

The background image shows the interior of a synagogue, specifically the sanctuary of Temple Sinai in Washington DC. The view is from the back of the sanctuary looking towards the front. The floor is covered with rows of dark wood chairs. In the center of the front is a wooden podium with a white screen. Behind the podium is a large, light-colored stone wall. On the wall, there is a central blue and gold artwork, flanked by two tall, narrow wooden sculptures. Above the central artwork is a smaller, curved wooden sculpture. To the right of the stone wall, a blue and white flag is visible. The ceiling has recessed lighting. The image is overlaid with a large green diagonal shape on the right side and a dark blue diagonal shape on the left side.

# 2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

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**B**elonging. Whether joyously celebrated by the women of TSWRJ on multiple hikes in Rock Creek Park, or collectively serving others through our newly launched Davis Center for Social Justice, or the intentionality of the Multiracial Sinai Committee that all who belong feel not only welcomed but comfortable, or the collective excitement about the opportunities to be provided by the continuing renovation and expansion of our building and grounds, the community of Temple Sinai has celebrated belonging from so very many places. As you read through this Annual Report you will no doubt appreciate the community-wide drive and determination to nurture a meaningful sense of belonging for all who call our community home. Indeed, the values reflected in the Temple Sinai Religious School's tagline of Significance, Belonging & Fun have more than ever infused the panoply of all of temple life.



Belonging. In the context of the twists and turns that Covid has taken us on this year, our clergy, staff and members have demonstrated an impressive flexibility and adventuresome spirit to optimize and maximize the meaning of connection for all. From those so eager to resume in-person gathering (wherever it might be) to those more cautious who are grateful for the opportunity to continue to participate virtually, Temple Sinai has cared about and been exquisitely sensitive to what adds to, and detracts from, individuals' and families' sense of belonging.

This year our schools never wavered from an empathic attunement to the challenges faced by our school families. My sense is that students and families have felt understood and supported, that they value belonging to the temple and feel significant, and that, masked or unmasked, inside or outside, that they have had lots of fun. Thank you to our deeply dedicated Religious School and Nursery School teams.

And thank you, our Temple Sinai of many cohorts, for your openness to experimentation, and for your patience in designing not only the programmatic what, but the person-centric where and how, so that all who have wanted to enrich their sense of belonging have been able to do so in a way comfortable to them.

May we continue to go from strength to strength, with flexibility and connection.

– *Marcie Solomon*

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## FROM THE SENIOR RABBI

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**T**here is a Hasidic folktale that conveys important values for Temple Sinai: A newlywed travels to meet Rabbi Yaakov Yitzchak, also known as “the Seer of Lublin,” hoping to become his newest disciple. Upon arrival, the rebbe foresees the man’s imminent death and, without revealing the vision, demands he return home immediately. The man believes the rebbe has simply rejected him and spends the night at an inn on the road home. A group of Hasids, en route to see the same rebbe, take rooms at the inn where they see the man weeping and alone and hear his story. Committed to bringing joy and meaningfulness to the world, they pass the night sitting together. They teach and learn Torah, sing, dance, eat, drink, and, the next day, carry the man back to the rebbe in celebratory style. The surprised rabbi hears their account of the night and reveals: it was written and sealed, the man was to die, but now I see that a group of people connected to each other and genuinely filled with love, joy, Torah, and good spirits can alter fate and change lives.



One of the most critical characters of the story is the innkeeper. Though never explicitly mentioned, the innkeeper creates and maintains the space where joy and meaning are made. Along with the innkeeper, of course, comes the inn, a space made sacred by people changing each other’s lives within it. This past year, we settled into our renovated sanctuary and social hall and, this summer, we look forward to the construction of new spaces for gathering. A congregation needs people like the Hasids of the story who help bring meaning to everyday events, and leaders like the rabbi who can organize and inspire them. We also need spaces that are safe, comfortable, and easy to access, so we can all play a role in the critical work of lifting each other’s spirits. This past year, and likely the one to come, finds us seeking opportunities to change our lives for the better.

For this Annual Report, we asked Sinai program leaders to reflect on the past year and highlight the spaces within which they have found strength and community. Curiously, when God calls Abraham into divine service for the first time in *Parashat Lech Lecha*, God sends him “to the place that I will show you.” The ambiguity is important, if initially unsettling, because it allows for flexibility, divine-human collaboration, and room to grow regarding the specifics of the space and its use. Abraham’s story and ours would quickly lose interest and purpose without “the place.” As we’ve learned over the past two years, sacred space can take many forms; sometimes, it’s not even a physical place at all. Take a look further into these pages at the sacred places you’ve known and the ones our fellow members can show you. With best wishes for a good summer and gratitude for another year of community well lived.

– **Rabbi Jonathan Roos**



## CONNECTING IN THE COMMUNITY

### SINAI CARES

In the past year, as people started to feel more comfortable leaving their homes, SinaiCares volunteers returned to the roads of DC and Montgomery County to **bring comfort and cheer to our members**. Challah, yahrzeit candle, and baby basket drop-offs restarted in January 2022, with a crop of new and seasoned volunteers making deliveries to members across town. For Purim, volunteers delivered 55 *mishloach manot* bags to members we thought would most benefit from a special touch. Members expressed their gratitude for this outreach by calling, e-mailing, and sending cards.

It was more challenging to connect one-on-one, in person, to share stories and news. But it did happen on a limited basis. A few volunteers were able to

arrange visits—in gardens and courtyards, at outdoor restaurants and indoors with masks.

In a time especially dependent on high-tech communication, SinaiCares relied on two old-fashioned means of communication over the past year: the telephone and the mail. Staff and clergy called members throughout the year just to check in and say hello, as we knew that so many of our members were going days without seeing other people. Our youngest religious school students made winter greeting cards and mailed them to some of our older members, sharing just a little bit of light in the dark winter days.

– *Karen Auerbach (staff)*

### SHABBAT BEYOND THE TEMPLE

Services at senior living facilities were mostly halted when the pandemic began. Governed by CDC guidelines, residents were often confined to their rooms when case numbers rose in their facility. Outdoor activities are not the option they are with younger, more mobile populations. Happily, independent and assisted living facilities re-opened for volunteer-led programs, and Friday afternoon and evening Shabbat services are starting back up. Sunrise on Connecticut Avenue invited me back for their small group of Jewish residents, and Friendship Terrace, an independent living community, has a group of 12 or more residents eager to gather, pray and have challah and wine. The Five Star Premier Residences on Connecticut Ave has a larger, active group of Jewish residents that Temple Sinai clergy and members have served for many years. Temple Sinai member Tom Plotz started bringing services to them.

As we have for many years, the Feinstein family, Ted Rosen, and I conducted Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur services for a large group of Five Star residents and their families. On Rosh HaShanah, Ted and I were inside, while the Feinstein family chose to creatively lead the service from the outdoor patio for the residents indoors.

Temple Sinai is fortunate to have these relationships with nearby senior living facilities and to be called on as a close-by resource for their Jewish residents. Additional temple members interested in leading these services would be welcome.

– *Ginny Levin*



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## CONNECTING WITH COMMITTEES

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### MUSIC COMMITTEE

Even with some detours due to the pandemic, the Music Committee continued its commitment to incorporating creative music into the temple's worship experience, both virtually and in person.

We were thrilled that a streamlined choir was able to be back in person this year at the High Holy Day services. Singing in the newly renovated sanctuary, the choir members wore masks, as did all the musicians. Congregants who weren't able to attend the service could watch it virtually. The music in the sanctuary continued with house band Middle Matzah Conspiracy bringing their **special brand of *ruach*** to the Chanukah service in December 2021.

Shabbat Shira, the Sabbath of Song, is always a special musical event, traditionally taking place in January or February. Past services have featured musicians ranging from klezmer to gospel to bluegrass, to name but a few. This year's event will take place on Friday, June 17. Entitled "On a Swing and a Prayer," it will feature jazz pianist Wayne Wilentz and his band, as well as the Temple Sinai choir. This will be followed by a festive oneg, in both the Social Hall and the outdoor patio venue, so people can stay socially distanced.

– *Stephanie Lebow and Myra Weinberg*

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Over the past year, the Temple Sinai Membership Committee worked to welcome and integrate our new members into our congregation in various spaces. We revamped our new member welcome bags to contain newly-minted Temple Sinai swag, a home baked treat, challah, fresh flowers, grape juice, and wine—everything families need to celebrate Shabbat in the space of their own homes. We took advantage of Temple Sinai's beautiful sukkah to hold an outdoor new member reception. Clergy, board members and new members mingled in person over snacks and crafts for kids.

By Chanukah, our gathering space had started to shift. We were able to welcome our new members at an indoor/outdoor Chanukah celebration, with services indoors in the social hall and sufganiyot and hot drinks outdoors on the tented patio. We initiated a **buddy program** to match new families with more

seasoned member families, so that in the absence of in-person programming at the temple, some of our families could begin to forge new connections.

Over Zoom, three members who work in the college admissions field hosted a panel on the impact of Covid on college admissions. This panel was an opportunity for Temple Sinai parents with high school-aged kids to come together in a virtual space to learn about and discuss a topic that is can be quite anxiety provoking for parents. Also over Zoom, we organized a member-moderated, year-long discussion group of Abigail Pogrebin's book, *My Jewish Year: 18 Holidays, One Wondering Jew*. While the group starting on Zoom, their space shifted from virtual to in-person, with the group meeting live for the first time in April.

– *Andrea Dettelbach & Karen Auerbach (staff)*

## DAYTIMERS COMMITTEE

During the past year, the DayTimers Committee has conducted at least one program a month on Zoom, usually on the second Monday of the month. The programs are open to anyone who's available at our 1:00PM start time. Subjects this year included U.S. political issues, Israel, Jewish culture and history, social action, and other timely and relevant subjects. Our excellent speakers, both congregants and others, have presented to audiences from 60 to 100 people, Temple Sinai members and others. Here are a few of our speakers from last year:



*Eleanor Clift from MSNBC and The Daily Beast*



*Amy Howe from SCOTUSblog*



*Temple Sinai's own Rabbi Noah Diamondstein*



*Brad Townsend from the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions*



*Lawrence Norden from the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law*



*Sandra L. Jackson from House of Ruth*

Our meetings have been on Zoom both this year and last year, and have helped the temple maintain contact with the members of the congregation during this difficult time. We've received comments about the important role that DayTimers has played in keeping congregants in touch with others as well as keeping them informed. We hope to return to monthly meetings at Temple Sinai, and also to maintain our Zoom options.

– Ron Merrill

## TEMPLE SINAI J STREET CHAPTER

The Temple Sinai J Street Chapter was established in December 2021 in the midst of the pandemic. We started with a core group of 12 temple members who have been active in J Street activities as individuals, but who had not come together as a group. Our purpose is to energize discussion in the congregation about issues related to Israel and to promote the foundational values of Israel as the home of the Jewish people and a democracy for all inhabitants of Israel. Temple Sinai has a long history of engaging congregants with Israel through education and trips. The congregation also has a long history of social justice and the work of the Temple Sinai J Street chapter combines these two commitments.

All of our meetings have been on Zoom, which likely increased participation for a new group getting started. Discussions have been robust. We jumped into planning four annual programs. The first virtual program about Israel's de facto annexation of the West Bank was held on March 1, 2022 with 50 people attending. Our second virtual program on April 24, 2022 focused on building peace through environmental cooperation in the Middle East. So, we are off to a great start. We hope that our enthusiasm is contagious and that many more Sinai members join our J Street chapter and attend our programs in the future.

– Robert Snyder

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## CONNECTING IN OUR RENOVATED BUILDING: HONOR OUR HERITAGE, BUILD OUR FUTURE

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### HOW FAR WE'VE COME

Nearly five years ago, as we approached the 70th anniversary of the Temple Sinai community, we launched an ambitious campaign, the Honor our Heritage, Build our Future Campaign for Temple Sinai, to fortify our community for the next 70 years. We want to thank the over 500 families who have joined together to make gifts and pledges towards this goal.

#### *Sanctuary and Social Hall Renovation*

Our sanctuary and other gathering spaces shape the way we worship, learn, and interact as a community. Over the past two years, we've had only limited access to our spaces. But we were able to complete Phase 1 of our campaign in the summer of 2021, with the renovation of the Sanctuary, Social Hall, and related upgrades. We returned to our Sanctuary space for the High Holidays in 2021, with a refreshed space that exceeded our expectations—a **sweeping, more accessible bimah, brilliant lighting, and comfortable, flexible seating.**



#### *The Davis Center*

Through the campaign, we also raised over \$500,000 to launch the Davis Center for Social Justice and to continue and **enhance the social justice work** of the Temple Sinai community. The mission of the Davis Center is to repair the world through bold action, learning, and advocacy and strengthen the sense of community and purpose among

Temple Sinai's members, its partners and the wider community. You can learn more about the Davis Center and how to get involved by visiting [daviscenter.org](https://daviscenter.org).

We want to thank the congregation for its patience. Just as we were about to begin construction and enter our final phase of fundraising in the spring of 2020, the pandemic turned all of our lives upside down. Not knowing what the future held and wanting to keep all in our community focused on our individual and collective health and safety, we paused the campaign.



## WHERE WE'RE GOING

Planning is now underway to break ground on the second phase of the renovation project in summer of 2022. This involves building the new southwest addition that shifts the entrance closer to the parking lot, making the educational wing more secure for our children and families, and adding new flexible spaces for informal gathering, programs, meetings, and learning. Our revised plans include a **large second floor terrace** that will allow for outdoor gathering within the security of the building. The second phase also includes extensive exterior work in the southwest portion of the temple property to capture storm-water runoff, enhance access, and beautify the site.

We have established a revised campaign goal of \$12 million+ (or \$2 million+ more than our original goal) to keep our project on track to reach our congregational goals. We would love to meet with interested congregants to share more about the Phase 2 renovation and expansion details and to discuss how they can help inspire the Temple Sinai community by supporting the campaign.

If you have yet to participate in the campaign, we hope you will join us in building the future of Temple Sinai. If you have already given or pledged to the campaign, we hope you will consider enhancing your gift or pledge to help ensure the success of Phase 2.

– Naomi Camper & Andrew Engel



## CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW

### *Facilities: Renovate, Expand, & Improve*

As a result of the pandemic, we split our construction into two phases. Phase 1, the Sanctuary & Social Hall renovation, was completed in fall 2021. Phase 2, the southwest addition, will begin summer 2022 with a target completion date of 2023.

### *Sustaining Innovative Programming & Clergy Support*

We established a Sustaining Fund to bolster funding for three areas of need: social action (established as The Davis Center for Social Justice at Temple Sinai), pastoral care, and clergy support.

### *Sinai Annual Fund*

Annual Membership commitments alone do not cover the full cost of maintaining Temple Sinai's robust programs and services. The Sinai Annual Fund helps to bridge that gap. We have recommended to campaign donors that they include Sinai Annual Fund donations in their campaign pledge.

### *Fundraising (as of April 1, 2022)*

- 500+ donors have pledged or given to the campaign
- \$10.3 million+ pledged to the campaign
- 15 donors increased their pledges for a total of \$400,000 additional support
- \$7.1 million+ received

# ANNUAL REPORT

## HONOR OUR HERITAGE, BUILD OUR FUTURE CORNERSTONE DONORS (\$100,000+)

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Anonymous (4)  
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### \$25,000-\$49,999

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Beverly Zweiben

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Jane Axelrad  
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Mitzvah of Rachel Barold  
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Rabbi Steve Garten, Lisa Hans, &  
Alyza Weinberg  
Rivka Garver  
Rita A. Gaylin  
Kenneth Geller & Judith Ratner  
Tamar Gendler  
Robin B. Gerber  
Catherine Hefterman Gibson & Micah  
Gibson  
Mark & Susan Ginsburg  
Andrew Glickman & Julie Cohen  
Andrew & Aviva Goldfarb  
Ross Goldman & Lauren Roth

Jordan Goldstein & Hillary Davidson  
Michele Greenstein & Paul Coviello,  
in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of  
Julia Coviello  
Elaine Greenstone  
Alan, Sara, Carly, Noah Gregerman,  
& Lisa Otterström  
The Shreve Greiff Family  
Richard & Carol Gross  
Yevgeny Gurevich & Marina Fishbein  
Joe & Merna Guttentag  
Andrea Hamett & Benjamin Fisherow  
The Hauptman Family  
Ira & JoAnn Heiman  
Cantorial Soloist Robyn Helzner  
Craig Iscoe & Rosemary Hart  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Jablon  
Julian & Celia Josephs  
Jay Josephs  
Barbara & John Jost  
Christina Joy  
Jonathan & Cheri Kamin  
Irving E. Kaminsky  
Hugh & Caroline Kaplan  
Helaine Klasky & William Wechsler  
William & Better Kramer  
Aaron & Charlotte Kramer  
Johanna & Adam Kreisel  
Stephen & Amy Kroll, in memory of  
Milton & Beatrice Kroll  
Morris Krucoff\*  
Adam Krulewitz & Deena Feinstein  
Krulewitz  
Christopher & Kimberly Kubler  
Cheryl Kurss  
Michael Landweber & Gillian Flory  
Ellen Lazarus  
Ed & Stephanie Lebow  
Dr. Joshua Leifer & Mrs. Randy  
Brenner-Leifer  
Rebecca Kapell Leigh  
Jennifer & Glenn Leon  
Sue Levine & Leon Fink  
Carin & Jason Levine  
Elliott & Judith Lichtman  
Esther Lipman  
Benjamin & Saskia Loewy  
Miguel Lopez Forastier & Peta Hellmann  
Benjamin & Chris Lourie  
Erin & Owen Lourie  
Amy & Andrew Mack  
John & Jennifer Mallon  
Jeremy & Mia Marcus  
Matthew Mariani & Meredith Josephs  
Mark & Sharon Masling  
Mark Matulef & Dolores Acquista  
Jaime & Joe McKenna, in memory of  
Fulton Katz  
Laura Blum Meisnere & Robert  
Meisnere  
Barry Merrill, in honor of Ron Merrill  
June Miller  
Mark Moskovitz & Kathryn Mannes  
Phyllis & Sumner\* Myers  
Judy Neri\*  
Don Nesbeth  
Monroe & Rosalind Neuman  
Nancy Olins  
Larry Ottinger & Cinthia Schuman  
Ottinger  
Nancy Furman Paul & Marc Paul  
Jeffrey Peck & Lisa Vigdor-Peck  
Debra & Jonah Perlin

Victoria J Perry  
Robert & Nessa Peters  
Andrea & Brian Polsky, in memory of  
Larry Willis  
Elia Powers & Mara Gandal-Powers  
The Reisman Family  
Jim & Jody Reitzes  
Jonathan Rich & Anna Swerdel  
Michael & Gretchen Robbins  
Julie Rosenthal  
Rabbi Adam Rosenwasser &  
Shalom Rosenberg  
Larry & Margy Ross  
Erica Sawyer  
Reggie Schatz  
Deborah & Howard Scheck  
Mark & Susan Schneider  
Julie Guerrero Schor & Justin B. Shor  
Aaron Schuham & Christopher Anders  
Robin B. Schwartzman  
Sandra Schwarzbart  
Susan & George Schwellung  
Ann Shalleck & James Klein  
Barbara Shapiro  
Audrey Sheppard  
Mindy Sherman, in memory Jennette  
& Max Sherman  
Shmuel Shoham & Ruth Polk  
Kenneth Simonson & Jan Solomon  
Daniel & Maxine Singer  
Gertrude Slifkin  
Virginia Sloss  
Craig & Jessica Smith  
Claire Snyder  
Janet Shatz Snyder  
Deborah Solomon & Jed Graham  
Michael & Amy Solomon  
Ed & Sarah Spector  
Helen & George Steinheimer, in  
honor of the 40th Anniversary of  
Carole & Nicholas Brand  
Adam & Anita Stoll  
David Stoopler & Natalie Orpett  
Sarah Struble & Matt Handverger  
Daniel & Veronica Suleiman  
Ronny & Hannah Tabeka  
Stanley Talpers\*  
Maxine & Paul Teller  
TSWRJ Board Members, in honor of  
Nancy Liebermann & Lisa Tucker  
Debbie & Henry Tyrangiel  
Dr. Douglas Usher & Dr. Libbie Rifkin  
Annie L. Vinik & James Lawrence  
Paulis Waber & Rod Cash  
Jeffrey Wagner & Nancy Leopold  
Todd & Emily Waldman  
Waterman Broadcasting in memory  
of Selma Tannenwald  
Jeffrey & Myra Weinberg  
Robert Weinberger & Jennefer  
Hirschberg  
Richard & Joann Weiner  
Becky & Matt Wexler  
Ross Wiener & Melike Oncu  
John & Phyllis Wimberly  
Chip Wright & Marcy Harrison  
Suzan Wynne  
Rochelle Zeidman & Andrew Resnick  
Regina, Micah, & Shira Ziegler  
Nancy Zuckerbrod & Michael Roark

\* Of Blessed Memory



## CONNECTING IN THE TEMPLE SINAI LIBRARY

### CREATING A COMMUNITY IN ZOOM

With the closing of Temple Sinai, the library committee lost its weekly chance to work together in the library. But the loss was so much more than just the activity; during this time of massive upheaval, we needed the connection with our community to help pull us through. We reconnected over Zoom. We shared stories about how the pandemic was impacting our lives, how we were coping, and yes, how we could continue to keep the library functioning despite the fact that we weren't in the building. And, interestingly, it was in this virtual realm that our connections grew even stronger. Pre-pandemic, some volunteers came in on Mondays, some on Wednesdays. We all had our own projects. Of course, we visited, but we were also working independently. The pandemic not only closed the temple, but so many other activities, so suddenly we were all able to meet at the same day and time. This regular weekly interaction became a touchstone as we navigated our new realities.

In addition to our weekly Zoom committee meetings, **the library regularly sponsors five book discussions a year with Rabbi Hannah Goldstein.** The pivot to online offered unexpected rewards. Individuals who previously had found it hard to come to the temple for these discussions were now able to participate. The ability to have meaningful discussions on Zoom could have been a stumbling block, but Rabbi Goldstein handled it with grace, calling on attendees so that everyone could participate. An added benefit was that voices were amplified and clearly heard by everyone. It proved a meaningful way to connect and share with other book lovers.

### NEW FRIENDS ON TEMPLE SINAI PLAYGROUND



When Cantor Robins starting hosting Tot Playdates twice a month on Saturday mornings on the Temple Sinai playground, the library asked to piggyback on her plan with a free book giveaway basket. On the Wednesdays before a playdate, we pack the basket full and then eagerly check back on Monday to see how many books have found new homes with the participating families. Not only is this an opportunity to continue the fun of the playdate in the car ride home and beyond, but we hope it is a way to engender a life-long love of reading among our youngest congregants.





"Pioneers" Joan Goldwasser, Ruth Polk, and Sue Levine together in the library (l to r).



Emily Mazza from the Yiddish Book Center evaluates the library's collection of Yiddish books.

## OPENING UP THE LIBRARY

We were honored when the temple leadership selected our small group to be a pioneer in testing a return of committees to working onsite in the building. Starting first with one day a week, we are now back to our regular Monday and Wednesday gatherings. Of course, it has been a delight to be reunited with the books and to be able to see each other in person, albeit behind masks. But even better, **we were able to reinstate borrowing**. Congregants email librarian Ruth Polk when they want to borrow a book, and she or a volunteer prepares the book for contactless, curbside pickup from the book cart that is outside the main entrance Monday through Friday from 9 to 4, except for holidays.

**We also partnered with the Temple Sinai Nursery School to offer "Book Bundles" of holiday-themed picture books.** Each selection of five to six books is packaged in a primary-colored bag that the nursery school distributes to the families who request them. Through emails with the families, Ruth has been able to forge new personal connections with pre-school families.

With the library being quieter than usual, this has been a perfect time for us to tackle our collection of Hebrew and Yiddish Books. These books had been languishing in the library and we wanted to find an institution that would have the infrastructure to preserve and share them. We partnered with Rabbi Emeritus Fred N. Reiner and congregants Jay Slater and Henry Tyrangiel to sort the books. As the project progressed and we realized that we had over 400 books on the top shelves of our stacks, Ruth reached out to the Yiddish Book Center in Massachusetts. Emily Mazza, a fellow at the Center, was able to come to the library to evaluate the collection. She ended up taking over 50 books to add to the Yiddish Book Center's collection. She also connected us with other institutions that might be interested in the Hebrew books. Most gratifying to the members of the library committee was finding a home for many of these "orphans." What binds us on the committee is our love of books. Once opened, a book springs to life. The thoughts, ideas, and stories which lay dormant within the covers suddenly are awakened with just the touch of a finger. And to know that these books, written in languages we can't read, will find recipients who can and will read them, makes our efforts all the more worthwhile.

– Sue Levine, Mitch Miller, Ruth Polk

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## CONNECTING WITH TEMPLE SINAI MEN & WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM

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The Temple Sinai Men of Reform Judaism (TSMRJ or The Brotherhood) started the year with high hopes, with a planning meeting held in person at the Parthenon restaurant as the pandemic seemed to have subsided. Just a couple weeks later, the Delta variant hit, forcing us to cancel or rethink the events we only recently planned. Still, we soldiered on.

In late September, we held a successful in-person Scotch tasting in the Sukkah, with quite a few people there attending their first Brotherhood event.

In October, a group competed in Trivia Night at the World of Beers in Bethesda. But with the Omicron variant solidly taking hold, some people felt uncomfortable participating indoors. Those of us who stayed did well, finishing in 2nd place (and might have taken 1st place if we had someone who could identify Margaret Thatcher and Eva and Juan Perón from their wedding pictures).

This concern about indoor events led us to schedule three virtual events: a happy hour in January, another trivia night in February, and a poker night in March.

**In March 2022, the Brotherhood resumed its traditional role as bartenders for the Adult Purim Celebration**, picking up where we left off two years earlier, just before the pandemic shut down everything.

While the goal of TSMRJ is to provide an environment of fellowship for men from the congregation, we typically welcome all adult congregants to join us. We especially welcome men who can help us with ideas and energy to expand what we do.

– *Howard Oppenheim*

As the chair of the Temple Sinai Women of Reform Judaism (TSWRJ) Fund Drive for the Capital Area Food Bank, I spearheaded the temple's efforts to raise money for much-needed nutritious food for our food insecure neighbors. The need for the food provided by these funds escalated during the pandemic. I witnessed the astounding generosity of our temple community as we responded to the call time and time again, both during our annual High Holy Day fundraisers, and during an additional emergency winter fund drive we held during the height of the pandemic. I felt connected to our temple members and proud of all of us as together we embraced our local community during a time of tremendous need.

– *Michelle Engelmann*



In leading the TSWRJ new member committee, I worked closely with the chair of the Temple Sinai Membership Committee, Andrea Dettelbach. We worked to streamline the TSWRJ contribution to the new member gifts that are included in the new member welcome bag. Because of this work, I now receive the monthly list of new members from Karen Auerbach. This coordination will be extremely helpful as our partnership with the membership committee grows.

**-Marjorie Geldon**



*Left to right: Fran Rothstein, Claudia Kalb, Jennifer Rubin, Alisa Parenti, Carole Brand, Andrea Harnett at the 2022 TSWRJ Authors' Roundtable*



*On April 9, 2022 TSWRJ held a mini retreat at Temple Sinai. About 50 Sisterfriends participated. We schmoozed, worshiped, ate, and prepared 100 bags with toiletry items, and a prayer, for women in shelters.*

The Chanukah Mart, truncated though it was, offered congregants a way to get together virtually in the spirit of the holiday. TSWRJ provided a variety of offerings - a children's authors' event, co-sponsored by Multiracial Sinai, on the day people would have come to Temple Sinai for the actual Chanukah Mart; online markets for gift and holiday items from our vendors and the Judaica shop, and the sale of latkes, stuffed cabbage, spanikopita, kugel, and Chanukah packages of dreidels, gelt, and candles, to help bring the community together around our Festival of Lights.

The Authors' Roundtable in March 2022 was offered in a hybrid fashion, bringing together congregants and friends —online and in person - to hear from three noted authors: Claudia Kalb, Alisa Parenti, and Jennifer Rubin.

**- Carole Brand**

The Embracing Mikvah project that Nancy Liebermann and I chaired for Women of Reform Judaism on March 6 was doubly special. It was the first project I had co-chaired since being named to the TSWRJ board and the first in-person event I'd attended for TSWRJ. The program was fascinating and so relevant for our progressive community, and the most special part was finally getting to meet my new friends in person. I joined Temple Sinai during the pandemic so the in-person opportunities have been rare and wonderful. I remember sitting with this special group of women, including Rabbi Goldstein, and feeling very grateful to this community.

**- Connie Dufner**



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## CONNECTING IN THE TEMPLE SINAI NURSERY SCHOOL

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**T**he Nursery School joyfully returned to in-person programming at Temple Sinai for 2021-2022, and the sounds of the children's laughter and excited chatter has enlivened our Temple Sinai classrooms, hallways, and outdoor spaces.

Our magnificent faculty, nearly all of whom are long-term teachers who returned to TSNS after our year of closure, continue to support the children's engagement in learning through play, create opportunities to spark curiosity, embrace each child's sense of wonder, and strengthen social connections through trusting and warm relationships. Specialists in Music, Movement, and Investigation enrich our curriculum with their deep expertise, and our Outdoor Classroom and expansive playground have further scaffolded the children's exploration of natural materials and the ways in which they experience the world around them.



Robust engagement with families on Zoom and outside on the Patio and on the playground has **strengthened our community connections**. Parent education programs offered in person and virtually have allowed us to introduce experts to our community on a variety of topics related to child development, and photos and blurbs sent home daily by the teachers through a new app have kept the home-school connection strong. Recent celebrations of Purim, our March Family Shabbat Sing, and Passover brought parents and loved ones into the Social Hall for the first time.

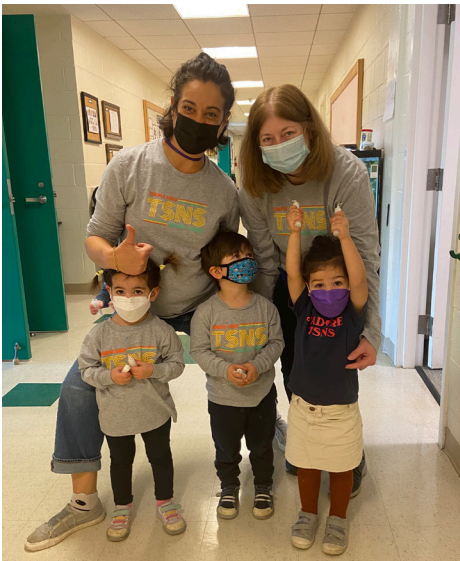
Our Parents' Association has helped to shape countless opportunities for families to engage with one another and with the school. Our parent leaders work tirelessly provide support for our





community to come together across the school year, developing and distributing new TSNS t-shirt and hat designs, hosting playground playdates and other events, supporting monthly *tzedakah* initiatives, delivering challah and art kits to families at home, selling Purim treats and Prescription Chicken soup, coordinating Child's Play shopping days and Potomac Pizza nights, developing our 30th Anniversary TSNS Cookbook, planning our Spring Soiree, and more.

The Jewish values that resonate throughout our program have been exuberantly supported by our talented clergy team, enriching the experiences of children and families as our rabbis and cantors lead Shabbat Sing on the playground, in the Social Hall, or traveling from classroom to classroom. Donning costumes to join in the Purim Parades and Passover Sing Along, meeting children in the sukkah and the sanctuary, and co-hosting parent meetings, the clergy has been enmeshed in the life of our school.



This year has posed countless challenges, and it has been through the shared commitment of our families, faculty, and staff to our community's health and well-being, along with the ongoing support of our temple leadership, that we have been able to continue our nursery school programming with minimal interruptions and a whole lot of joy. We are now looking ahead to next year - developing plans for programming, enrolling new and returning families, and **feeling excited for what is to come.**

*– Ali Hurewitz, Director of Early Childhood Education*



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## CONNECTING IN THE TEMPLE SINAI RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

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**W**hen Temple Sinai Religious School began the school year in October 2021, we expected our year to bring us “from Covid to community.” While the pandemic continued to persist and impact how we came together, our joy in being together, learning together, and **finding a space of significance, belonging, and fun together** was not. It’s been a great year of creativity and opportunity.

While outdoors and online remained the safest opportunities for students and their families to learn and grow, we took advantage of Rock Creek Park and started our year regathering with our 2nd-6th graders until we came back to 3100 Military Road, using our online access to keep our students and teachers safe in a hybrid model until we all returned back together in February.

This school year also brought the magical addition of B’Yachad to our religious school programming: a family Religious School experience for our youngest congregants in kindergarten and 1st grade. Creating meaningful Jewish memories together, often outside, it was a truly sweet start to religious school!

Our middle schoolers and high schoolers maximized the opportunities for diverse learning by **coming together in person or on Zoom** for elective-based trimesters of learning for students in grades 7-9. The opportunity for meaningful online learning enabled an expansion of our Noar program to include Monday evenings, making the schedule more accessible for students and their families.

We’re thrilled to have **crossed the bridge from Covid to community**, even if the walk looked a bit different than we expected! We’re so excited for a summer of fun at Sinai and an awesome new year.

– *Cantor Rebecca Robins, Cantor Educator*







...in the sukkah



...in the parking lot



...on the stage

## Significance & Belonging & Fun & TSRS...



...in Rock Creek Park



...in the sanctuary



...in the social hall



## CONNECTING IN THE DAVIS CENTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

*Temple Sinai's social justice and social action work took a big leap forward this year with the launch of the Davis Center for Social Justice at Temple Sinai. Thanks to the generosity of the Davis family and other capital campaign donors, we have been able to organize all the temple's social justice work under one umbrella, create a new website devoted strictly to the temple's important social justice work and hire a part-time coordinator to facilitate our wealth of activities. We inaugurated the center with an inspiring Shabbat service featuring a sermon from Ambassador Rabbi David Saperstein and well wishes from a number of government and community leaders from DC and Maryland. Be sure to check out the Davis Center website at [www.daviscenter.org](http://www.daviscenter.org).*

*Of particular note this year, Temple Sinai welcomed a family of Afghan refugees to the US. We are sponsoring the Noori family of 6 — providing them with housing, educational, medical and other support. We have assembled an impressive team of volunteers eager to do what they can to assist the family in adjusting to their new life. The children have all been enrolled in Montgomery County schools, and their dad is working at Walmart while we help him seek employment commensurate with his professional work in Afghanistan. Blondy, the asylum seeker from the Congo whom Temple Sinai has been sponsoring for the past 3 years, has become totally self-sufficient with a fulltime job. He has recently moved into his own apartment.*

*We continued to organize and voice our concerns on a wide range of social justice issues. We marched and protested for voting rights, protection for immigrants and reproductive health among other issues. Read on about the great work of our various initiatives below.*

– Glenn Engelmann

### TEMPLE SINAI REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS GROUP

Temple Sinai has an active group of people who support reproductive justice. On December 1, 2021 we joined our allies from the RAC and the NCJW **outside of the Supreme Court to raise our voices** as the SCOTUS heard the most consequential abortion rights case in generations, the Mississippi abortion ban that directly challenges Roe v. Wade.

In February 2022, we listened on Zoom to Faith Williams of the National Council of Jewish Women discuss the state of reproductive health and the current lack of access to abortion. We also joined a virtual WRJ event on the Freedom to Vote and Reproductive Rights with Alexis McGill Johnson of Planned Parenthood and other speakers including the CEO of the New Georgia Project. We worked with our allies at Jews United for Justice (JUFJ) to advocate for support of affordable, high-quality early childhood education and full funding for Birth to Three for All DC law.

– Liz Rose



*Temple Sinai's Reproductive Health and Rights group with Cantor Croen and Rabbi Goldstein outside of the Supreme Court on December 1, 2021.*



## GET OUT THE VOTE (GOTV)

A determined group of over 300 Temple Sinai members banded together in 2020 to ensure that eligible voters around the country were registered to vote and had the ability to have their voices heard. Temple Sinai joined with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism and Reclaim Our Vote in this effort. Congregants wrote postcards, called and texted to ensure that people knew where and how to register to vote. We have re-started this program for the 2022 election and several hundred adult and teen congregants are involved in the current effort.

– *Carole Brand*

## MULTIRACIAL SINAI

Over this past year the activities of Multiracial Sinai continued to lift up antiracism and racial equity as Jewish values that are central to our identity as a multiracial Jewish community. Like many this year, we've carried on our work through Zoom meetings, emails and phone calls. On a practical level, these have been the spaces where we've connected, learned, planned and reflected. On a deeper level, the work of Multiracial Sinai is showing up in spaces throughout our community.

The mission of Temple Sinai is at the heart of our congregation. In that mission, interwoven with our commitments to a strong sense of Jewish community, personal connections with the clergy, and spiritual and intellectual engagement, to name a few, is the commitment to undertake "transformational internal steps to affirm and enhance our identity as a multiracial Reform Jewish community."

That part of our mission doesn't stand alone: it echoes throughout the core values and programs and activities of Temple Sinai. From worship to learning to social action, our identity as a multiracial and antiracist congregation informs every aspect of our shared congregational life.

In the past year, Multiracial Sinai has expanded two collaborative and participatory efforts that are enhancing our congregation's capacity to bring a racial equity lens to all aspects of our community life, and are increasing our individual

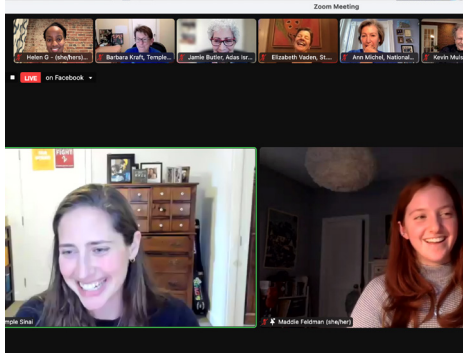
and collective capacity to understand the impact of racism and to develop skills for advancing racial equity both in policies and practices, as well as in relationships. The first of these, the Racial Equity Project, is collaborating with temple committees and functional teams to apply our learning about the broad impacts of racial bias and explore changes that can help remedy those impacts in our congregation. The second of these efforts, the **Building Racial Stamina discussion groups, have guided over 125 participants**, including the clergy and senior staff, in understanding the impact of race and in developing skills to engage in conversations, relationships and work that further racial justice and equity. In addition, to better support Multiracial Sinai programming and outreach, Temple Sinai established the Multiracial Sinai Fund.

This year has been an important one for Multiracial Sinai. Through collaboration and partnership, our community is building capacity to be antiracist. In this way, the most transformative space where Multiracial Sinai is connecting with participants and congregants is the space connecting one another, whether that's in the sanctuary, or a classroom, or in a Zoom meeting, or standing outside on the sidewalk. These are the spaces where our mission to undertake transformational steps to affirm and enhance our identity as a multiracial Reform Jewish community is happening.

– *Cathy Goldwyn and Deitra Reiser*

## WASHINGTON INTERFAITH NETWORK (WIN)

The energy and focus of Sinai's Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) Core Team, led by Rabbi Goldstein, combined with that of sister congregations in Northwest DC and across the city, made for big impacts in 2021-2022. Along with Adas Israel Congregation, Metropolitan A.M.E. and Varick Mem. A.M.E. Zion,



*Rabbi Hannah Goldstein and Maddie Feldman in the virtual WIN Ward 3 Affordable Housing Action on January 23, 2022.*

**Sinai was a foundational member of WIN's Black Equity Through Homeownership (BETH) campaign**, and Sinai lay leaders continue to contribute expertise to the project. Monthly meetings of the WIN Ward 3 Congregations Affordable Housing Work Group are ongoing, co-led by Sinai and Adas Israel leaders. Since our Work Group's inception in 2019, St. Columba's Episcopal and Chevy Chase Presbyterian have joined WIN and the Work Group. The January 2022 WIN Ward 3 Affordable Housing Action with Councilmember Mary Cheh gathered more than 470 participants to press WIN's housing and climate justice agendas. We turned out 100 Sinai members for the 1000-plus person March 20 WIN Citywide Action, where candidates for Council Chair, AG and Mayor reacted to WIN's issues agenda —

affordable housing, public safety and climate/environmental justice — and committed to meet with WIN if they are elected. Sinai's WIN activities offer opportunities for anti-racist action, deep interfaith dialogue and *tikkun olam*, and are a means to serve as an active, progressive faith voice in our community.

– **Barbara Kraft and Kevin Mulshine**

## TEMPLE SINAI GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION GROUP

Despite the pandemic, or, in fact, because of it and the rising gun violence it precipitated, the Temple Sinai Gun Violence Prevention Group (GVP) remained very active and engaged during the past year through Zoom, emails and telephone calls. Highlights included:

Webinars on implementation of DMV area "extreme risk protection orders" (Oct. 14, 2021), how to engage the faith community on GVP as part of the annual, national meeting of the Center for American Progress (Dec. 6, 2021), and pending legislation in the Maryland General Assembly to require serial numbers on "ghost gun" kits and to strengthen Maryland's child access protection law (March 10, 2021).

Advocacy in the form of letters, testimony and phone calls on various GVP issues before local, state and federal authorities.

**Managing the DC Area Interfaith Gun Violence**

**Prevention Network, which the GVP group cofounded in 2017** and is now a coalition of active volunteers from over 50 area churches, synagogues and mosques.

Strengthening relationships with national, regional and local GVP advocacy groups.

Organizing and contributing to an "Interfaith Toolkit" to guide congregations willing to engage in the fight for gun safety in America.

Writing and publishing an opinion piece in the Washington Post opposing the DC Government granting a permit to open a shooting range in downtown Gallery Place. Read it at [tinyurl.com/gvpoped](https://tinyurl.com/gvpoped).

For a summary of Temple Sinai GVP activities and accomplishments 2016-2021 and plans for 2022 see [tinyurl.com/gvpreport](https://tinyurl.com/gvpreport).

– **Steve Klitzman and Sally Greenberg**

## CONNECTING WITH SINAI HOUSE

### THE ANNUAL TRICIA DAVIS 5K FOR SINAI HOUSE

The race in May 2021 was all virtual for the second year in a row due to pandemic restrictions. We were together in spirit running, walking, and celebrating on Mother's Day. Participants shared photos on the race website. We are very grateful to our generous sponsors, donors, and participants who contributed more than \$130,000 to carry on the legacy of Tricia Davis by supporting the 5K in the middle of a pandemic and surpassing the record amount we raised last year! The the 8th Annual Tricia Davis 5K for Sinai House was in person at Rock Creek Park in Washington, DC, on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 8, 2022.



The Sinai House Homes & Hearts Shabbat service was held in the Temple Sinai main sanctuary and streaming online on November 5, 2021. Suzie, a former resident who is currently in our post-residency program, gave a very inspiring, pre-recorded talk. Elissa and Kaya Ginsky received the Sinai House Hero's award for their volunteer work with Sinai House. There was a well-attended oneg outside on the patio with delicious Haitian food to honor Suzie's heritage.

By successfully adapting our program to the challenge of the pandemic, all four families who lived at Sinai House throughout the pandemic completed the residential phase of our program. Three of those families chose to participate in our new post-residency program and now have access to two years of services from our staff, modest cash assistance for housing costs during the first year, and help in connecting to services in their new neighborhoods.

We took advantage of the rare occurrence of our two empty buildings to refurbish all four apartments and made much-needed, extensive repairs to our one-hundred-year-old facilities, including replacement of the roof and back deck. We have now welcomed four new families into our refurbished Sinai House.



Former Sinai House resident Suzie, who spoke at the annual Homes & Hearts Shabbat Service.

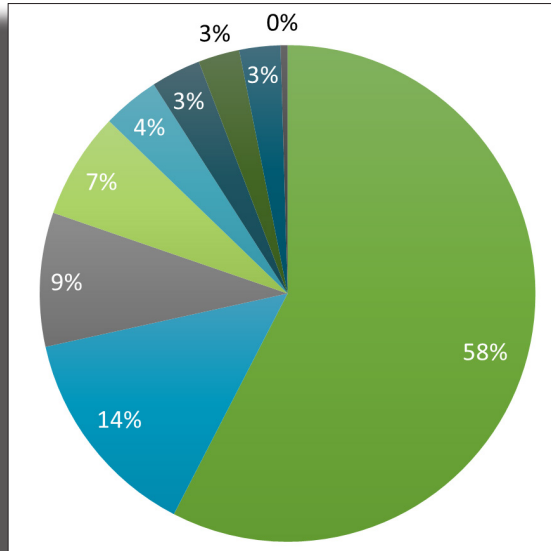
– Sinai House Communications Committee



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Fiscal Year June 1, 2020 – May 31, 2021

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

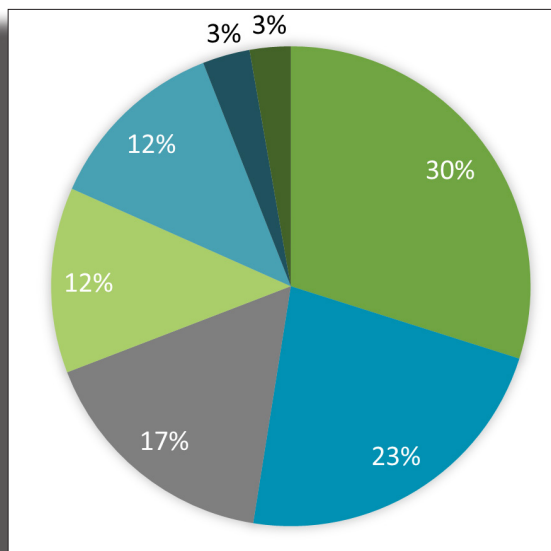


Revenue		
Membership Financial Commitment	\$2,983,012	58%
Covid Relief Grants	\$723,527	14%
Religious School & Youth	\$451,593	9%
Contributions	\$359,599	7%
Nursery School	\$192,258	4%
Program Revenues	\$168,302	3%
Sustaining Fund	\$139,474	3%
Endowment Income	\$139,254	3%
Other	\$23,273	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5.2 Million</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Why does Temple Sinai need financial support beyond Membership Commitments?

Membership Commitments are the largest and most important source of funds to support temple activities, representing 58% of operating revenues in 2020-21. Generous additional contributions from members constitute another 7% of revenues. In 2020-21, government relief funds helped offset reductions in revenue due to Covid, providing 14% of revenues. Income from our endowment fund and from the Sustaining Fund (part of the Campaign for Temple Sinai) provided a total of 6% of revenues.

## What does the money support?



Expenses		
Administration	\$1,543,295	30%
Ritual	\$1,169,163	23%
Facilities & Security	\$859,684	17%
Religious School & Youth	\$645,858	12%
Nursery School	\$639,517	12%
Programs	\$165,105	3%
URJ Dues	\$142,667	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5.2 Million</b>	<b>100%</b>

Personnel costs account for the largest share of expenses, totaling 77% of all operating expense.

# APPRECIATING OUR DONORS

## Giving at Temple Sinai

Temple Sinai has a long and rich heritage of *zedakah*, consistent with our Jewish tradition. Such giving often occurs at times of birthdays, Bar and Bat Mitzvah, weddings, anniversaries, births and deaths, or in conjunction with special charitable campaigns. This year, members, family, and friends contributed **almost \$2 million above and beyond** membership financial commitments. These gifts supported a wide variety of funds, committees, and causes including the operating budget, the Honor our Heritage Build our Future Campaign for Temple Sinai (the Capital Campaign), endowments, the clergy discretionary funds, and our many specialized program funds. **Thank you to the many generous donors who make Temple Sinai a special and vibrant community!**

### RIMONIM SOCIETY

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

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

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*482 members made voluntary contributions to this fund.*

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*550 members made voluntary contributions to this fund.*

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*563 members made voluntary contributions to this fund .*

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

**The Sinai Annual Fund supports everything that happens at Temple Sinai. Whether your Temple Sinai passion is music, social action, religious school, nursery school, adult education, or any of the many other programs and activities that enrich our community, the Sinai Annual Fund supports what makes Temple Sinai special to you. While membership financial commitments are our largest source of support, they cover about 2/3 of the congregation's annual expenses. We rely on the Sinai Annual Fund to bridge the gap and reduce financial barriers to membership for those who need it.**

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

*To learn more about the most recent exciting developments in the campaign and for a complete listing of all our generous campaign supporters, please see pages 8-11 or visit the Honor our Heritage Build our Future Campaign homepage at [templesinaidc.org/capital-campaign](http://templesinaidc.org/capital-campaign).*

\* Of Blessed Memory

*All contributions listed are for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (June 1, 2021 – May 31, 2022). The list represents gifts made through April 29, 2022. If we inadvertently missed your name, please contact Noah Benjamin at [nbenjamin@templesinaidc.org](mailto:nbenjamin@templesinaidc.org).*



# GET INVOLVED

There are many ways to apply your interests and skills as a temple volunteer. Member involvement shapes the direction of temple life, creates and supports vibrant educational and social programming, as well as mobilizes for social justice activities. Our lay leaders and staff will help connect you to meaningful engagement opportunities through our temple community. Contact a liaison below to learn about how you can get involved:

## Administration

David Wessel  
[wessel.sinai@gmail.com](mailto:wessel.sinai@gmail.com)

## Archives

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## Building & Grounds

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## The Davis Center for Social Justice

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## Honor our Heritage, Build our Future Campaign

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Deitra Reiser  
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