

# Multiracial Sinai

## Update for the Coming Year: 2022-2023

The mission of the Multiracial Sinai committee is to help advance Temple Sinai's commitment to being an antiracist synagogue—one that pursues racial justice and creates a home for our multiracial Reform Jewish community.

In practice, that means working on personal, institutional, and societal levels. We created the Building Racial Stamina class so that Temple Sinai members can examine how race and racism function in our society, how it is internalized, and the impact it has on all of us. We launched the Racial Equity Project to find opportunities for Temple Sinai to challenge systemic racism through our own temple practices and policies. We convene affinity spaces for Jews of Color and Jewish Adjacent People of Color to help create connection and belonging. And we engage with antiracist social action groups like the Washington Interfaith Network, Poor People's Campaign, and Jews United for Justice.

We hope you will join us in this work that is so critical for racial justice and *tikkun olam*!

In the coming year, Multiracial Sinai will offer the **Building Racial Stamina in Jewish Community facilitated discussion group beginning in January 2023** and an **affinity gathering for Persons of Color in the fall of 2022**. Multiracial Sinai will also be engaged in a process of reflection and assessment in the fall of 2022 and winter of 2023. To learn more about the programs and efforts of Multiracial Sinai, you can [sign up to receive Multiracial Sinai Update, our periodic email](#).

To learn more about the **Building Racial Stamina** facilitated discussion group, check out the Multiracial Sinai webpage [here](#). To connect with **upcoming affinity gatherings for Persons of Color**, email MRS co-chair [Deitra Reiser](#).

## Looking Back

### **Beyond the Count: Perspectives and Lived Experiences of Jews of Color**

On Tuesday, May 17, 2022 Temple Sinai, the Davis Center and Multiracial Sinai sponsored an engaging and important program called *Beyond the Count: Perspectives and Lived Experiences of Jews of Color*. More than 75 people from 7 area congregations gathered at Temple Sinai to learn from Ilana Kaufman, Executive Director of the Jews of Color Initiative, about the multiracial reality of the Jewish people, how systems of inequality are perpetuated in our own Jewish spaces, and opportunities for powerful intervention.



*Panelists (from right to left): Ilana Kaufman, Executive Director of the Jews of Color Initiative, and Temple Sinai leaders Anthony Murphy, Deitra Reiser and Dora Chen*



*Ms. Kaufman joined the affinity gathering for participants who identify as Jews of Color that was held over dinner before the program.*

Described by participants as “provocative and mind-expanding,” we were called to action– to transform our houses of worship into antiracist communities, places of belonging where all Jews of Color are able to bring their whole selves even to primarily White Jewish spaces.

Temple Sinai leaders Deitra Reiser, Dora Chen and Anthony Murphy engaged participants through a candid and provocative conversation with Ilana Kaufman about their experiences in Jewish spaces and their aspirations for more open spaces of belonging that reflect our multiracial Jewish world.

Ms. Kaufman summoned all attendees to support the leadership of Jews of Color and initiatives and organizations led by Jews of Color, and to shift Jewish organizational leadership to reflect the multiracial diversity of American Jews.

The program was sponsored by the following congregations, in partnership with Temple Sinai: Adas Israel Congregation, Sixth & I, Temple Emanuel, Temple Micah, Temple Shalom, and Washington Hebrew Congregation.

**Read the report from the Jews of Color Initiative: [Beyond the Count: Perspectives and Lived Experiences of Jews of Color](#)**