitchazek***

After completing such a major chapter of Temple Sinai’s history, let us all say:

**“Strength! Strength! And Let Us Grow Stronger Together!”**

Thank you to all those who labored and contributed to make this campaign a success! A full listing of all donors and volunteers can be found at [templesinaidc.org/capital-campaign](https://templesinaidc.org/capital-campaign).



Photos top to bottom: The new South Addition exterior, the new Upper Lobby, Dedication Celebration Shabbat service in October 2023.

## PHILANTHROPY AT TEMPLE SINAI: WHAT COMES NEXT?

The conclusion of the Honor our Heritage, Build our Future Campaign for Temple Sinai marks the beginning of the next stage of Temple Sinai's congregational advancement.

Beyond the campaign, philanthropy is integral to the ongoing success of our community.

### Annual Membership & the Sinai Annual Fund

Annual Membership Financial Commitments are the number one source of philanthropic contributions to Temple Sinai. Temple Sinai is first and foremost a *Beit Knesset*—a house of communal gathering—that only thrives with the investment of the community members holding up its financial tentpoles. In an environment with so many worthy causes, the choice to be a member of Temple Sinai reflects a shared belief in the importance of investing in the Jewish community to ensure we can provide a progressive Jewish home both today and for many years to come.

The Sinai Annual Fund is our annual campaign for those who can contribute additional operating support to the temple. When those who are able to go above and beyond to support our community, they help to ensure that our congregation will remain open to all, without regard to financial wherewithal, and continue to meet our operational needs.

### The Rimonim Society: Legacy Giving at Temple Sinai

The Rimonim (Pomegranate) Society recognizes those individuals who have included Temple Sinai in their estate plans or established another type of planned gift. Just as the pomegranate yields many seeds that fruit for year to come, Rimonim Society members sow the seeds and provide the means to carry on our work for generations to come. In the coming year, we plan to talk to members about the significance of leaving a legacy gift to sustain our community.

To see a full Rimonim Society listing see page 27. To learn more about legacy giving or if you have included Temple Sinai in your estate plans and are not listed, please contact Noah Benjamin, Director of Development at [nbenjamin@templesinaidc.org](mailto:nbenjamin@templesinaidc.org).

### Supporting What is Meaningful to You at Temple Sinai

There are so many special programs and engagement opportunities that bring us together in Jewish community. These funds provide the additional support that makes these possible. Here are just a few:

*Endowment Fund:* Provides investment income in perpetuity for Temple Sinai's operations.

*Library Fund:* Provides for the books, subscriptions, and other materials that make our library robust.

*Music Fund:* The Circle of Music Lovers donors support all aspects of our congregation's musical life.

*Nursery & Religious School Funds:* Tuition does not cover all of the costs of our beloved schools. Charitable giving is integral to keeping our schools thriving for the next generation of Jews.

*The Davis Center for Social Justice:* The Davis Center centers tikkun olam at the heart Temple Sinai's identity.

For a full listing of funds, see: [templesinaidc.shulcloud.com/donate.html](https://templesinaidc.shulcloud.com/donate.html).

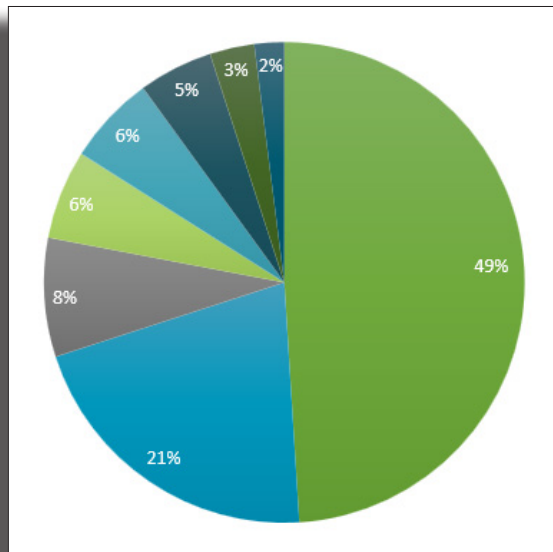
The Advancement Committee works to grow and strengthen our community through philanthropy and engagement. If you would like to join the committee to help us cultivate Temple Sinai's fertile future, reach out to Noah Benjamin, Director of Development at [nbenjamin@templesinaidc.org](mailto:nbenjamin@templesinaidc.org).

See our full donor listing pages 27-33.

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Fiscal Year June 1, 2022 – May 31, 2023

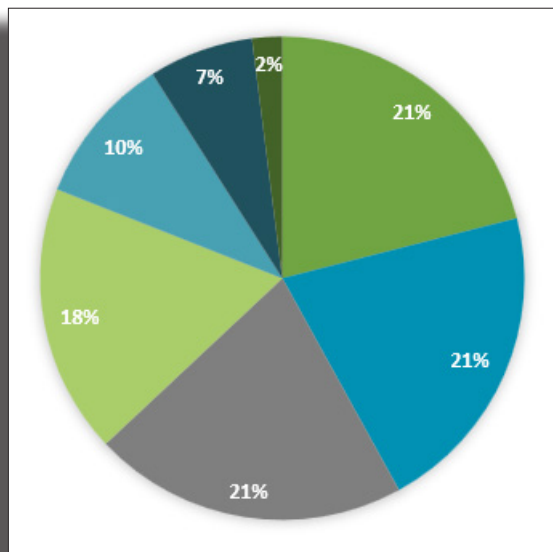
## Where does money for temple programs and operations come from?



Revenue		
Membership Commitment	\$3,187,577	49%
Nursery School Tuition & Fees	\$1,338,071	21%
Religious School Tuition & Fees	\$534,745	8%
Contributions	\$394,263	6%
Program Revenue	\$374,688	6%
Other Income	\$340,123	5%
Endowment Allocation	\$173,504	3%
Sustaining Fund Allocation	\$105,698	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6.4 Million</b>	

Membership Commitments are the largest and most important source of funds to support temple activities, representing 49% of total operating revenues in 2022-23. Generous additional contributions from members constitute another 6% of revenues. Income from our endowment fund and from the Sustaining Fund (part of the Campaign for Temple Sinai) provided a total of 5% of revenues. The Sustaining Fund was intended to provide support for temple programs for 10 years and will be exhausted in 2026-27.

## What does the money support?



Expenses		
Nursery School	\$1,354,811	21%
Ritual	\$1,312,276	21%
Administration	\$1,306,759	21%
Facilities & Security	\$1,167,480	18%
Religious School & Youth	\$620,785	10%
Other Programs	\$419,100	7%
URJ Membership Dues	\$153,000	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6.3 Million</b>	

Personnel costs, across all departments, account for the largest share of expenses, totaling 77% of all operating expense. Direct program costs for our ritual observances, Nursery School, Religious School, social action, and other program activities constitute 59% of expenses. An additional 18% supports building operations and security costs that make this programming possible.

**NET (transfer to Surplus Fund) \$114,458**

# APPRECIATING OUR DONORS

## Giving at Temple Sinai

Temple Sinai has a long and rich heritage of *tzedakah*, consistent with our Jewish tradition to express charity and feelings of sorrow and joy through charitable contributions. Such giving often occurs at times of birthdays, Bar and Bat Mitzvah, weddings, anniversaries, births and deaths, or in conjunction with special charitable campaigns. This year Temple Sinai members, family, and friends contributed over \$1.5 million above and beyond membership financial commitments. These gifts supported a wide variety of funds, committees, and causes including the temple operating budget, the Honor our Heritage Build our Future Campaign for Temple Sinai (the Capital Campaign), Temple Sinai endowments, the Temple Sinai clergy discretionary funds, and our many specialized restricted funds. **Thank you to the many generous donors who make Temple Sinai a special and vibrant community!**

## RIMONIM SOCIETY

The Rimonim Society recognizes those individuals who have included Temple Sinai in their estate plans or established another type of planned gift. Rimonim Society members enhance our congregation and provide the means to carry on our work for generations to come. Their gifts create a legacy for the congregation and continuity of the Jewish people. To learn more about legacy giving or if you have included Temple Sinai in your estate plans and are not listed below, please contact Noah Benjamin, Director of Development at [nbenjamin@templesinaidc.org](mailto:nbenjamin@templesinaidc.org).

*We recognize and thank all our current Rimonim Society members!*

Esthy* & Jim Adler	Betty Ferber & Robert Pomerance*	Rosann Wisman & Michael Lilek	Chip Rosencrans
Anonymous	Emil Frankel	Marsha Shaines & Robert Loesche	Daniel & Florence Rosenblum
Chris Intagliata & Larry Asbell	Gary Friend & Tara Sonenshine	Martin & Syma Mendelsohn	Ted & Linda Rosen
Ruth S. Baker-Battist & Lewis Battist*	Frank & Ann Gilbert	Libby & Ronald Merrill	Robert* & Sandra Schwarzbart
Rabbi Stephanie Bernstein	Andrew Gilman & Dianne Rudo	Herb* & Bobbe Mintz	Marcie Solomon
Richard & Elaine Binder	Niesa Brateman Halpern & James Halpern	Kevin Mulshine & Laura Kumin	Linda B. Popejoy & Seth Drew Speyer
Samuel A. Bleicher	Ellen Heiman	Beverly & Mark Nadel	Laura N. Steel
Ravelle Brickman	Ann Ingram	Nancy L. Wolf & Jim Pavle	Ruth Uhlmann & Craig Mathews
Ed Cohen & Charlene Barshefsky	Deborah & Kenneth Jaffe	Tom Plotz & Cathy Klion	Nelly Urbach
Isabel P. Dunst	Michael Levitt & Laura Greenberg	Rabbi Fred N. Reiner & Susan Liss	Barbara Kraft & Peter Winkler
David & Jane Fairweather		Sherry Levy-Reiner*	Frances R. Rothstein & Stephen S. Wolk
Elizabeth H. (Robin) Farquhar		Catherine Ribnick	
Patrice & Barney Feinstein			* Of Blessed Memory
Mike* & Doris Feinsilber			

These funds appear as voluntary contribution options on the Member Financial Commitment form:

**ARZA (Assn. of Reform Zionists of America) Membership**  
515 members contributed to support Temple Sinai's membership in ARZA.

**Davis Center for Social Justice Fund**  
580 members contributed to this fund.

**Israel Engagement & Social Justice Fund**  
525 members contributed to this fund.

**Sinai Assisted Housing Foundation**  
622 members contributed to support Sinai House.

**Temple Sinai Men of Reform Judaism Membership**  
427 members contributed to be a part of the TSMRJ (the Brotherhood).

**Temple Sinai Women of Reform Judaism Membership**  
528 members contributed to be a part of the TSWRJ (the Sisterhood).

## ANNUAL SUPPORT FOR GENERAL PURPOSES

*These donors made contributions to support Temple Sinai's general operations—from worship to education, and programming to pastoral care — making a direct impact on the temple's ability to "meet every member where they are." Major categories include the Sinai Annual Fund, Memorial Gifts, High Holidays Support, and underwriting Onegs & High Holidays Bimah Flowers.*

*The Sinai Annual Fund supports everything that happens at Temple Sinai. Whether your Temple Sinai passion is music, social action, religious school, nursery school, adult education, or any of the many other programs and activities that enrich our community, the Sinai Annual Fund supports what makes Temple Sinai special to you. While membership financial commitments are our largest source of support, they do not cover all of the congregation's annual expenses. We rely on the Sinai Annual Fund to bridge the gap and reduce financial barriers to membership for those who need it.*

Michael Abramowitz & Susan Baer, James Adler, Marylee & Stuart Alperin, Elliot & Susan Anenberg, Edward Angel & Susan LaMountain, Anonymous (2), Cherrill Anson, David & Ari Antonelli, Jane Axelrad, Benjamin Bachrach & Elizabeth Langsfeld, Michael & Raanan Baratz, Nathan Beaver & Kristin Nicholson, Michelle Becker & David Glanz, Adam & Marisa Bellack, Lois Berkowitz, Donald & Norma Berlin, Seth Berlin & Susan Mayer, Bonita Berman, Daniel Bernstein & Emily Locker, Nathan Billig & Gail Weinmann, Annie Binder & Michael Kubzansky, Richard & Elaine Binder, Philip Birnbaum, Wendy Bogart, Amanda & William Borden, Randy Brenner-Leifer, Rita & David Brickman, Ann & Kenneth Brown, Sarah Bryer & Evan Gottesman, Martin Burns & Wendy Kahn, Naomi & Clarke Camper, Anne Cauman & Martin White, Stephanie Chaplin, Brian & Stephanie Chernoff, Stephen Chertkof & Elizabeth Cullen, Anthony Ciccone & Robin Glantz, Leonard & Evelyn Coburn, Edward & Ruth Cogen, Brad & Margo Cohen, Edward Cohen & Charlene Barshefsky, Colleen Connors & Howard Opinsky, Evan & Rachel Croen, Leon Dayan & Deborah Lewis, Jack Deutsch & Lori Berman, Linda Dreeben, George & Sue Driesen, David DuGoff & Victoria Bor, Hope Eastman, Sherman Edwards & Melinda Salzman, Marc Efron, Alexander & Fernanda Ellenberg, Andrew Engel & Karen Barr, Abigail & Josh Epstein, Mark Erlich & Laura Croen, Mark & Carole Evans, Gary Falk, Elizabeth Farquhar, Leslie & Hannah Fein, Joshua & Jennifer Feinberg, Mike & Doris Feinsilber, Betty Ferber, Burton & Anne Fishman, Donald Fishman & Sonya Schwartz, Laura Forman & Richard Bender, Jeffrey Fox, Jeffrey Franer & Lori Bettinger, Robert & Susan Fratkan, John Freedman & Cecily Baskir, Laurence Freedman & Lucy Eldridge, Deborah & Joel Friedman, Stephen & Mindy Garfinkel, Ann Garfinkle, Donald & Irene

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**HONOR OUR HERITAGE, BUILD OUR FUTURE CAMPAIGN FOR TEMPLE SINAI (THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN)**

*In December 2023, we closed active fundraising for the Honor our Heritage Build our Future Campaign. This campaign has raised over \$12 million since it began in 2018 and has had a transformational effect on both our building and our community as a whole. To read more about this major milestone, please see pages 24-25.*

For the first time, Temple Sinai ran a **Silent Auction at the Chanukah Mart** to benefit the Campaign. Thank you to all those who contributed items to the auction and bid on auction items!

To see the full of Honor our Heritage Build our Future Campaign donors scan the QR code or visit [templesinaidc.org/capital-campaign](https://templesinaidc.org/capital-campaign).



\* Of Blessed Memory

*All contributions listed are for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (June 1, 2023 – May 31, 2024). The list represents gifts made through April 30, 2024. If we inadvertently missed your name, please contact Noah Benjamin at [nbenjamin@templesinaidc.org](mailto:nbenjamin@templesinaidc.org).*

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**T**here are many ways to apply your interests and skills as a temple volunteer. Member involvement shapes the direction of temple life, creates and supports vibrant educational and social programming, as well as mobilizes for social justice activities. Our lay leaders and staff will help connect you to meaningful engagement opportunities through our temple community.

**Interested in learning more and getting involved?** Check out our current list of committees and groups on the temple website: [templesinaidc.org/committees-organization-leadership](https://templesinaidc.org/committees-organization-leadership)

