

# SINAI

*Quarterly*

Winter 2020 Tevet-Nisan 5780

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# FROM THE RABBI

**N**ow that the holiday has passed, I hope you won't be too upset to hear: The Hanukkah lights were useless. Okay, maybe that's an overly negative phrase because the Hanukkah lights are quite important. According to Jewish law, the lights of the Hanukkiah have only one purpose: to publicize the miracle. We are supposed to recite the words of the traditional prayer, "Hanerot Hallalu," upon lighting the candles. The prayer says: "These lights we kindle for the miracles and the wonders... All eight days of Hanukkah, these candles are holy. We are not permitted to use their light, but only to look at them and to appreciate and to praise Your great name for Your miracles...." Because the candles' light may not be used, we are not supposed to move the candles once lit (because in moving them it's almost impossible not to "use" the light). Not using the Hanukkah candles' light is so important that we have an extra candle, the shamash, each night to help us. The shamash can be used to light the other candles and its radiance eliminates the possible "sin" of using the Hanukkah light (if for example you read the words of "Maoz Tzur" by the Hanukkah candles, it can be said you "used" the shamash light).



**Rabbi  
Jonathan Roos**  
*Senior Rabbi*

Across the 49 Fridays until we light the menorah once again, we will have to turn to Shabbat for our candelight. That should be fine because, unlike Hanukkah, the Shabbat candles are useful. They are, in fact, meant to be used and give us benefit. We can read or eat by the Shabbos candles and we can move them around the room in order to give better light. So, even though Hanukkah claims the title, "Festival of Lights," we need both Shabbat and Hanukkah light in our lives. We need "Hanukkah" moments, experiences, and people in our lives that are not valued for the measurable utility or benefit to us. Sometimes, we need things just to be. Once a year, at the darkest time of the year, we embrace that idea through the hanukkiah.

We also need "Shabbat" moments, experiences, and people in our lives. Sometimes we need things to multi-task like Shabbat candles that serve as a beacon of spirituality and holiness and as a useful source of light. One night a year, this past year it was December 27, we get both Shabbat AND Hanukkah lights (mind blowing, I know). As you light Shabbat candles in this new year (give it a try if you don't usually), I encourage you hold on to the Hanukkah candles' message: to embrace the moment just to be and to look upon the lights for nothing more than their beauty and symbolism. Then, as you use and enjoy the light of the Shabbat candles, take a moment to embrace the many people and things in your life that fill multiple needs and give you many benefits. None of us gets through a year well relying only on beauty and symbolism and none of us gets through the year without "multi-purpose tools" in our life. These lights are holy – both kinds – let us be grateful for them. Happy belated Hanukkah, Happy New Year 2020 and Shabbat shalom.

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

Temple Sinai is a place in which we can place the punctuation marks in the stories of our lives. Baby namings, bnai mitzvah, weddings, and funerals mark important moments and transitions for us as individuals, families and as a community. But it's not just life cycle events that we mark in Jewish time, we also mark the end of the week with Shabbat. It is a grand concept, a day of rest and reflection, with a largely intimate observance, candle lighting with the family and perhaps a roughly hour long service in the Bet Am. While I generally devote this column to larger programs in the temple, this time I'd like to focus on one of my favorite activities at Temple Sinai, perhaps my most favorite: Friday night services.



**Deborah Lewis**  
*President*

There is something quietly powerful about taking a moment to reflect on the end of a week within a service. We may say the same prayers every week but the context is always different. We are saying and hearing them with our minds on the particular trials, joys, stresses and events of the previous week. There is always time for silent prayer, reflection or observation. The effect is to stop what we are doing, take a breath, and recharge for the week ahead.

I've heard members say that because they live alone, or their families can't join them, that they don't want to come to services. But walk into the Bet Am on a Friday night and you will see that many of us have arrived by ourselves. With one greeting with a neighbor you will no longer be alone. In fact, if you are feeling isolated within Temple Sinai, Friday night services are a low-stress, low-obligation way to feel a part of our community.

Friday night services are also a time to reflect on troubling events in our world within the context of our faith. At the services after the events in Charlottesville, the Tree of Life shootings, events in Israel or troubling actions by our country's leaders, many of us found not only the solace of community but words to capture our thoughts and feelings. Even on more mundane Friday nights, our clergy are thoughtful and provocative and I invariably leave services with a new idea or concept to ponder.

So this is an invitation. Come to services on a Friday night. You don't need a reason or an excuse. Come as you are, in a suit or in jeans. Bring whatever mood you are in, whatever has hold of your thoughts. Come with company or alone. You are always welcome to join us in placing a period at the end of the week so we can capitalize the beginning of the new one.

# HONOR OUR HERITAGE BUILD OUR FUTURE

THE \$10 MILLION CAMPAIGN FOR TEMPLE SINAI

*What excites me most about the Honor our Heritage Build our Future Campaign...*

The building plans will be transformative in so many ways. The light-filled “Bet Midrash” space will allow our adult study programming to blossom. We will be living our values through critical environmental features while also creating beautiful new outdoor spaces. Our building -- and sanctuary -- will be more accessible and inviting to congregants of all ages. We are truly laying a cornerstone for the next generation of Temple Sinai.

— **Jonathan Roos, Senior Rabbi**

Improved acoustics in the sanctuary will allow our musical offerings to soar. I’m excited to use our new, flexible seating to create a greater sense of community when we’re together in our beautiful sanctuary. . . and to have the capability to have more creative ways to set up and seat our different musical ensembles!

— **Laura Croen, Senior Cantor**

I am so excited to imagine these new, dynamic spaces filled with the sounds and energy of our educational and social programming! From creating spaces for parents to work, relax and connect while their children are learning, to making a centrally-located youth lounge for our teens to hang at Sinai, the building plans provide so many opportunities for TSRS students and families. These awesome new program spaces, paired with dynamic design for security, are incredible opportunities for our temple family!

— **Rebecca Robins, Cantor Educator**



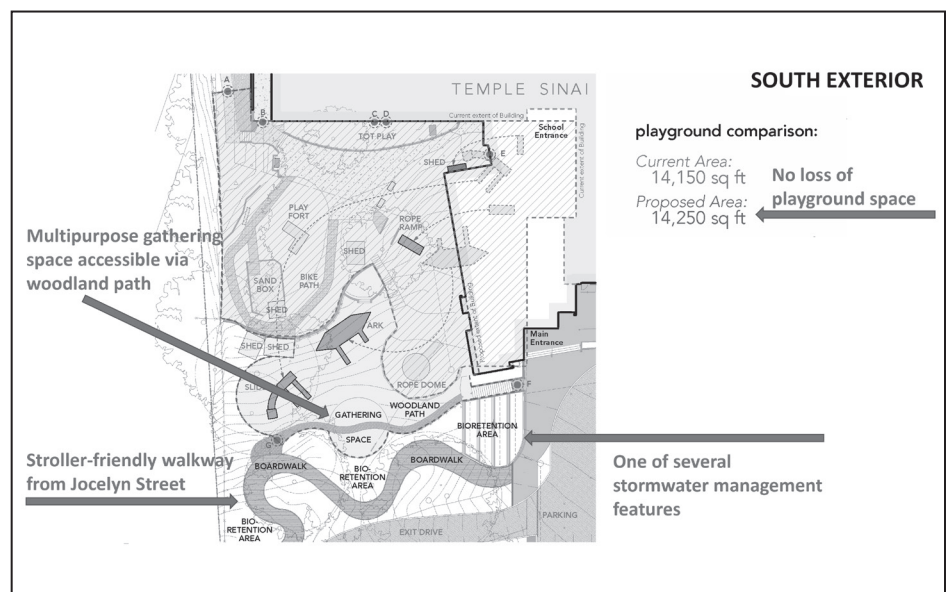
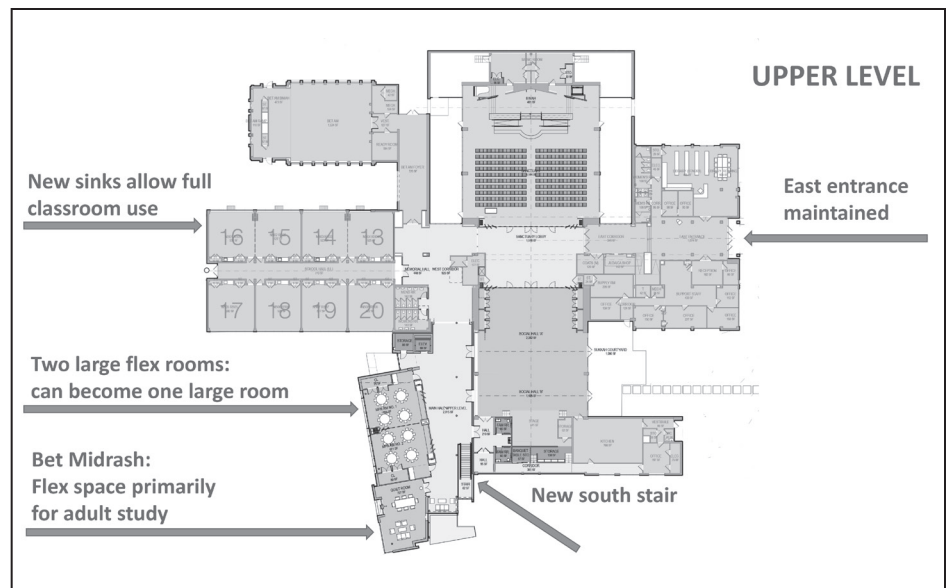
At Temple Sinai Nursery School, children’s growth is nurtured in a joyful and safe environment where learning occurs through play. We are excited that the renovation project will provide our families with a new stroller-friendly walkway from Jocelyn Street, increased security for our children’s learning spaces, and new areas for parents and teachers to gather and meet. Changes to the playground will reflect our school values around the importance of retaining a creative, expansive outdoor

play space while also giving us the opportunity to shape new ways for the children to engage outside, and our indoor movement room will double in size!

— **Perri Iger-Silversmith,**  
**Temple Sinai Nursery School**  
**Director**

Temple Sinai was founded to create a congregation of equals where all are welcomed and valued. By creating long-term sustaining funds and strengthening our Annual Fund, the capital campaign will allow us to create and maintain vibrant programming, provide our staff and clergy with fair pay and benefits and stay true to our egalitarian roots -- in a fiscally prudent way. We never want cost of membership to be a barrier to participation -- this campaign will allow us to continue that tradition.

— **Ellen Agler, Temple Sinai**  
**Executive Director**



Concept drawings of the planned renovations to Temple Sinai.

See more building plan details at [templesinaidc.org/capital-campaign](http://templesinaidc.org/capital-campaign)

## 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, join us in coming together to build a space where our community can thrive for the next 70 years.

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



# MEMBERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT



*The Membership Committee hosted a Find-Your-Connection Fair in October 2019, which gave new and veteran members an opportunity to connect with representatives from Temple Sinai's wide range of activities.*

## What does the Membership Committee do at Temple Sinai?

We welcome members to Temple Sinai. We deliver Shabbat celebration bags to welcome new members, talk to new and prospective members at Temple events like the Chanukah Mart & New Member Shabbat and we host events like the Find-Your-Connection Fair and New B'nei Mitzvah Parent information brunch.

## What are our plans for 2020?

We are hoping to set up an ambassador program to welcome new members personally and to connect new members with Temple Sinai activities, committees and programming.

We are planning to expand our member engagement activities so that different demographic groups can find a connection with each other, either at temple programs or off-site. We held a dinner in November for parents with first-year college students to kick off this effort. We hope to arrange an event for "free birds" (formerly known as empty nesters) later this winter or early in the spring.

## What can you do?

Join the Membership Committee! We are looking for enthusiastic and friendly temple members who can help us welcome members, plan engagement activities or both.

## What if you want to feel more connected at Temple Sinai but you are not sure how?

Let us know what kind of activities you might like to do with other temple members. For example:

**Do you like to cook?** How about a Jewish cookbook group?

**Are you an art lover?** How about a Sunday afternoon museum group?

**Have you been trying to get more Zen?** How about exploring mindfulness with other members?



I enjoy planning local theatre events for fellow Temple Sinai members. It combines my passion for the performing arts, as well as building community.

- Laura Forman,  
Membership Committee  
Member



I volunteer with the Membership Committee because being a member of Temple Sinai feels more like being a family member. I like to bring that feeling to new members.

- Alan Korn, Membership  
Committee Member

***There are all kinds of ways we can make Temple Sinai more welcoming and engaging but we need your ideas, energy and enthusiasm! Contact Karen Auerbach, Membership & Engagement at [kauerbach@templesinaidc.org](mailto:kauerbach@templesinaidc.org) or Jill Chenok, Membership Committee Chair at [chenokj@gmail.com](mailto:chenokj@gmail.com).***

## Welcome to Our New & Returning Members

Jeffrey & Elicia Blumberg  
and their children, Maayan  
& Eitan

Susan Goldenson and her  
daughter, Lucy

Dora & Frank Hesse

Stacy & Jacob Kobrick and  
their son, Matthew

Jennifer Lanoff & Andy  
Wise and their children,  
Lilah, Natalie, & Alex

Sam Lehman & Jennifer  
Klein and their daughter,  
Elsa

John Levinson & Renana  
Keynes and their children,  
Ayla & Davi

Neal Markowitz and his  
daughter, Celia

Rajesh Nayak & Rebecca  
Widiss and their children,  
Lila & Jay

Alan & Ilene Sparber

Seymour & Patricia  
Strongin

## Mazel Tov to...

...Evan Leepson and Gail Guttman on the birth of their granddaughter Sara; Rabbi David Saperstein as he serves as President of the World Union for Progressive Judaism in 2019-20; Linda and Len Simon on the birth of their granddaughter Ruby Ann Simon; Susan Weiss and Ken Hurwitz on the birth of their granddaughter Ella Weiss Cribbs; Jennifer & Michael Lilintahl on the birth of their daughter Sasha; Bob and Debby Litt on the births of their granddaughters Eliza Aposhian and Julia Lee; Jacquelyn and Daniel Serwer on the birth of their granddaughter, Hannah Beatrice; Rachelle Perlman on the birth of her grandson Micah; Scott & Ilana Gordon on the marriage of their son, Ben Gordon and Paola Rivera Scherrer; Charlie and Marcie Berul on the engagement of their son Stephen; Chris and Ben Lourie on the marriage of their son Nathan Lourie to Abigail Coombs; David DuGoff and Vicki Bor on the birth of their granddaughter Alice Yoshiko Behr DuGoff, daughter of Eva DuGoff and Helen Behr; and Andrew Engel and Debra Perlin on their recent appointments to the URJ Board of Directors.

## We Mourn the Deaths of...

...Malcolm Lassman (Camille Thornton); Debbie Barr; Jacqueline Birn; Dr. Murray Feshbach; and Alan Levy (Beverly).

## We Extend Condolences to...

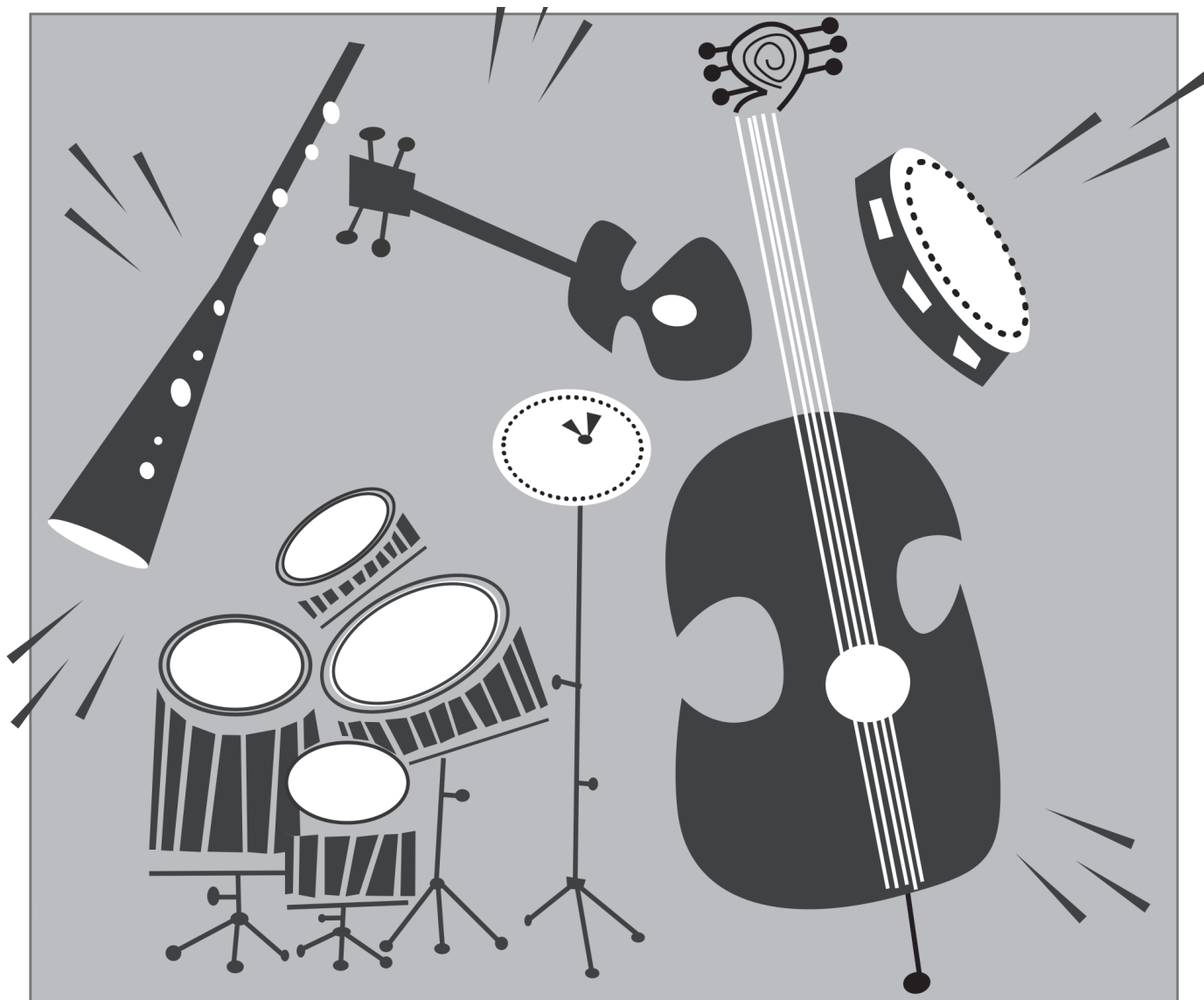
...Susan Jakes (Jeffrey Prescott) on the death of her grandmother Goldie Dube; Ann Kappell Danner (Robert Danner) on the death of her uncle Lewis Epstein; Marisa Nightingale (Todd Edelman) on the death of her uncle William Nightingale; Liz Rose (Richard Jerome) on the death of her brother Stephen Rose; David Levinson (Nancy Elam) on the death of his mother, Joan Levinson; Paul Coviello (Michele Greenstein) on the death of his father, Nicholas Coviello; Matt Wexler (Becky) on the death of his stepfather, Leonard (Lenny) Orland; Susan Liss & Rabbi Fred Reiner and Debbie & Henry Tyrangiel on the death of their brother-in-law Gerald Hirshberg, uncle to Elana Tyrangiel & Robert Lundman; Daniel Radack (Jesselyn) on the death of his mother, Louise Radack; Catherine Ribnick on the death of her brother-in-law Frank Wermenbol; Marty Mendelsohn (Syma) on the death of his brother, Edward Mendelsohn; Jeremy Horowitz (Nora Gordon) on the death of his father, Leonard Horowitz; Michael Richards (Pamela Fields) on the death of his mother, Françoise Richards; Marilyn Kitzes (Scott Satin) on the death of her father, Orin Kitzes; Bill Polk (Judy) on the death of his sister-in-law Phyllis Rubin Polk, aunt of Ruth Polk (Shmuel Shoham); Cantorial Soloist Robyn Helzner on the death of her brother-in-law, Robert Agus; Nina Prill (Adam) on the death of her uncle Dr. Bernard Cohen; and Sally Neuberger (Larry Jacobson) on the death of her mother, Phyllis Neuberger.

## Board Nominating Committee to Get Underway in January

The Temple Sinai membership elects the officers and new members of the Board of Trustees each year at the Annual Meeting in May. New members are trustees accepting a 2<sup>nd</sup> term or candidates replacing trustees who have reached their term limit of two terms or moved up to an officer position. Non-officers may serve two 3-year terms – six years total.

The Nominating Committee is charged with developing the slate of candidates and begins that work in January. The committee is chaired by the Immediate Past President, yours truly, and this year's committee includes Steve Chertkof, Cathy Klion, Matt Pachman, Adam Prill, Linda Rosen, Jean Veta, Meredith Wade, and Evan Weschler. Our work includes identifying the gaps that will be created by current trustees who will be rolling off the board, reviewing the priorities of the board and areas of expertise and capacity needed, identifying and reaching out to members who are a fit with the board's needs and are ready to step up to this important lay leadership role for Temple Sinai.

Want to know more, know of someone to recommend, or would like to put yourself up for consideration? Feel free to send me a note at [gary.friend4@gmail.com](mailto:gary.friend4@gmail.com).



# ***Make a Joyful Noise!***

**Friday, Feb. 28 at 6:30 PM**

A musical Shabbat celebration featuring  
**Seth Kibel and the Kleztet**

Services followed by a festive community dinner.

For details and a link to reserve seats for dinner:

**[templesinaidc.org/music](http://templesinaidc.org/music)**

JOINED BY:

Senior Cantor Laura Croen

Cantor Rebecca Robins

Cantorial Soloist Robyn Helzner

Temple Sinai Adult and Youth Choirs

SPECIAL GUEST:

**Cantor Barbara Ostfeld**, Reform  
Judaism's first woman cantor



# SHABBAT SHIRA 2020

**MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE**  
**featuring Seth Kibel and the Kleztet**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28 AT 6:30 PM

Festive community dinner to follow; details and RSVP for dinner at [templesinaidc.org/music](https://templesinaidc.org/music)

*In anticipation of the upcoming special music service, Music Committee Member Kent Allen had a chance to talk with musical guest Seth Kibel:*

**S**eth Kibel wasn't always a klezmer fan. A native of Yorktown Heights, New York, Kibel remembers his parents hiring a klezmer band for the cocktail hour at his bar mitzvah party in the late 1980s. He listened awhile, then, with growing disinterest, ducked out into the parking lot and, in the tradition of many 13-year-old boys, lit matchbook covers to pass the time until that part of the evening was finished.

He has evolved.

A few years after his ho-hum bar mitzvah experience, a quirky but culturally resonant sign caught Kibel's eye while he strolled about at his college, luring him into the klezmer fold. It was 1993, and Kibel was a freshman at Cornell University.

He was walking toward a bulletin board on the school's upstate New York campus. It read: "Make your bubbe and zayde proud. Join a klezmer band."

Intrigued, Kibel – at the time already an accomplished clarinetist trained in classical music and jazz--headed for the music library. He checked out a few of the old 78s labeled "klezmer" and started listening. Before long, he was hooked. Within weeks, in homage to the lake that Cornell stands above, he had formed the "Cayuga Klezmer Revival."

Now more than 20 years into this klezmer affection, Kibel will lead his current band, "The

Kleztet," at our Shabbat Shira on February 28 in an evening that will mix the familiar sound of klezmer with influences from other music traditions like jazz and world music.

Kibel defines klezmer as "secular, eastern European traditional Jewish folk music" that has acquired all sorts of touches from other musical cultures in its centuries-long history, spanning from the Near East to Spain.

"It's sort of a musical mutt," Kibel says, though it retains its folk-based core.

Kibel too is a musical mutt, performing all manner of music beyond klezmer.

Recently, for example, he led the onstage band for the Washington Revels in what Kibel described as a "holiday pageant meets Renaissance Fair."

Besides the clarinet, he also plays the saxophone and occasionally the flute, performing classical music, jazz, blues and even a little bit of country music.

Among his musical heroes are Artie Shaw and Benny Goodman, in part because their music inspired their audiences to dance.

"I love playing for dancers, swing, klezmer, whatever."

So get those feet tapping, don those dancing shoes and come celebrate Shabbat Shira on February 28!

# TIKKUN OLAM— SOCIAL ACTION @ SINAI

The fall was incredibly busy for all the Temple Sinai Social Action initiatives. We continued to Pray With Our Feet at A Wider Circle and had a hugely successful Thanksgiving Baskets event. The RAIS (Refugee, Asylum Seeker and Immigrant Support) Group continues to support numerous families at various stages of their journey to a safe and successful life in the US.

Most prominently, we continue to support and assist an asylum seeker from the Congo, Blondy, who just recently had his work permit application approved. For several months we supported Blondy's brother and his family as well and recently helped to enable the family's move to Canada.

TS members are active in helping to develop the strategy of the Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) to jump start efforts to develop more affordable housing in DC.

The Green team held an important listening session for the congregation to help guide its efforts going forward.

GVPG continues to work to actively support efforts to address the plague of gun violence in this country.

TSWRJ has held several informative and engaging sessions to progress its Reproductive Health and Rights initiative.

More information on each initiative can be found in elsewhere in the TS Quarterly or by contacting the various leaders listed in the Social Action menu on the TS website or by contacting Glenn Engelmann at [glenn.engelmann@gmail.com](mailto:glenn.engelmann@gmail.com).

Finally, we will once again be evaluating requests for grants from the Eugene Lipman Social Action and Tzedakah Fund. Requests for grants should be submitted no later than February 18, 2020.



Nearly 30 TS members gathered on Sunday, November 17 to grocery shop and assemble the makings of 160 Thanksgiving meals for area organizations to distribute to families. Special thanks to Lor Berman, Ellen Croog, and Deborah Eichhorn for organizing this program.

*Your partnership with a Wider Circle is mission critical and we are so thankful to be able to count on you!*

*— The Holiday Team at A Wider Circle*



*Sinai WIN members on a waterfront bus tour in September 2019.*

## Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) Update

The first synagogue to join the Washington Interfaith Network, Temple Sinai is one of 40 congregations and nonprofits that power WIN's advocacy on racial justice, housing, community safety and gun violence, and jobs. In early 2019, we at Sinai — and almost 500 members of other WIN institutions — participated in WIN bus tours where we saw firsthand the effects on low income and longtime residents of development and displacement in the SE and SW parts of our city. We've since focused on education, advocacy, and forming a plan of action for 2020, targeting housing at the RFK/Reservation 13 site and public lands and public housing in our neighborhoods. Like other WIN member institutions, Sinai fields a Core Team of leaders, and we welcome new members.

Find out more by joining us at WIN's Citywide Action Team Meeting, Tuesday, January 28, 7-8:30 PM. Location TBD. For more info or to arrange a ride, email Barbara Kraft, [bjkraft1@gmail.com](mailto:bjkraft1@gmail.com).

## Gun Violence Prevention Group Update

Since 2016, the Temple Sinai Gun Violence Prevention Group has presented many educational programs, engaged in effective legislative advocacy for gun sense legal reforms locally and nationally, and helped to organize the "DC Area Interfaith Gun Violence Network." The network of over 100 area churches, temples and mosques works as a faith-based coalition to advance GVP and supports national GVP advocacy groups like the Brady Campaign, the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, and Everytown for Gun Safety. In 2020, the TS GVP Group seeks to engage more with current Temple Sinai students, TS Religious School alumni who live and work in the DMV area, and students and other members of the African-American and Hispanic communities of Washington DC most adversely impacted by gun violence.

The Commission on Social Action at the Biennial Meeting of the Union of Reform Judaism in Chicago awarded the Temple Sinai GVP Group its 2019 Irving J. Fain Award for Social Justice in recognition of this work. The CSA cited the GVP Group for its "outstanding" and "innovative" program, and as an "inspiration to the greater Reform Jewish community, encouraging others to undertake similar inspiring initiatives."



*Steve Klitzman, Chair, Temple Sinai Gun Violence Prevention Group, holds 2019 Irving J. Fain Social Justice award at 2019 Biennial in Chicago with Temple Sinai supporters from left to right: Liz Dunst, outgoing Chair, Commission on Social Action, Rabbi Jonah Pesner, Director, Religious Action Center, Shelly Cohen, Chair, Fain Award Committee, TS members Steve Klitzman, Justine Lissner, Deitra Reiser and Cantor Laura Croen.*

### **First Quarter 2020 Meeting of the GVP Group Wednesday, January 15 at 7:30 PM**

We'll review accomplishments of 2016-2019 and begin to plan activities for 2020 and beyond.

### **Listening and Strategic Planning Session Sunday, January 26 at 3 PM**

All are invited to help the GVP group clarify and prioritize its goals, strategies, action steps, and strategic review process.





SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

**Dinner for NIH Children's Inn**

Every year, TSWRJ sponsors a dinner at the NIH Children's Inn, a residential facility that allows families with seriously ill children participating in research at NIH to stay free of charge. Volunteers sign up to make or purchase and drop off food at the Temple, deliver the food to the Children's Inn, and prepare and serve it to Inn residents. **Sign up here to bring food or volunteer at the Inn.**

If you would like to contribute a grocery card for the families or make a monetary donation, send your grocery card or check, payable to TSWRJ with "NIH Children's Inn" on the memo line, to Judy Polk, 4012 Thornapple Street, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

Questions? Contact:

Emily Waldman (waldmanemily@gmail.com) or Roberta Binder (robertabinder@comcast.net)



The Children's Inn at NIH

**Reproductive Health and Rights Update**

During the Summer and Fall of last year, we learned about Reproductive Justice — the human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities. We listened to each other, we learned from Reproductive Justice experts, and we studied *Reproductive Justice: An Introduction*, by Loretta Ross and Rickie Solinger.

**Now is the time for action!** We are moving ahead with advocacy and direct service opportunities for Temple Sinai members. Please contact Rhynes@templesinaidc.org to join our Working Group.



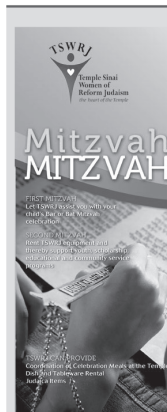
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29 – 9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

**Authors' Roundtable****The Power of Jewish Women: Stories of**

**Hope.** After registration and coffee, join us for a 9:30 AM (optional) Shabbat service in the Bet Am, led by Rabbi Rosenwasser. At 10:30 AM, Tara Sonenshine will moderate a stimulating panel discussion with four dynamic, inspirational women authors whose books brim with humor and passion as they trace the tales of Jewish women throughout history. After the panel, join one of the four authors for conversation over a boxed lunch in a smaller setting. Participants may buy the authors' books and have them signed. **Register (\$28) by February 25.**

Featured authors and books for 2019:

- Suzanne Feldman  
*Absalom's Daughters*
- Pamela Nadell  
*America's Jewish Women: A History from Colonial Times to Today*
- Barbara Ostfeld  
*Catbird: The Ballad of Barbi Prim*
- Katia Raina  
*Castle of Concrete*

**TSWRJ Mitzvah Mitzvah Program**

Hire TSWRJ to set up and serve your Bat/Bar or other Mitzvah luncheon at Temple Sinai. We provide linens, dishes and tableware rentals.

**Contact Information**

Meg Seldin 301-332-9490  
Megseldin@gmail.com



**MOST WEDNESDAYS — 7:30 to 9:30 PM**  
**SCHEDULED MONDAYS — 2:00 to 4:00 PM**

## Mah Jongg

Check the schedule on Temple Sinai's website. Novices and mavens welcome! E-mail: [greenwald.anita@gmail.com](mailto:greenwald.anita@gmail.com) (Wednesday) and [susanschiffer@hotmail.com](mailto:susanschiffer@hotmail.com) (Monday)



## Save the Dates

**THURSDAY, APRIL 9**  
 TSWRJ Community Second Seder

**FRIDAY, APRIL 17**  
 TSWRJ Sisterhood Shabbat

**THURSDAY, MAY 21**  
 TSWRJ Annual Meeting

## TSWRJ Board Meetings 2020

All TSWRJ members welcome.

**Sunday, January 12 – 9:30 AM**

**Thursday, February 13 - 7:30 PM**

**Thursday, March 12 - 7:30 PM**

**Sunday, April 5 - 9:30 AM**

**Sunday, June 7 - 6:00 PM (off site)**

## Many thanks to...

**All congregants who donated money and food for the Capital Area Food Bank during the High Holy Days.** This year, we raised

over \$8,000 in cash donations to purchase 24,927 pounds of healthy food, including perishable items such as produce, meat and dairy, and we collected 3,128 pounds of non-perishable food. This corresponds to a grand total of 23,379 balanced nutritious meals for our food insecure neighbors. Thank you to **Michelle Engelmann** for chairing this important initiative.



**High Holy Days Food Drive**

**The 400+ people who came to enjoy the Chanukah Mart** on November 24, who cooked, baked, took a shift or two at the mart, who ate, shopped, and schlepped! Proceeds go to TSWRJ to support youth and programs at Temple Sinai as well as local, national, and international nonprofits. Thank you to **Carole Brand and Cara Jablon** for co-chairing this wonderful event.



**Helene Sacks and Audrey Kramer**, who co-chaired TSWRJ's **fourth biennial retreat** held in Annapolis January 3-5. More than 70 TSWRJ members laughed, prayed, shared, talked, ate, played, discussed, danced, and sang together, under the clergy leadership of Rabbi Hannah Goldstein.



Temple Sinai  
Women of  
Reform Judaism  
*the heart of the Temple*



# Judaica Shop

Gifts and Judaica for All Simchas and Holidays!

Menorahs & Chanukah Gifts ✧ Shofars ✧ Seder Plates & Passover Items ✧ Tallitot ✧ Candlesticks ✧ Tzedakah boxes ✧ Mezuzahs






**Hours when Religious School is in session:**  
 Sunday: 10:00am-2:00pm and  
 Tuesday: 6:00pm-8:00pm

**Contact Meg Seldin for an appointment**  
 301-654-7874, 301-332-9490 (cell)  
 Email: [Megseldin@gmail.com](mailto:Megseldin@gmail.com)



# NURSERY SCHOOL



Left to right: fun in the snow, special visitors join in classroom activities during the annual Special Visitors' Days and Art Exhibit, and celebrating Purim!

**A**s we head into winter, Temple Sinai Nursery School is as busy as ever! Giant leaf piles give way to snowy days, and we will be enjoying sledding, painting in the snow with liquid watercolors, and other seasonal explorations on our expansive playground. Our children have been making great use of the outdoor play wardrobe purchased with funds raised at last year's auction, and you can find them in colorful coats and boots enjoying all the fun of the outdoors even when it is wet or rainy!

We host several significant community-wide events during the next several months. On February 26th and 27th we will be welcoming guests to our Special Visitors' Day and Annual Art Exhibit, which provides a way for our extended community to come together and marvel at the remarkable artwork created by the children. The art is placed on display as a gallery in the Social Hall Foyer, and all are welcome to come enjoy and learn about the creative process the evening of Wednesday, February 26.

In early March, we will be celebrating our community with our most important fundraiser of the year, the Spring Auction. The big event will take place on Saturday, March 7th, and in addition to the silent and live auctions held that evening, Temple Sinai members can get in on the fun by bidding online for opportunities at local restaurants, museums, theaters, and more! Check the TS weekly emails for more information.

Soon after, we will be celebrating Purim with

our costume parades, enjoying delicious hamantaschen while twirling our groggers each time Haman's name is uttered during our spirited retelling of the story of Esther.

Several faculty professional development events will also be occurring during the winter months as we extend our learning on a number of topics including the Kidpower safety skills introduced this fall by Dr. Amy Tiemann, author of *Doing Right by Our Kids: Protecting Child Safety at All Levels*. We will also be sharing with one another what we learned in the sessions we attended at the Jewish Early Childhood Education Conference in December and continuing our training on the implementation of the Kimochi curriculum for social-emotional communication.

Our mitzvah project for the winter is our Diaper Drive in March, which brings the concept of social action to the children in a meaningful and authentic way. We will have bins by the Nursery School entrances and our office to collect diapers along with wipes, formula, feminine hygiene products, and toilet paper. We would love your help in supporting the DC Diaper Bank!

Tours for the 2020-2021 school year will continue and, as always, our greatest resource in drawing families to our program is through community word-of-mouth. We welcome Temple Sinai members and friends to visit our program and become a part of our early childhood family! Please contact us at 202-362-3836 or [nurseryschool@templesinaidc.org](mailto:nurseryschool@templesinaidc.org) if you have questions or wish to join a tour.

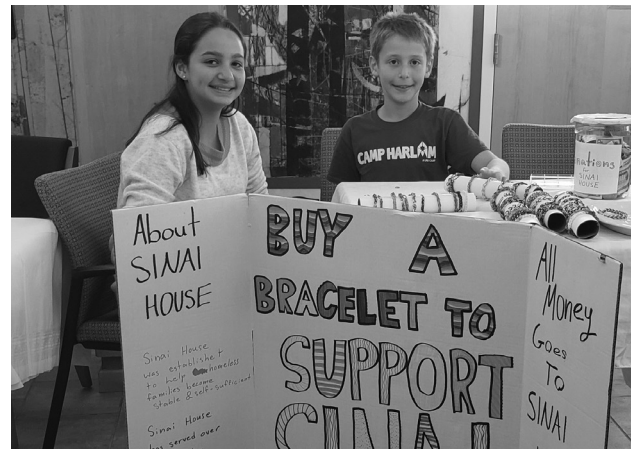
# SINAI HOUSE

**A**t the annual Homes & Hearts Shabbat on Friday, November 22, Sinai House resident, Yoshiko Chikuni, spoke of her journey from Japan with her young son, from homelessness after she left an abusive relationship in the U.S., then to Sinai House, and soon to independence and home ownership for her and her now teen-aged son. Yoshiko ended by thanking all the volunteers and supporters of Sinai House. She emphasized that even small donations helped to change the lives of herself and others who have gone or will go through the Sinai House program. Following the shabbat service, everyone enjoyed a festive reception while listening to wonderful music from Peter Runk, Julie Siegel, Don Squires and Steve Zurier of the Middle Matzah Conspiracy.

**Volunteer Needed** to tutor a first-grade boy once a week for one hour on a weekday between 4 and 6 pm at the child's school in the Petworth area. E-mail [sinaihouse@gmail.com](mailto:sinaihouse@gmail.com) if you are interested.



*Sinai House speaker Yoshiko Chikuni, Sinai House Board President Amy Schear, Executive Director Sadija Smiley, and Yoshiko's son at the 2019 Homes & Hearts Shabbat Service.*



*Kudos to Rose and Paul Sussman, who have sold their handmade bracelets at the Chanukah Mart to raise money for Sinai House for the past several years.*

## Mark Your Calendars!

### **Baked Goods Give-Away**

**Sunday, March 22, 2020 from 10:30-11:30 AM | Keshet Space in the Classroom Wing at Temple Sinai**

Chat with Sinai House Board Members while munching on free homemade baked goods. Ask your 3rd grade Religious School students about the special Sinai House program that will be presented on that day.

### **Sixth Annual Tricia Davis 5K for Sinai House**

**Sunday, May 10, 2020 at Rock Creek Park**

Your participation supports Sinai House and inspires our residents! Visit [SinaiHouseDC5K.com](http://SinaiHouseDC5K.com) or email us to

- Register as a runner or walker
- Start your own Personal Fundraising Page (Easy way to raise money by inviting your friends and family to support your run, and a great B'nei Mitzvah project!)
- Become a Sponsor (Your company name or logo can be on the Race T-shirt and in the Virtual Race-Day booklet sent to all registrants.)

## Friday Shabbat Schedule Guide

**1<sup>st</sup> Friday:** Tot Shabbat Services at 6:00 PM, preceded by a Prozdor (appetizers) at 5:30 PM

**All Fridays:** Shabbat Services at 6:30 PM, preceded by a Prozdor (appetizers) at 6:00 PM

*Due to decreasing turnout at our first Friday of the month 8:00p service, we are trying something new. As of January 2020, we are piloting a program to move the first month's Friday evening Shabbat service to 6:30p. There will be no service at 8:00p. Tot Shabbat will remain the first Friday of the month at 6:00p. If you have feedback about this change, please feel free to share it with a member of the clergy. Thank you for your willingness to try out this new service time.*

Service descriptions and other information can be found at [templesinaidc.org/worship](http://templesinaidc.org/worship)

Looking to sign up for a Shabbat dinner?  
Visit [templesinaidc.eventbrite.com](https://templesinaidc.eventbrite.com)



## Tot Shabbat Services & Participatory Dinners

**1st Friday of the month at 6 PM**

A Shabbat experience designed for families with infants through pre-K children. Services are followed by

participatory dinners with kids' activities and time for parents to chat.

## Kehillat Shabbat Services

**1st & 3rd Saturday of the month at 10:30 AM**

These lay-led services offer opportunities to chant a few verses of Torah or Haftarah in a supportive atmosphere. Participants can also sign up to deliver a d'var Torah (analysis of the weekly Torah portion) that leads to a group discussion. The temple provides lunch following services.

## Family Shabbat Services

**2nd Saturday of the month at 10:30 AM**

Using the family-friendly prayer book, *Siddur Ma Tov*, the service alternates between Hebrew and English, introducing Shabbat morning prayers in a meaningful format for all ages. The temple provides lunch following services.

### Friday, January 3

6:00 PM Tot Shabbat Service & Dinner  
6:30 PM Shabbat Service

### Saturday, January 4

*Torah Reading: Vayigash (Genesis 44:18-47:27)*

9:15 AM Torah Study  
10:30 AM Kehillat Shabbat Service & Kiddush Luncheon  
10:30 AM Shabbat Service – B'nei Mitzvah of Hannah Kubler & Skyler Lawson  
5:30 PM Shabbat Mincha Service – B'nei Mitzvah of Asher Herman & Louis Pohle

### Monday, January 6

2:00 PM TSWRJ Mah Jongg

### Tuesday, January 7

10:00 AM Rabbi's Class

### Wednesday, January 8

7:00 PM Temple Sinai Nursery School Dan Shapiro Book Launch  
7:30 PM TSWRJ Mah Jongg

### Thursday, January 9

10:00 AM Mazo Education Series: Multiracial Sinai Discussion Group

### Friday, January 10

6:30 PM Shabbat Service

### Saturday, January 11

*Torah Reading: Va-y'chi (Genesis 47:28-50:26)*

9:15 AM Torah Study  
10:30 AM Family Shabbat Service & Kiddush Luncheon

### Sunday, January 12

12:00 PM Sinai Reads: *Good Talk*, Mira Jacob

### Monday, January 13

12:45 PM Daytimers

### Wednesday, January 15

7:30 PM TSWRJ Mah Jongg  
7:30 PM GVP Group Meeting

### Thursday, January 16

10:00 AM Mazo Education Series: Multiracial Sinai Discussion Group  
7:30 PM YAWS Meeting

### Friday, January 17

6:30 PM Shabbat Service

### Saturday, January 18

*Torah Reading: Sh'mot (Exodus 1:1-6:1)*

9:15 AM Torah Study  
10:30 AM Kehillat Shabbat Service & Kiddush Luncheon  
10:30 AM Shabbat Service – Bar Mitzvah of Nathan Marcus  
5:30 PM Shabbat Mincha Service – B'not Mitzvah of Gabrielle & Sasha Rappaport

### Tuesday, January 21

10:00 AM Rabbi's Class

### Wednesday, January 22

7:30 PM TSWRJ Mah Jongg

### Thursday, January 23

10:00 AM Mazo Education Series: Multiracial Sinai Discussion Group



**Friday, January 24**

6:30 PM Shabbat Service

**Saturday, January 25***Torah Reading: Va-eira (Exodus 6:2-9:35)*

9:00 AM Saturdays at Sinai

9:15 AM Torah Study

10:30 AM Shabbat Service – Bar Mitzvah of Gabriel Simon

**Sunday, January 26**

9:00 AM TSWRJ NIH Children's Inn Dinner Drop Off

3:00 PM Gun Violence Prevention Listening Session

**Monday, January 27**

2:00 PM TSWRJ Mah Jongg

**Wednesday, January 29**

7:30 PM Special Congregational Meeting

7:30 PM TSWRJ Mah Jongg

**Thursday, January 30**

10:00 AM Mazo Education Series: Multiracial Sinai Discussion Group

**Friday, January 31**

6:30 PM Shabbat Service

**February 2020****Saturday, February 1***Torah Reading: Bo (Exodus 10:1-13:16)*

9:15 AM Torah Study

10:30 AM Kehillat Shabbat Service &amp; Kiddush Luncheon: Jewish Disability Awareness &amp; Inclusion

10:30 AM Shabbat Service – Bar Mitzvah of Daniel Baime

1:00 PM Trope Class

5:30 PM Shabbat Mincha Service – Bat Mitzvah of Sarah Bocian

**Monday, February 3**

2:00 PM TSWRJ Mah Jongg

**Tuesday, February 4**

10:00 AM Rabbi's Class

**Wednesday, February 5**

7:30 PM TSWRJ Mah Jongg

**Thursday, February 6**

10:00 AM Mazo Education Series: Multiracial Sinai Discussion Group

**Friday, February 7**

6:00 PM Tot Shabbat Service &amp; Dinner

6:30 PM Shabbat Service

**Saturday, February 8***Torah Reading: B'shalach (Exodus 13:17-16:16)*

9:15 AM Torah Study

10:30 AM Family Shabbat Service &amp; Kiddush Luncheon

10:30 AM Shabbat Service – Bat Mitzvah of Elizabeth Ludwin

**Monday, February 10**

12:45 PM Daytimers

**Wednesday, February 12**

7:30 PM TSWRJ Mah Jongg

**Thursday, February 13**

10:00 AM Mazo Education Series: Multiracial Sinai Discussion Group

**Friday, February 14**

6:30 PM Shabbat Service

**Elections to the World Zionist Congress****Vote Online January 21-March 11**

Your vote is critical to maintaining a large Reform presence in Israel and the United States! The Reform Movement is counting on us to have every eligible person in our congregation vote. We're asking you to stand up for Israel and for our values. The more votes we get the more we are able to provide significant funds for our movement in Israel, and build our political power.

As a congregation it is important for us to be leaders in our movement and build a future for Israel to be proud of. Your vote is the only democratic opportunity that we as American Jews have to influence Israeli society as we continue our efforts towards equality, pluralism and tolerance. Voting takes place online and will take less than 90 seconds to participate. If you're 18+ and identify as Jewish, we hope we can count on you to vote Reform.

Don't worry, you will hear more about this as we get close to the voting period. To get involved, please contact Miriam Daniel ([miriam.w.daniel@gmail.com](mailto:miriam.w.daniel@gmail.com)) or Larry Wolff ([Larrywolff@live.com](mailto:Larrywolff@live.com)).

**Saturdays at Sinai****Saturdays, January 25, February 22, and March 28 at 9 AM**

Join us in an open-play space for toddlers and preschoolers. Leave the house, bring your children and stay at

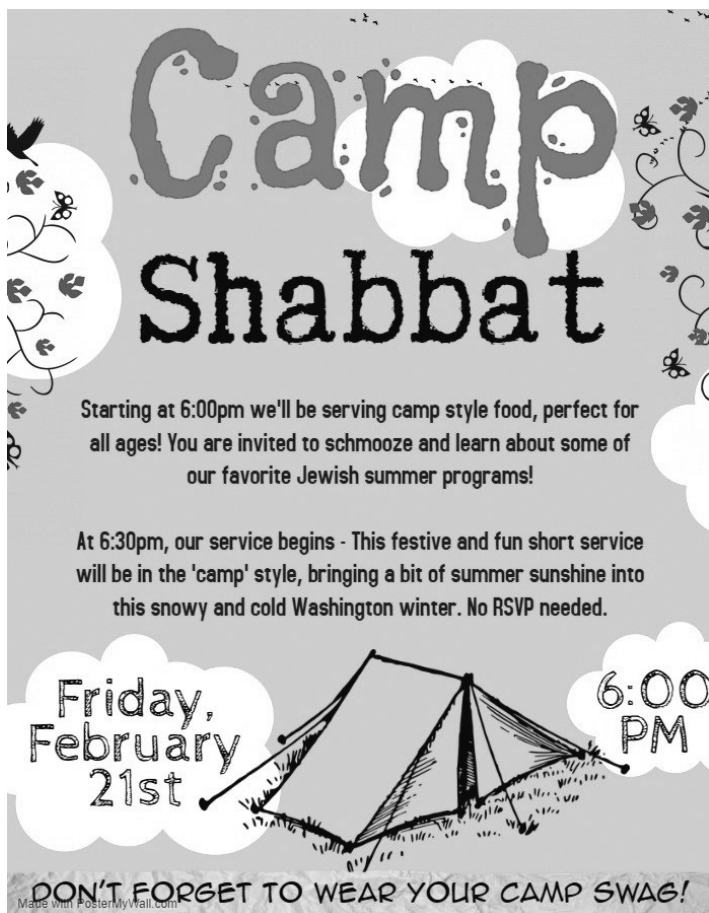
Sinai for a morning full of creative exploration and nurturing fun. Sinai clergy will visit and a Temple Sinai Nursery School faculty member will also be on hand. Please note, children must be accompanied by a parent/caregiver. All are welcome; no RSVP required.

**Special Congregational Meeting****Construction Financing & Capital Campaign Updates****Wednesday, January 29 at 7:30 PM**

Please plan to attend a special meeting of the congregation to hear updates on the Capital Campaign and building project, followed by an approval motion for construction financing. Invitation and materials to come in early-mid January.

**Disability Awareness & Inclusion Kehillat Shabbat**  
**Saturday, February 1 at 10:30 AM**

February is Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month (JDAIM). Join us for a lay-led Kehillat Shabbat service with special guest Stephanie Slater, Social Worker, Early Interventionist and Director of Early Childhood Development and Family Support at Adas Israel's Gan HaYeled Preschool. Services will be followed by a kiddush luncheon.



### Praying With Our Feet Saturday, February 22 at 9 AM



Praying With Our Feet has a simple mission: to celebrate the spirit of Shabbat by gathering with other Temple Sinai members to make the world a better place. After a short Shabbat prayer and chance to meet each other, our group will work at A Wider Circle until

noon. We will have the chance to do any of the tasks AWC needs from heavy lifting and moving furniture to sorting linens and baby toys.

**RSVP at [templesinaiidc.eventbrite.com](https://templesinaiidc.eventbrite.com)**

### Shabbat Healing Service & Kiddush Luncheon Saturday, February 29 at 9:30 AM

Please join us at a Shabbat morning services focused on healing our bodies, our souls and our spirits. All are welcome at this contemplative, relaxing and rejuvenating service. The TSWRJ Authors' Roundtable will take place following this service. See page 12 for details.

#### Saturday, February 15

*Torah Reading: Yitro (Exodus 18:1-20:23)*

- 9:15 AM Torah Study
- 10:30 AM Kehillat Shabbat Service & Kiddush Luncheon
- 10:30 AM Shabbat Service – Bat Mitzvah of Abigail Gertner
- 1:00 PM Trope Class
- 5:30 PM Shabbat Mincha Service – Bar Mitzvah of Caleb Murphy

#### Tuesday, February 18

- 10:00 AM Rabbi's Class

#### Wednesday, February 19

- 7:30 PM TSWRJ Mah Jongg

#### Thursday, February 20

- 7:30 PM YAWS Meeting

#### Friday, February 21

- 6:30 PM Camp Shabbat Service & Dinner

#### Saturday, February 22

*Torah Reading: Mishpatim (Exodus 21:1-24:18)*

- 9:00 AM Praying With Our Feet (at A Wider Circle)
- 9:00 AM Saturdays at Sinai
- 9:15 AM Torah Study
- 10:30 AM Shabbat Service – Bar Mitzvah of Jesse Bleckner

#### Monday, February 24

- 2:00 PM TSWRJ Mah Jongg

#### Tuesday, February 25

- 10:00 AM People of the Book Club: *Tale of Love and Darkness*, Amos Oz

#### Wednesday, February 26

- 7:30 PM TSWRJ Mah Jongg

#### Friday, February 28

- 6:30 PM Shabbat Shira Service featuring Seth Kibel & Dinner

#### Saturday, February 29

*Torah Reading: T'rumah (Exodus 25:1-27:19)*

- 9:00 AM TSWRJ Authors' Roundtable
- 9:15 AM Torah Study
- 9:30 AM Shabbat Healing Service
- 10:30 AM Shabbat Service – Bat Mitzvah of Rebecca Waldman

March 2020

#### Monday, March 2

- 2:00 PM TSWRJ Mah Jongg
- 7:00 PM Intro to Judaism Class

#### Tuesday, March 3

- 10:00 AM Rabbi's Class

#### Wednesday, March 4

- 7:30 PM TSWRJ Mah Jongg

#### Friday, March 6

- 6:00 PM Tot Shabbat Service & Dinner
- 6:30 PM Shabbat Service

#### Saturday, March 7

*Torah Reading: T'tzaveh (Exodus 27:20-30:10)*

- 9:15 AM Torah Study
- 10:30 AM Kehillat Shabbat Service & Kiddush Luncheon
- 1:00 PM Trope Class
- 6:00 PM Temple Sinai Nursery School Auction



**Sunday, March 8**

10:00 AM Family Purim Carnival

**Monday, March 9**

12:45 PM Daytimers

7:00 PM Adult Purim Celebration

**Wednesday, March 11**

7:30 PM 2022 Bar/Bat Mitzvah Logistics Meeting

7:30 PM TSWRJ Mah Jongg

**Thursday, March 12**

10:00 AM Mazo Adult Ed Series: Where Is Judaism Going?

7:30 PM TSWRJ Mah Jongg

**Friday, March 13**

6:30 PM Shabbat Service

**Saturday, March 14***Torah Reading: Ki Tisa (Exodus 30:11-34:35)*

9:15 AM Torah Study

10:30 AM Family Shabbat Service &amp; Kiddush Luncheon

10:30 AM Shabbat Service – B'not Mitzvah of Hannah Brooker &amp; Leia Levine

**Monday, March 16**

2:00 PM TSWRJ Mah Jongg

7:00 PM Intro to Judaism Class

**Tuesday, March 17**

10:00 AM Rabbi's Class

**Wednesday, March 18**

7:30 PM TSWRJ Mah Jongg

**Thursday, March 19**

10:00 AM Mazo Adult Ed Series: Where Is Judaism Going?

7:30 PM YAWS Meeting

**Friday, March 20**

6:30 PM Shabbat Service with 4th Grade Siddur Ceremony &amp; Dinner

**Saturday, March 21***Torah Reading: Vayak'heil – P'kudei (Exodus 35:1-40:38)*

9:15 AM Torah Study

10:30 AM Kehillat Shabbat Service &amp; Kiddush Luncheon

10:30 AM Shabbat Service – B'nei Mitzvah of Aaron Horowitz &amp; Jonah Schildkraut

1:00 PM Trope Class

5:30 PM Bar Mitzvah of Eli Schwartz

**Monday, March 23**

7:00 PM Intro to Judaism Class

**Wednesday, March 25**

7:30 PM TSWRJ Mah Jongg

**Thursday, March 26**

10:00 AM Mazo Adult Ed Series: Where Is Judaism Going?

**Friday, March 27**

6:30 PM Shabbat Service

**Saturday, March 28***Torah Reading: Vayikra (Leviticus 1:1-5:26)*

9:00 AM Saturdays at Sinai

9:15 AM Torah Study

10:30 AM Shabbat Service – B'nei Mitzvah of Simon Shallet &amp; Zachary Smith

**Monday, March 30**

7:00 PM Intro to Judaism Class



# PURIM 2020

## Family Celebration

**Sunday, March 8 at 10 AM**

Join us for a festive morning of spiling, singing and playing at the Purim Carnival! Tickets required.

## Adult Celebration

**Monday, March 9 at 7 PM**

Join us for a rollicking evening of frivolity, merriment, and fun. Yummy food and an open bar will be on hand to help your spirits soar. Purim at Temple Sinai isn't just for kids! No RSVP required.

Learn more at [templesinaidc.org/purim](https://templesinaidc.org/purim)

## Shabbat Service with 4th Grade Siddur Ceremony & Dinner

**Friday, March 20 at 6:30 PM**

Join together to celebrate Shabbat with our 4th grade students as they receive their own siddurim (prayer books) for the 1st time! And continue the Shabbat celebration with us after services at a festive dinner in celebration of this milestone in the lives of our 4th graders.

RSVP at [templesinaidc.eventbrite.com](https://templesinaidc.eventbrite.com)

To see our complete calendar, please visit our website, [www.templesinaidc.org](https://www.templesinaidc.org).

# SINAI STORIES

Story telling is a part of our Jewish tradition—it connects us with each other and our shared history, and binds us together for the future. Sinai Stories is a series about our own connections to one another, Temple Sinai, and the larger Jewish community.

If you are interested in sharing your story, please email coordinator Marcie Solomon at [marcie.solomon@gmail.com](mailto:marcie.solomon@gmail.com).

## DEVELOPING CONNECTIONS

Sophia Lager

For the past two years, I've been working to develop Connections, a program for preschool-aged kids on the autism spectrum. I started Connections because of my older brother, Matthew, who is on the autism spectrum. When he was young, there were very few social opportunities available, especially during the summer when most kids were at camp having fun. Recently, he commented on feeling as if he missed out on many regular childhood experiences. I started dreaming about a program that I thought he would have loved, to give more kids the chance to have fun, bond with peers, and step out of their comfort zone. This dream gradually became the reality of Connections.

After a lot of advice from mentors and careful planning, I received a generous grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington to fund the program. Next, I had to find the right place to hold the program, and Temple Sinai was the ideal place to do so. I sat down with Rabbi Goldstein to brainstorm details about Connections, and at first it seemed like a crazy, far-fetched idea. With the help of an incredible Occupational Therapist, Speech Language Pathologist, and Special Education Teacher as well as the dedicated Temple Sinai staff, we brought this to life. The few programs that exist for children with autism are primarily therapeutic. Connections was made with a different focus: I wanted our kids to learn, connect, and grow through play and for the synagogue to become a safe and familiar place. We made sure it was free of charge so that it was accessible to any family that wanted to participate.

We held our first session in August, and it was a fantastic week. We had circle time, read books, sang songs, and ran through obstacle

courses. We played in water, rice bins, and with paint. Throughout the week, I saw a tremendous shift in the kids: their faces lit up when they saw their new friends and they jumped straight into new and unfamiliar activities. By the end of the week, the kids were inseparable and were running around the synagogue as if they had been there forever, as well as engaging eagerly with all the kids in the Temple Sinai camps.

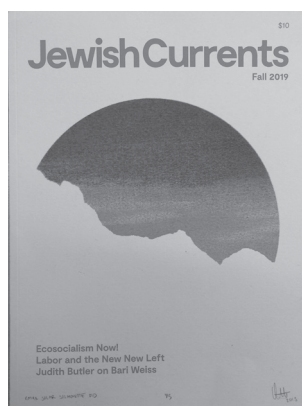


I want to thank the Connections families for trusting us with their wonderful kids during our inaugural year. Our team loved seeing the kids every day and excitedly looked forward to helping them navigate the challenges of a complex world in a nurturing, safe environment. I'm proud to report a huge transformation in everyone touched by this program, especially the temple. This program helped further Sinai's mission of inclusion and acceptance. What unlocked this potential was a committed and experienced staff, a welcoming, open-minded atmosphere, and the children's willingness to grow. It's difficult to embrace a new idea and a new program, yet the children, their families, and Temple Sinai did so with grace and sensitivity.

Now I'm dreaming again, and this time about next summer. I hope to expand Connections to serve more kids. This will require hard work to secure funding and support from new sources. No matter what, it will be worth it. I can't wait to see what will happen in the future.

*Coordinator's Note: This is the second in a series of Sinai Stories by or about Temple Sinai youth.*

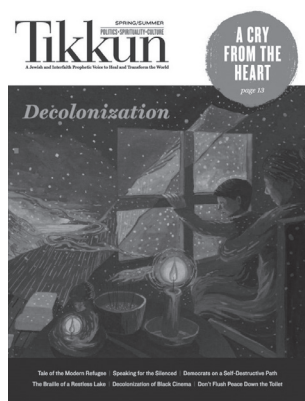
# TS LIBRARY



## Celebrating Tu B'Shvat & Purim

Tu B'Shvat falls on February 10. Visit the library to borrow a haggadah; be inspired to create your own from the texts, literature, and poetry on display; or download one. On-line resources can readily be found by searching "haggadah for tu b'shevat" (note alternative spellings for web searching, e.g., "tu b'shvat"). Exemplary websites for haggadot, recipes, and activities are [www.rac.org](http://www.rac.org); [www.pjlibrary.org](http://www.pjlibrary.org); [www.myjewishlearning.com](http://www.myjewishlearning.com); [www.circleboston.org](http://www.circleboston.org); and [www.reformjudaism.org](http://www.reformjudaism.org).

Purim is March 9. Don't forget to check out our cookbook selection for a twist on your usual hamentashen recipe. You may want to try more than one to bake enough to fill shalach manot goodie bags for your friends and neighbors!



The library subscribes to 11 periodicals. Relax in one of our comfy armchairs and catch up on the latest in literature, archeology, news, opinions, social action, and so much more.

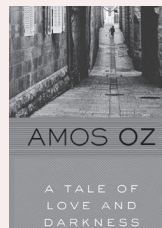
## Temple Sinai Book Groups

The library co-sponsors book discussion groups that meet on Sundays and Tuesdays. Join us for either or both of these upcoming events led by Rabbi Goldstein. No RSVP required.



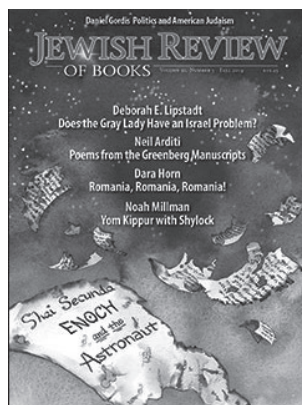
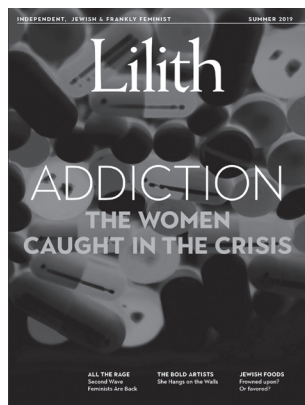
### Sunday, January 12 at 12 PM

*Good Talk: A Memoir in Conversations*, by Mira Jacobs. "A bold, wry, and intimate graphic memoir about American identity, interracial families, and the realities that divide us."



### Tuesday, February 25 at 10 AM

Amos Oz's memoir, *A Tale of Love and Darkness*, "A family saga and a magical self-portrait of a writer who witnessed the birth of a nation and lived through its turbulent history."



## Library Fund: TS Circle of Book Lovers

Become a member of the TS Circle of Book Lovers and support the TSLibrary:

- Purchasing new books for people of all ages
- Providing resources to support TS initiatives including Social Action, Multiracial Sinai and Daytimers
- Supporting TS education programs such as nursery school story hours, teen engagement, and lifelong learning
- Sponsoring TS Book Discussion Groups

A donation of \$36 will help us buy two books, but larger donations are, of course, welcome, and any amount is appreciated. You can give online by selecting "Library" from the Temple's Donations page or by check (designate "Library Fund" in the memo line). Thanks for your support!

Follow us on Twitter @TSDCLibrary for Jewish book news and Temple Sinai Library and book activities!



# ADULT EDUCATION

## Mazo Education Series

### **Building Racial Stamina in Jewish Community**

**Thursdays, January 9, 16, 23, 30, February 6 and 13 at 10 AM**

This facilitated discussion group will provide space to develop what author Robin DiAngelo calls “racial stamina,” the ability to think and talk about race effectively. This group will help each person explore their own racial identity, increase awareness of the impact of race and better understand how to affirm and embrace all people at Temple Sinai.

This program is being coordinated by the Multiracial Sinai Committee. Registration includes a copy of the book *White Fragility*. To facilitate continuity, we ask that participants miss no more than one or two sessions. Another session will be held in the spring.

### **Where Is Judaism Going? A Cultural Look at Judaism from American and Israeli Perspectives**

**Thursdays, March 12, 19, 26 and April 2 at 10 AM**

During this class, students will begin with an overview of Judaism in the United States from the early 20th century to today. The focus will then shift to Israeli Judaism and Jews, including an in depth look at the Israeli “tribes” and their Jewish identity. Next, students will consider where the Jewish community is going from here and look at the divergence of the two largest Jewish communities.

*This class will be taught by Professor Itzik Eshel.*



### **Daytimers**

**Mondays, January 13, February 10, and March 9**

We usually meet on the 2nd Monday of every month at 12:45 PM. These brown-bag lunch programs are designed to

be both social and educational. For further information on the topics covered each month, stop by the TS Library's Daytimers display.

**In January**, we welcome Robert Aubry Davis and Jane Horwitz for “So Everybody's a Critic-Right? Cultural Events Around Town.”

**In February**, we welcome Professor Itzel Eshel for “The Israel Elections: Whats Next?”

**In March**, we welcome Carl Gershman for “The Holocaust in Ukraine.”

### **Trope Class**

**Saturdays, February 1, 15, March 7, 21, April 4, 18 at 1 PM**

Learn to chant Torah and Haftarah, review, or improve your current skills in this accessible and engaging trope class. Taught by Cantorial Soloist Robyn Helzner, the class will be held following Kehillat Shabbat lunch February-April. There is no charge for the class but please register so we can prepare the correct number of workbooks.



### **Rabbi's Class: Tremendous Texts in Memory of Rabbi Aaron Panken**

**1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 10 AM**

This year's class inspired by and in memory of one of the most popular classes taught at HUC-JIR by Rabbi Aaron Panken, z"l, professor of rabbinic literature and president of HUC-JIR, continues. Each session stands on its own; please come even if you cannot make every session. Those who attend every session, however, will find that the material builds on previous lessons and ultimately provides an overview of rabbinic literature and a deeper understanding how Judaism responds to some of the big questions of life.

*This class is led by Rabbi Roos and sponsored by the TSWRJ. It runs October 2019-May 2020. All are welcome.*

### **Shabbat Morning Torah Study**

**Every Saturday at 9:15 AM**

A wonderful educational opportunity awaits all who attend weekly Torah Study on Saturday mornings. Led by our clergy, this group focuses on the Torah reading for the week. All are welcome.

## Multiracial Sinai

Temple Sinai is committed to undertaking transformational internal steps to further affirm and enhance our identity as a multiracial Reform Jewish community. Multiracial Sinai is committed to supporting those steps by helping guide Temple Sinai in becoming an affirmatively antiracist congregation. For more information about Multiracial Sinai, check out the Multiracial Sinai page on the Temple Sinai website, under Gathering. You'll also find a link to the piece by Rabbi Goldstein and Deitra Reiser, "'Did Something Happen?' How We Started the Work of Becoming an Anti-Racist Synagogue." Please contact Rabbi Hannah Goldstein ([hgoldstein@templesinaidc.org](mailto:hgoldstein@templesinaidc.org)), lead clergy for Multiracial Sinai, or Multiracial Sinai co-chairs Deitra Reiser ([deitralou@gmail.com](mailto:deitralou@gmail.com)) and Cathy Goldwyn ([cgoldwyn1@icloud.com](mailto:cgoldwyn1@icloud.com)) with questions about the work of Multiracial Sinai.

### Multiracial Sinai Info Email List

The purpose of the Multiracial Sinai Information Email List is to share information about the work of Multiracial Sinai with interested Temple Sinai congregants. Please contact Cathy Goldwyn ([cgoldwyn@icloud.com](mailto:cgoldwyn@icloud.com)) to join the email list.

## Intro to Judaism

**Mondays, March 22-June 2 at 7 PM**

Engage with Jewish values, celebrations, spirituality, and community in the Union for Reform Judaism's Introduction to Judaism class, an engaging 16-session course for anyone who wants to gain a deeper understanding of Jewish life through a Reform Jewish lens.

Open to all, this course is designed for individuals and couples from various faith traditions and cultural backgrounds and those who have had no religious upbringing. The course is perfect for interfaith couples, those raising Jewish children, spiritual seekers, individuals considering conversion, and Jews who want a meaningful adult Jewish learning experience.

Join our class where everyone and their questions are welcome! This class will be led by Rabbi Stephanie Bernstein.

## Jewish Heritage Tour to Portugal

**November 8-18, 2020**

Follow in the footsteps of Sephardic Jews who made Portugal their home, with Cantorial Soloist Robyn Helzner.

- Visit synagogues and Jewish museums in Porto, Trancoso, Belmonte, Tomar and Lisbon
- Celebrate Shabbat with the Lisbon Jewish community
- Learn about the Anusim - Jews forcibly converted to Christianity who practiced Judaism
  - in secret for hundreds of years
- Explore royal castles and historic universities
- Experience port wine tasting
- Sing melodies of the Portuguese Jews



*"We loved every moment of the trip and will treasure our memories forever." –Craig M.*

Register by February 9, 2020 and receive a \$200 early bird reduction in the land costs. Learn more at [www.helzner.com](http://www.helzner.com) or e-mail [rhelzner@templesinaidc.org](mailto:rhelzner@templesinaidc.org).



# THE RIMONIM SOCIETY

"In the early 1970s, as a young family living in Gaithersburg, we realized that if we wanted to be part of a Jewish community and for our children to have Jewish experiences, we needed to take some responsibility to make that happen. So we joined a group that had just formed. We were active. We worked with our fellow members to provide a place to hold services, to educate our children, and to congregate as a community. And within a few years, with everyone pitching in, we were able to raise the funds to build a synagogue that still serves upper Montgomery County Jewish families.



About 20 years ago, then living down-county, we discovered Temple Sinai. It has been a treasured part of our lives ever since. We have found a strong, engaged Jewish community, with a superb, forward-thinking clergy. We met people who have become dear friends with whom we've shared many occasions. We have been enriched by the services, educational programs, and activities here.

All the good things we appreciate about Temple Sinai cannot exist in a vacuum, however. They require a functional, up-to-date physical plant. Our sanctuaries, the classrooms in which are children are taught, the all-purpose room where so many joyous events and educational programs have been held, the Temple library, and the administrative offices all are essential places for carrying out the services and programs we want at Temple Sinai.

We have long believed that as Jews, we have an obligation to support building, maintaining, and improving the synagogue as an institution because of the vital part it plays in developing, experiencing, and passing on our history, culture, traditions, and values. We care greatly about providing the facilities and means for perpetuating the Jewish faith, Jewish identity, and Jewish community in our children's and grandchildren's generations.

We share with so many others at Temple Sinai the dream of expanding and modernizing our synagogue to achieve those goals. As one part of our financial support for that work, and to help ensure the sustainability of Temple Sinai for generations to come, we have chosen to leave a legacy gift. We hope our family and others will understand it as a message that we believe in the future of Judaism and take some personal responsibility for helping create that future. May it also be an inspiration to others to consider doing the same for Temple Sinai and, by extension, play a part in perpetuating the Jewish people.

**- Bobbe and Herb Mintz, Rimonom members since 2019**

The Rimonom Society recognizes those individuals who have included Temple Sinai in their estate plans or established another type of planned gift. It is fitting that members of the Rimonom Society are the congregation's own rimonom (or pomegranates), planting the many seeds for a vibrant future and sustaining the temple. Their gifts create a legacy for the congregation and continuity of the Jewish people.

We recognize and thank our current Rimonom Society members.

Esthy & Jim Adler  
Chris Intagliata & Larry Asbell  
Ruth Baker-Battist & Lewis Battist\*  
Lois & Edward\* Berkowitz  
Rabbi Stephanie Bernstein & Henry Winokur  
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\* Of Blessed Memory

If your name is not listed and you have included Temple Sinai in your estate plans or if you have questions about future legacy giving, please contact Ellen Agler at 202-363-6394 x210 or [eagler@templesinaidc.org](mailto:eagler@templesinaidc.org).

# CONTRIBUTIONS

Temple Sinai gratefully acknowledges your gifts from mid-August to early December 2019; those honored are informed of your thoughtfulness. Your contributions support the work of the temple.

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Sara Annie Altman	Evan Leepson & Gail Guttman
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Debbie Barr	Marion Usher

### RABBI FRED N. REINER LIFELONG LEARNING FUND

<b>Donated By</b>	
Gertrude Slifkin	
<b>In Appreciation Of</b>	<b>Donated By</b>
Rabbi Reiner	Lew Priven

### RABBI GOLDSTEIN'S FUND

<b>In Appreciation Of</b>	<b>Donated By</b>
Rabbi Goldstein	Robert & Janis Colton Karen Jakes
<b>In Honor Of</b>	<b>Donated By</b>
The marriage of Rabbi Hannah Goldstein & Josh Friedman	Ethan Grossman & Diane Ambler Sandra Schwarzbart
The wedding of Micah Lubens & Cara Baldari	Richard & Rebecca Lubens
The Bar-Mitzvah of Skyler Wolff	Evan & Sondra Wolff

### RABBI LIPMAN SOCIAL ACTION & TZEDAKAH FUND

<b>In Appreciation Of</b>	<b>Donated By</b>
The Work of the Multiracial Sinai Committee	Peter Winkler & Barbara Kraft
<b>In Honor Of</b>	<b>Donated By</b>
The birthday of Rita Gaylin	Jed Gaylin & Lia Purpura
<b>In Memory Of</b>	<b>Donated By</b>
Deborah Barr	Lisa Barr & the Ball Class of the Silver Spring YMCA, Richard & Elaine Binder, Fred & Marcella Brighton, Linda Hirsch, Ann Ingram, Marvin & Madeleine Kalb, Joseph & Elaine Paster, Prudence Rosenthal, Liz Schrayner, Bernice Smotrich, Elise Weisbach, Howard, Susan, & Rebecca Weiss, Enid Wolfson Ann Ingram
Hart L. Livingston & Bertram Felton	Esther Lipman
Reva Swartz	Stephen Stein & Lisa Happ
Nancy Happ	<b>Donated By</b>
<b>In Support Of</b>	Leonard & Evelyn Coburn
Refugee Resettlement	Isabel Dunst Glenn & Michelle Engelmann Ruth Polk & Shmuel Shoham Jonathan & Elizabeth Roos Michael & Apple Sussmann

### RABBI ROOS'S FUND

<b>Donated By</b>	
Daniel & Stacey Kohl	
<b>In Appreciation Of</b>	<b>Donated By</b>
The baby naming of Charlie Berman	Peter Bergman & Emily Loesche
Rabbi Roos	Robert & Janis Colton Henry Friedman & Joanne Kurtzberg Sheila Leavitt Benjamin Messner Lew Priven Michael Lilek & Rosann Wisman
<b>In Honor Of</b>	<b>Donated By</b>
The Bat Mitzvah of Julia Schiffman	Steven & Susan Schiffman



### RABBI ROSENWASSER'S FUND

#### In Appreciation Of

Rabbi Rosenwasser

#### Donated By

Robert & Janis Colton  
Perry Pockros &  
Patricia Neuman  
Gertrude Slifkin

#### In Memory Of

Goldie Dube

#### Donated By

Karen Jakes

### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

#### In Appreciation Of

The services for Nina Merrick

#### In Honor Of

The Bat Mitzvah of Margaret  
Sussmann

#### Donated By

Marsha Aaron

#### Donated By

Apple & Michael Sussmann

### RITUAL OBJECTS & PRAYER BOOKS FUND

#### Donated By

Richard & Elaine Binder, Josh Goldberg, Temple Sinai Women  
of Reform Judaism

#### In Memory Of

Joseph Feldman

#### Donated By

Robert & Susan Fratkin

### SINAI HOUSE

#### Donated By

Glen & Lauren Howard, Kevin & Laura Hardy, Daniel &  
Maxine Singer, Jack & Laura Summer, Leonard Shambon  
& Josephine Russo, Bruce Vinik & Ginny Levin, Sherman  
Edwards & Melinda Salzman, Greater Washington Community  
Foundation, The Howard & Jacqueline Chertkoff Foundation,  
Whiting-Turner Contracting Company

#### In Honor Of

Michael Mandel  
The Bar Mitzvah of Ben Blier  
The Bar Mitzvah of Graham  
Maxwell Rogers  
The birthday of David DuGoff

The birthday of Liz Trosman  
The 96th birthday of  
Norman Friedman  
The birthday of Amy Schear

#### Donated By

Vivienne Lassman  
Andy & Ellie Glass  
Gail Cohen & Alec Rogers

Kevin Mulshine &  
Laura Forman  
David Dugoff & Victoria Bor  
Meg Seldin &  
Reuben Altizer  
Leslie & Andrew Schultz,  
The Causeway Agency,  
Michael & Lisa Schultz, Amy  
Schmidt, Melanie Moreno,  
Patricia Fisher, Dina Gold,  
Aaron & Jenifer Panner,  
Joan Shifrin & Michael  
Faber, Ilene Citrin,  
Georgiana Forrester,  
Joanne Hurt, Wendy Bogart,  
Joseph Cullen & Michele  
Altemus, Debra Bolog,  
Leslie Lane, Sandra Talley,  
Kristine Aono, Susan  
Simon, Carol Bieberbach,  
Gerald & Deborah Burg,  
Richard Lehfelddt & Linda  
Karson, Ellen Ginsberg,  
Michael Moncavage & Mary  
Taylor, Myra Silberstein

## Ways to Give

Temple Sinai relies on the generosity of our members for critical financial support. Annual member financial commitments and additional voluntary contributions allow us to go above and beyond to enrich members' Jewish lives and identities. There are many different ways you can provide philanthropic support to Temple Sinai in a way that is most convenient for you and your family:

- **Gifts of cash or check** can be mailed to the temple or dropped off at the temple front office.
- **Transfer of securities** make a meaningful contribution while avoiding capital gains taxes.
- For donors of 70.5 years of age or older, donating from the **Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)** of your retirement account to Temple Sinai avoids adding the distribution to your taxable income for the year.
- **Online gifts can be made by credit card** for additional voluntary contributions.
- **Grants** from corporate or personal sources can be made to the temple.

You can also make a testamentary gift to Temple Sinai and join the many members of the Rimonim Society:

- **Outright Bequests** can be made by including Temple Sinai in your estate plans.
- You can include Temple Sinai as a beneficiary of your **Life Insurance** or **Retirement Plans**.
- **Charitable Gift Annuities** or **Remainder Trusts** can include Temple Sinai as a beneficiary in coordination with other organizations.

Visit [www.templesinaidc.org/donate](http://www.templesinaidc.org/donate) or contact our Development Office at [nbenjamin@templesinaidc.org](mailto:nbenjamin@templesinaidc.org) to learn more. Thank you so much for all you do to make Temple Sinai a Kehillah Kedoshah!

# GET INVOLVED

Temple Sinai is a community that values the active engagement of members in leadership and community-building. Committees, Task Forces, and Program Groups work in partnership with staff to help shape the direction of temple life and to engage members with particular interests and skills. Contact a liaison below to learn about how you can get involved:

## LIAISON

## COMMITTEE

David Wessel  
[wessel.sinai@gmail.com](mailto:wessel.sinai@gmail.com)  
 (202) 244-7118

**Administration** We provide guidance regarding office functions and general management of the congregation working in close coordination with the Executive Director.

Susan Schiffer  
[susanschiffer@hotmail.com](mailto:susanschiffer@hotmail.com)  
 (202) 966-3947

**Archives** We preserve the history of Temple Sinai by collecting and organizing its documents and photographs. We welcome new volunteers and are especially interested in finding people to research and write about the history of Temple Sinai.

Marta Goldsmith  
[marta.v.goldsmith@gmail.com](mailto:marta.v.goldsmith@gmail.com)  
 (202) 966-1306

**Building & Grounds** We oversee the repair and maintenance of the physical plant and grounds, and ensure adherence to environmental "green" principles.

Ted Rosen  
[gted666@gmail.com](mailto:gted666@gmail.com)  
 (301) 530-3403

**Cemetery** We coordinate the sale and marketing of Temple Sinai section at Garden of Remembrance Cemetery.

Ron Merrill  
[RNL.Merrill@msn.com](mailto:RNL.Merrill@msn.com)  
 (301) 365-0894

**Daytimers** We plan monthly lunch-time programs and speakers, giving congregants opportunities for socializing and providing them with new insights on a variety of topics.

Ken Jaffe  
[ken.jaffe@gmail.com](mailto:ken.jaffe@gmail.com)  
 (301) 951-7002

**Development** We work closely with Development staff, the Clergy and the Executive Director to create and oversee a plan for raising needed funds for temple operations and designated strategic priorities through philanthropic contributions and support.

Marcie Solomon  
[marcie.solomon@gmail.com](mailto:marcie.solomon@gmail.com)  
 (202) 362-4331

**Finance, Audit & Investment** We act on behalf of the Board of Trustees to oversee management of temple finances, including the annual audit and investment decisions, making regular reports to the board to support the Board's fiduciary responsibilities.

Regina Ziegler  
[zieglerrg@gmail.com](mailto:zieglerrg@gmail.com)  
 (301) 530-7607  
 Robyn Miller-Tarnoff  
[robymnt@comcast.net](mailto:robymnt@comcast.net)  
 (301) 320-4491

**Green Team** We develop environmentally conscious improvements at Temple Sinai and encourage similar commitments at the individual and community levels. We have also established a network to inform members about environmental programs, challenges, and opportunities at the local, regional, national, and global level as well as facilitate and coordinate action.

Mindy Garfinkel  
[mindy20814@gmail.com](mailto:mindy20814@gmail.com)  
 (301) 530-5228

**Israel Affairs** We help Temple Sinai engage in dialogue about Israeli current events in ways that reflect and respect the diverse perspectives within the congregation while also affirming Reform Judaism's position of support for the ideals upon which Israel was founded.

Sue Levine  
[levsue@gmail.com](mailto:levsue@gmail.com)

**Library** We work to maintain and expand our collection of Jewish materials for congregants of all ages, assisting in strengthening and enhancing our Jewish knowledge and identity.

Herb Mintz  
[mintzh@comcast.net](mailto:mintzh@comcast.net)  
 (202) 494-4026

Jill Chenok  
[chenokj@gmail.com](mailto:chenokj@gmail.com)  
 (301) 652-2941

**Membership** We celebrate new members and honor long-time members at our Member Celebration Shabbat each year. We personally deliver new members a Shabbat welcome bag, plan and organize small group gatherings throughout the year, and provide outreach to prospective members.

## LIAISON

Andrew Mannes  
[amannes@gmail.com](mailto:amannes@gmail.com)  
(301) 656-5552

Cathy Goldwyn  
[cgoldwyn1@icloud.com](mailto:cgoldwyn1@icloud.com)  
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(202) 686-5359

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(301) 915-0080

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[aishear@starpower.net](mailto:aishear@starpower.net)  
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(301) 652-2036

Lisa Tucker  
[lisahtucker@yahoo.com](mailto:lisahtucker@yahoo.com)  
(202) 364-6534

## COMMITTEE

**TSMRJ** We coordinate a variety of activities designed to serve Jewish men and the temple community, including educational events, social events, and support for temple holiday services.

**Multiracial Sinai** We provide guidance in affirming Temple Sinai's identity as a multiracial congregation and in identifying opportunities for improvement in aspects of our congregational life. We are committed to guiding Temple Sinai in becoming an affirmatively antiracist congregation through education, training, affinity groups and other programming.

**Music** We work with Senior Cantor Laura Croen to bring a wide range of vibrant musical programs, along with related festive dinners and onegs, to our community.

**Nursery School** We work with the Nursery School Director to review and establish policy, support the Nursery School and the Nursery School Parent Association.

**Religious School** We work with the Director of the Religious School to review and establish school policies and support the educational program, teaching staff, and Director.

**Ritual** We work with clergy to review ritual policies and practices for Shabbat, High Holy Day and festival services, and life cycle events.

**SinaiCares** We provide support to members at times of illness, loss, hardship and celebration. We use volunteers to visit members and to deliver challahs, yahrzeit candles and baby baskets and we arrange transportation for members to Temple Sinai.

**Sinai House** We oversee the work of Sinai House, which provides housing at Sinai House for four homeless families, including children. Located in NW Washington, DC, Sinai House was purchased by the Temple Sinai Assisted Housing Foundation.

**Social Action** We coordinate social action programming based on collaboration with clergy and Board leadership reflecting priorities identified by the membership. We formulate positions on critical social justice issues for Temple Sinai and develop and implement local strategies to work toward achieving them.

**Strategic Planning** We oversee development and implementation of the Strategic Plan and report progress to the Board and the Congregation.

**TSWRJ** We enrich and strengthen the spiritual, cultural, and social life of TSWRJ members and promotes the education and welfare of the congregation, including social justice. We use a Jewish lens to approach everything we do: programming, education, social justice and community. We sharpen leadership skills through training and engagement. We draw broadly from the temple's membership and participate in temple-wide programs and initiatives. We follow best practices in governance and financial management.

## RITUAL STAFF & DIRECTORS

**Jonathan Roos**

*Senior Rabbi*

[jroos@templesinaidc.org](mailto:jroos@templesinaidc.org)

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*Associate Rabbi*

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**Hannah Goldstein**

*Associate Rabbi*

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**Laura Croen**

*Senior Cantor*

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*Rabbi Emerita*

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