HONOR OUR HERITAGE
BUILD OUR FUTURE

THE CAMPAIGN FOR TEMPLE SINAI
On October 7, 1956, we laid the Cornerstone—taken from Jerusalem’s Wall of Agrippa—for our current house of worship. Rabbi Balfour Brickner led us in prayer: “And this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God’s house. May the significance of this ancient stone, drawn from the past and now being set in the present, serve through its strength as an inspiration for the welfare of our common future.”
AND LET THEM MAKE ME A SANCTUARY, THAT I MAY DWELL AMONG THEM.”

From the start of Jewish history, synagogues have been more than bricks and mortar. They have been centers of Jewish communities where prayer, mitzvot and Torah bring holiness to our lives. We embark on this campaign in that spirit: to ensure our families have a sanctuary and a Jewish home for generations to come.

In 1950, seven families had a vision for Temple Sinai as a congregation based in faith, fairness and action. While we have grown, we are true to their vision of a Reform Jewish community which encourages innovative expression of faith that is not limited by existing doctrine. We are leaders in the Reform Jewish movement and recognized as one of the most innovative centers for Jewish education, cultivating generations of Jewish leaders.
Our Challenge and Opportunity: Today, we are a community of over 1,200 member families who worship, study and teach, celebrate life-cycle milestones, comfort the bereaved, meet for community events—and welcome all who wish to join us. We have been committed to living Jewish lives guided by Torah and modernity with dynamic clergy, powerful social action efforts, and outstanding Jewish education programs for nearly 70 years. As a result, Temple Sinai is bursting at the seams!

Now is the time for us to build Temple Sinai’s foundation for the next 70 years. If not now, when?
WE ARE LAUNCHING AN $8,000,000 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TO:

Improve our Facilities
&
Support our Clergy and Programs
Create a Sanctuary for the Next 70 Years:
Temple Sinai’s beloved main sanctuary represents the spiritual heart of our congregation where we celebrate the lives of our loved ones and introduce our children to ritual life. We hope to replace the fixed pews and worn upholstery with comfortable, flexible seating to allow for easy transitions between a Tot Shabbat Service, B’nei Mitzvah, Kol Nidre, and Cantor Concerts while maintaining the Sanctuary’s distinctive open-tent aesthetic. Renovated space contemplates a more accessible bimah and other improvements to make it easier for those in the sanctuary—as well as those watching from home—to participate fully.

Improve Building Access:
A redesigned entrance to the Temple from the parking lot would allow quicker and safer access, sheltered gathering for drop-off and pick-up, and better interior circulation. Priorities will include accessibility for members with limited mobility and safety for pedestrians and strollers—including new pathways from Jocelyn Street and Military Road.

Expand Space and Flexibility for Education:
Education is a foundation for lifelong Jewish learning and an important entry point for Temple Sinai families of all ages. We should provide secure, accessible space for all who come to learn. From our Nursery School children to our Adult Education attendees, we want everyone to feel welcome and safe in our center for Jewish learning.

Create Community Gathering Spaces:
A significant proposed addition to our current building would provide flexible gathering spaces for congregants of all ages to socialize, meet, learn, and celebrate. Concept plans include a variety of new community spaces, including informal lounge areas, flexible meeting rooms, and enhanced lobby areas.

Respect and Appreciate Our Natural Resources:
Proposed enhancements to our natural environment would improve accessibility and provide outdoor spaces for play, education, and socializing with a plan focused on environmental protection, sustainability, and natural beauty.

Improve our Facilities:
$6 million (minimum)
To meet the needs of our members for Shabbat and holiday services, life-cycle events, learning, and community-gathering, we need flexible spaces that match Torah and the Jewish calendar to members’ lives and create a binding sense of community. If we raise sufficient funds, our priority projects will include:
Our dedicated clergy team supports individuals and families through prayer, counseling, and teaching throughout the life cycle—from naming babies to mourning deaths, and celebrating all the moments in between. Recognized as leaders in the Reform movement, we develop innovative programming to meet the needs of our congregation. Temple Sinai is an open tent: cost should never be a barrier to participation. We are raising $2 million in long-term funding—a Sustaining Fund—to respond to congregational needs and interests as we develop our Annual Fund, Endowment, and other sources of annual operating revenue.

The Sustaining Fund, intended to last at least ten years with oversight by the temple’s Finance Committee, will have three areas of focus:

Social Action > Tikkun Olam
Temple Sinai’s history is rooted in faith, fairness, and action—a commitment to tikkun olam, repairing the world. Across our congregation, members and clergy are full of ideas and eager to pray with their feet. The Sustaining Fund will enable us to create new opportunities, inspire widespread participation, and continue Temple Sinai’s tradition of social action leadership in the Reform Movement.

Pastoral Care > Gemilut Hasadim
Acts of loving kindness—gemilut hasadim—by clergy, staff, or fellow congregants reinforce the importance of our spiritual community. The Sustaining Fund will ensure that programs like SinaiCares meet the needs of our community through organizational support and expertise, communication, and access to best practices and new ideas.

Clergy Support
Temple Sinai’s dynamic clergy team is the heart of our congregation. Our rabbis and cantors not only guide us spiritually, but this exceptional team leads our congregation—across all age groups—in social action, learning, and caring for each other and our world. And while our congregation is incredibly generous, our clergy salaries have been in the bottom quartile compared to other Reform congregations our size. The Sustaining Fund is a bridge that will help us phase in needed salary adjustments that should, over time, be fully covered by the annual operating budget.

Support our Clergy & Programs: $2 million
One of Temple Sinai’s core values is that our members experience a personal connection to the clergy and to each other.
L’DOR VADOR: YOUR ROLE IN SUPPORTING OUR FUTURE

Unlike many institutions where affiliation comes and goes, connections to Temple Sinai last a lifetime, often for generations. As we near our 70th anniversary, we must come together and build a space where our community can thrive for the next 70 years. Join us in shaping the future of Temple Sinai so that we can remain a center of Jewish life for years to come.

“If I am not for myself, who will be for me?
If I am only for myself, what am I?
If not now, when?”

- Hillel the Elder in Pirkei Avot 1:14