

## **SOCIAL ACTION**

Temple Sinai's social action efforts continue as strong as ever despite the pandemic! Temple Sinai members joined many of the various protests and vigils against systemic racism and racial injustice this summer. Although we weren't able to hold an in-person Summer Book Fair this year, Debby Litt was able to work with the reading specialist at Browne Education Campus to arrange for books to be distributed over the summer at Browne's meal distributions. Recently, Temple Sinai was awarded a mini-grant from the Gilbert and Eleanor Kraus Initiative for Immigrant and Refugee Justice at the Religious Action Center to support the Temple Sinai Refugee Tutoring and Educational Support Initiative in conjunction with Solutions in Hometown Connections. We are excited to be able to deepen further our commitment to supporting refugees and asylum seekers.



### **Get Out the Vote**

Temple Sinai's Get Out the Vote (GOTV) work group started in early June and will continue its efforts until the election.

Temple Sinai GOTV is partnering with the Religious Action Center (the RAC) and The Center for Common Ground's Reclaim Our Vote Campaign, a volunteer-driven, nonpartisan voter outreach campaign to help empower voters of color and fight voter suppression, especially in the South.

Temple Sinai's GOTV's initial goal was to contact 5,000 voters by the end of the summer. With a volunteer cohort of over 325 adults, middle and high school students, and college-aged volunteers, we've already sent almost 15,000 post cards and made over 3,000 phone calls. It's not too late to help!

### **Join the Temple Sinai's nonpartisan GOTV (Get Out the Vote) effort:**

- To write post cards, contact Carole Brand at [csbrand@verizon.net](mailto:csbrand@verizon.net)
- To telephone voters, contact Debby Litt at [debolitt@icloud.com](mailto:debolitt@icloud.com)
- To text voters, contact Glenn Engelmann at [glenn.engelmann@gmail.com](mailto:glenn.engelmann@gmail.com)

Every vote is important in this election. Be sure you have YOUR plan to vote in November!

### **Gun Violence Prevention Group**

On October 1, the GVPG is offering what is certain to be an engaging presentation: The Intersectionality of the Gun Violence Epidemic and the Coronavirus COVID-Pandemic: Summoning the Youth Response. This timely Webinar on October 1, 2020, at 7:30 pm will examine three questions:

1. Is there a connection or intersectionality between and among rising gun sales and gun violence and the COVID-19 Pandemic, systemic racism and other social and economic ills?
2. How can we focus and energize valuable youth activism to support ongoing gun violence prevention efforts? How can gun violence prevention advocates support youth activism

aimed at conditions that engender violence, such as economic and educational inequity, environmental racism and other ills?

3. What are current and emerging GVP issues in Maryland and elsewhere on which to focus?

Check the Temple Sinai calendar at <https://templesinaidc.org/events/> for details.



### Washington Interfaith Network

WIN's ambitious DC-wide agenda includes affordable housing and increasing Black home ownership and equity; jobs for returning citizens and residents of Wards 7 and 8; community safety and gun violence prevention; and holding utilities accountable for environmental justice, minority contracting, and fairness to ratepayers. WIN helped secure 2020-2021 DC budget outcomes advocated by its Fair Budget Coalition partners, including JUFJ and the DC Fiscal Policy Institute. But we're not resting on those laurels.

At Temple Sinai, our WIN team is organizing with Adas Israel and other NW DC congregations to:

- address affordable housing in affluent neighborhoods west of Rock Creek Park, and to join with WIN partners in demanding affordable housing, grocery stores and amenities at Reservation 13/RFK;
- address education equity, including school modernization, internet access and the digital divide; and
- engage Pepco in the context of its multi-year rate increase application and its less than stellar record of minority hiring and contracting.

We organize to bring in new Sinai voices and leverage the expertise and activism of our congregation. We support 35+ other DC WIN congregations in their fights for racial and economic justice in their neighborhoods. We educate each other to act. We testify at Council, meet with DC officials and private sector leaders, and bring the power of Sinai members together with other WIN congregations to make change happen.

Temple Sinai's participation in WIN is a way for us to act on our commitment to become an affirmatively antiracist congregation. For more information, check out [WIN's website](#) or contact Barbara Kraft, [bjkraft1@gmail.com](mailto:bjkraft1@gmail.com), (202) 365-0014.

### Final Thoughts

Please see the what the [MultiRacial Sinai](#) group has planned for the Fall and don't forget to contribute to the [TSWRJ High Holy Days Fund Drive for the Capital Area Food Bank](#).

Watch for more social action events in the weekly TS email and sign up for the Social Action Google Group. Be sure to review the social action menu on Temple Sinai's website for a list of the many initiatives we have underway at the synagogue. Contact Glenn Engelmann, Chair, Social Action Committee, at [glenn.engelmann@gmail.com](mailto:glenn.engelmann@gmail.com) with any questions or to join the Google Group.