



# Annual Report

*2022-2023*

# TEMPLE SINAI CORE VALUES

(adopted by the congregation in its 2020 strategic plan –  
available at [templesinai.org/mission-values-plans](https://templesinai.org/mission-values-plans))

We believe that Reform Judaism is the essence of our Temple Sinai community and a source of comfort, support, inspiration, and strength in our lives.

We believe in respecting and engaging individuals and families without judgment on their own paths of Jewish experience, learning, and practice.

We believe in welcoming all who participate at Temple Sinai and in celebrating our inclusive and diverse community.

We believe that *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) is an essential element of Judaism and are committed to Temple Sinai continuing as a strong, audacious leader for social justice.

We believe in being a caring community whose members feel a sense of belonging and support from the clergy and each other in times of celebration and need.

We believe in providing Jewish education that has a meaningful impact on its participants from early childhood through adult education.

We believe in thoughtful and transparent stewardship of our congregation’s resources.

We believe that Temple Sinai should be a vibrant, joyful, and spiritually and intellectually stimulating place.

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## FROM THE SENIOR RABBI

**E**arly in my rabbinic career, a student gave me a desk ornament that was a mini door set in its frame so that it could swing open or closed in either direction. On the front of the door it read, "Whenever God closes one door, He opens another." It was a sweet gesture but, for theological reasons, I tucked it into a drawer never to be displayed. I never wanted to endorse the idea that life's disappointments - the metaphorical closed doors - are God's way of showing us life's true path. I don't believe Judaism exists to push us towards gratitude in the face of loss or to convince us that trauma is a sign of God's love.

Perhaps, however, I was too hasty in my dismissal of doors simultaneously opening and closing. As we bring this temple year to a close and prepare to open a new one, I see that closings and openings often come together. I still do not believe that suffering and loss are gifts to be embraced. But it is true that most endings also precipitate new beginnings. This idea is conveyed in the *Ne'ilah* prayers that end Yom Kippur. As we imagine the heavenly gates of *teshuva* closing, we implore God:

**פֶּתַח לָנוּ שַׁעַר. בְּעֵת נִעְלֵית שַׁעַר.**

*Open for us the gate at the time of the closing of the gate!*

We are far from Yom Kippur, but this message resonates through May and June at Temple Sinai. We thank Cantor Laura Croen for her 29 years of service and wish her well in her retirement as we welcome Cantor Rachel Rhodes and open our hearts and our doors to her. We mark a transition among our board leaders, in particular our president. We thank Marcie Solomon for her years of service through some great challenges and accomplishments and we welcome and celebrate our new president, Ken Jaffe, who has been an important leader in many capacities over the past years.

The rise of our new building addition and outdoor spaces is the most visible opening of the coming months. We anticipate the building's completion this fall and accordingly we are closing the "Honor Our Heritage, Build Our Future" fundraising campaign. This is truly a moment of gates closing while we call simultaneously for new openings. The end of the fundraising campaign calls for a renewed effort to engage as many member of the community as possible. Like the Israelites building the ancient tabernacle, we seek the holy blessings that settle on everyone when each individual participates in building God's house. I hope you will join me in increasing your support if you've already given or making a first contribution if you haven't. I also invite you to join me in opening our hearts and our mouths to share our gratitude with Andrew Engel and Naomi Camper, co-chairs of the campaign, for their tireless work over the past five years. We open the gates of our new building, close the gates on our fundraising campaign, and start a new era for Temple Sinai.

**פֶּתְחוּ-לִי שַׁעַר-יְצִדֵּק אָבָא בָּם אוֹדָה יְהוָה.**

*Open for us these gates of righteousness. Let us enter together and give thanks.*

– Rabbi Jonathan Roos



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**W**hat an amazing year it's been: honoring and celebrating the past, emerging quite well from a once-in-a-century pandemic, and designing the future! The year that has just concluded may well be considered Temple Sinai's most consequential single year since the 1950's when the congregation was established.

Most prominent and far-reaching of the many significant decisions that were made was the congregation and Rabbi Roos committing to a long-term extension of his service as Senior Rabbi. This profound commitment will provide important continuity, stability and strength, particularly as we are also transitioning from 29 years of a musical world led by Cantor Croen to the next one to be developed under the leadership of incoming Senior Cantor Rachel Rhodes.

The people of Temple Sinai have been able to clearly define and express who they are, what is important to them, and how to move into the future with intentional actions based on mission, values and a history of stability and long-term service. This year, an impressive number of engaged, invested members came forth to offer important guidance not only to the Cantor Search Committee, but also for the Art & Design Committee, the Membership Growth Task Force, the Committee for Israel Engagement and Social Justice, the Strategic Planning Committee, the various clergy and senior staff review committees, etc. So many people seeking a deeper involvement with the temple.

It's been a little more than one year since the temple "pivoted" from a mask mandate to a mask-optional policy. That shift in mid-March 2022 ushered in a new level of relaxation and the slow resumption of actually enjoying in-person gathering. (Slow, as in the board itself didn't hold its first in-person meeting until June.) But committees and affiliates eagerly re-committed to providing timely, interesting, compelling programs, and they also impressively connected with one another and have been able to identify opportunities for partnership and co-sponsorship of specific programs. I have often been struck by how, as large and diverse a community as Temple Sinai is, we are fundamentally "one." The mission and goals and objectives of the whole inform and are in turn strengthened by our many highly engaged sub-groups.

Lastly, I would like to thank the temple community for the honor and privilege of serving as your president these past two years. It has been immensely interesting, rewarding, and challenging to be at the crossroads of so much powerful community building and transformation. I believe that the actions of this past year will well-position our community for many years to come.

– Marcie Solomon





## COMMITTEES & AFFILIATES

Temple Sinai's Core Values are the heart of our Strategic Plan. These Core Values guide the actions and activities of our congregation, including those of our many committees. Through these committees, our members during this past year have found a sense of belonging in meaningful Jewish communities, pursued social justice, engaged in intellectually stimulating Jewish learning experiences, and helped to thoughtfully steward the temple's resources, all of which reflect our Core Values.

### ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Administration Committee continues to work with the Executive Director to oversee the temple's financial, technology, office, and human relations operations. Consistent with Temple Sinai's Core Value of **thoughtful stewardship of our resources**, we are particularly focused on making sure that the temple's employees are treated well and fairly.

### DAYTIMERS COMMITTEE

The DayTimers Committee conducted fourteen programs from May 2022 through May 2023. Two programs have been in person at Temple Sinai, and the remainder were on Zoom. The programs usually are on the second Monday of the month and open to anyone available at our 1:00 PM start time. Subjects this year included U.S. political issues, Israel, Jewish culture and history, social action, and other timely and relevant subjects. In planning programs, we are aware of the Core Value of Temple Sinai to **be an intellectually stimulating place and provide meaningful adult education**, and our programs are designed to fall within those objectives. Our excellent speakers, both congregants and others, have presented to audiences from 60 to over 100 people. The audience includes Temple Sinai members, former members, and guests. We have an active DayTimers Committee of eight members who contribute to the recruitment of speakers and the success of our programs.

Here are a few of our speakers from the past year:

Sen. Tom Harkin, former Senator from Iowa; Cantor Laura Croen and three other local cantors; Debra Caplan on the topic of Yiddish theater; Marcia Coyle on Supreme Court issues; Marvin Kalb, distinguished journalist and author; Rep. Jamie Raskin, Maryland 8th District; Mark Oppenheimer on anti-Semitism in the Ivy League; Phyllis Fagell, author, journalist, and child counselor; Barak Ravid and Joel Rubin on Israel politics; Robert Aubry Davis and Jane Horwitz on the local cultural scene; and Ken Jaffe for an update on renovations and expansion project here at Temple Sinai.

Our programs this past year have helped the Temple Sinai maintain contact with the members of the congregation. We have received numerous comments about the important role DayTimers programs have played in keeping congregants in touch with others as well as keeping them informed. During the next year we plan to have more programs at Temple Sinai and we will continue to maintain our Zoom options.

### THE COMMITTEE FOR ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT & SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Committee for Israel Engagement and Social Justice (CIESJ) was established in December 2022. A Mission Statement, which was approved by the Temple Sinai Board in February 2023, marks our commitment to Israel as a historic and cultural home of the Jewish people while also defending Israel's foundational principles as a pluralistic democracy that recognizes the rights of women and minority communities, guarantees religious freedom, and demands the end to the oppression inherent in the occupation of Palestinian territories under Israeli rule. The committee combines Temple Sinai's Core Values of **celebrating our Jewish heritage as well as its commitment to tikkun olam**. We believe that liberal democracy is a Jewish value.

The current Israeli government represents an existential threat to Israel's liberal democracy. CIESJ's work has focused on providing educational programs for the congregation about conditions in Israel, expanding our network to other congregations in the DC metropolitan region, and partnering with URJ/ARZA and other national organizations that are working toward our common goals. CIESJ has had three educational programs this past year, including speakers on settler violence, Palestinian nonviolent peace activism, and a Yom Ha'Atzmaut Shabbat presentation by Jeremy Ben-Ami, founder and president of J Street. CIESJ and other congregants have participated in several protests against the current Israeli government's efforts to undermine its judicial system. In addition, CIESJ is using some of its Dollars for Israel funds to support civil society organizations in the U.S. and Israel who are defending our Jewish values and Israel's Jewish heritage.



The CIESJ demonstrated for Israel's democracy with the Progressive Israel Network and the UnXeptable group of Israeli expats at the Israeli Embassy and the Grand Hyatt Hotel in DC on February 3, March 12, and March 26, 2023. Sinai participants included committee members, other Sinai members, and Rabbis Roos, Diamondstein, and Reiner.

### THE TEMPLE SINAI LIBRARY

In all of its endeavors the Temple Sinai Library seeks to amplify the Core Values articulated in the temple's strategic plan. In particular, our collection and activities align with the temple's values of **providing Jewish education** that has a meaningful impact on its participants from early childhood through adult education as well as contributing to the temple being a **vibrant, joyful, and spiritually and intellectually stimulating place**. We support these values while also providing a welcoming environment attuned to the specific needs and interests of our multiracial congregation.

One dad described our Tot Shabbat story time as a "zen hour in the weekend." It's also a forum where we share books featuring diverse families and individuals as well as Jewish holidays and principles with our youngest readers and their adults.

A mother asked us to prepare a book bundle to help her "share/learn a little more about each holiday" with



her sons who “are the only non-Modern Orthodox family of all [her] inlaws.” And a grandmother shared that her grandson “has been so pleased with the book he received at the Tot Shabbat...he wants to read it every day.”

In addition to the book giveaways, Tot Shabbat Story Times, and book bundles, we connect with adult readers through our five annual SinaiReads book discussions. Led by Rabbi Goldstein, we tackle fiction ranging from new releases such as *Let There Be Light* by Liana Finck to *The Passenger* by Ulrich Boschwitz, which was written in 1938.

We share information through our monthly Circle of Book Lovers email, which is chock full of in-person and virtual literary opportunities; the short reviews of newly purchased books found in the quarterly email Check It Out!; and the book blurbs tied to holidays and events in the temple’s weekly email.

We support the clergy and staff with a special edition of Check it Out! with reviews of books of special interest to them, offer research assistance to members, and collaborate with other temple committees.

This year, we worked with the Archives and Music committees to record an oral history of Cantor Croen, who is retiring after nearly three decades at Temple Sinai (see more on page 9). In it, she shares her journey to becoming a cantor and reflects on her experiences at Temple Sinai. Watch the full video here: [templesinai.org/oral-history-project](https://templesinai.org/oral-history-project).

We also partnered with the Archives committee to create a Finding Aid to increase access to these resources about the temple’s rich history.

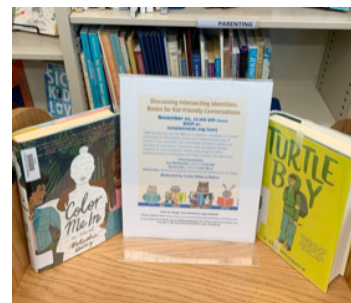
The library committee is an engaged group of volunteers. We tackle individual and collective library projects as well as supporting each other and celebrating our life events.

In short, the library prioritizes educating, enlightening and entertaining members of all ages and interests in an atmosphere in which all are joyfully welcomed. Visit our homepage to learn more: [bit.ly/TSLibrary](https://bit.ly/TSLibrary).

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Temple Sinai Membership Committee continues to **foster a sense of belonging** for new members, one of our Core Values. Over the past year, we welcomed 42 new member households to our community; 32 of these families have young children. Each new member received a welcome bag at their home, complete with Temple Sinai swag, a home-baked treat, challah, grape juice, and wine for Shabbat along with a pot of seeds for flowers. All new member families were also invited to receptions throughout the year to meet our clergy team and other temple members.

This year, we fostered new connections with our college-aged members and their parents. At Chanukah, we sent gelt, dreidels, and a Starbucks gift card to 75 college students. On a Monday night in February, over 50 parents with college-aged children gathered at a member’s home for an evening of food, drinks, and conversation. The parents brought baked goods and other treats and made care packages to mail to their kids. These parents are looking forward to gathering again and forming new connections with temple members who are at a similar stage in life. We welcome any Temple Sinai members who would like to join our efforts to welcome new members into our community and help them find meaningful connection.



*Purim and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion displays*

## MUSIC COMMITTEE

### Honoring Senior Cantor Laura Croen in her Retirement Year

The Music Committee’s year began with the news that Laura Croen, our beloved Senior Cantor of more than 29 years, would be retiring at the end of June, 2023. The Search Committee, which included Music Committee Co-Chairs Stephanie Lebow and Myra Weinberg, spent a number of months in an intense search for a new cantor to fill the large void that would be left by Cantor Croen’s retirement. We were all thrilled to have Rachel Rhodes, currently the Cantor at Temple Rodef Shalom in Falls Church, Virginia, accept the Senior Cantor position. She will be starting in July of this year.



*Cantor Laura Croen (right) with Joyce Rosenzweig at Shabbat Shira on February 24, 2023.*



*The Choir*

The Music Committee produced a number of events specifically oriented toward celebrating Cantor Croen. This year’s Shabbat Shira, attended by more than 250 people on February 24, 2023, was entitled “P’tach Libi (Open My Heart): Music, the Gateway to the Soul.” The joyful service featured pianist, conductor and educator Joyce Rosenzweig, who was an early mentor of Cantor Croen. Leading the Temple Sinai Choir in a number of contemporary and folk melodies, Rosenzweig also spoke about the changes taking place in the cantorate and how they are influencing services today and into the future.

On March 19, 2023, there was a sold-out concert by acclaimed a cappella group Six13, with Cantor Croen joining in on one of their numbers. On April 29, we celebrated with Cantor Croen in a joyous Dance and Schmooze party featuring reminiscences, a skit by the clergy, a special “Laura cocktail” and delicious food. A DJ helped hundreds of temple members dance the night away!

Still to come is Cantor Croen’s Farewell Shabbat service on June 2, 2023. It will feature remarks by clergy past and present, as well as singing by the Adult and Youth choirs and instrumentals by house band Middle Matzah Conspiracy. Cantor Croen will choose the music that has been most meaningful to her over the years, and it promises to be a special evening.

## SINAI CARES

SinaiCares continued its mission of fulfilling Temple Sinai’s Core Value of **providing member-to-member support at times of need and celebration**. We have a roster of fifteen volunteers who deliver challahs, yahrzeit candles and baby baskets to members who are mourning a loss or celebrating a new baby. We made sure to call our most isolated members regularly throughout the year, and especially around the High Holidays. ShulCloud, our new member database, along with our existing pastoral tracking system, has allowed us to enhance our individualized outreach for our members who need extra support.



## TEMPLE SINAI MEN OF REFORM JUDAISM

The Temple Sinai Men of Reform Judaism (TSMRJ or the Brotherhood) exemplifies Temple Sinai's Core Value of **creating community** by offering adult male members of Temple Sinai a sense of community and fellowship. Most of our programs are social, and we are also involved in service, charity, and the religious and cultural life of Temple Sinai. And we welcome everyone from the congregation, not just men (although usually just the adults), to enjoy our events that appeal to them.

- For 2022-2023, we attempted to return to a full year of programming, and we started the year in fine fashion. In October 2022, Alex Laufer, co-founder, and Head Distiller for One Eight Distilling (now District Made) from DC's Ivy City showed off some of his local whiskeys and gins at our annual tasting in the Sukkah.
- Early In 2023, we hosted a book presentation by Robert K. Sutton, former Chief Historian for the National Park Service (2007-2016). He talked about his latest book, *Nazis on the Potomac: The Top- Secret Intelligence Operation That Helped Win WWII*, about German POWs stationed at Fort Hunt, Virginia, and the intelligence training facility at Fort Ritchie in Maryland where Jewish German refugees were taught to spy for the United States.
- In March, the Brotherhood again served as bartenders at the Adult Purim Celebration, keeping everyone there in high spirits.
- In March, we hosted a Trivia Night in the Bet Am, where temple members (mostly) competed in teams to answer trivia questions on a variety of topics. We all knew which US President was the architect for the University of Virginia, but no one knew the recording artist covering Lean On Me.
- In April, shortly after Passover, the Brotherhood hosted a Comedy Club, where a number of temple members showed off their comedy skills to the audience, who also enjoyed food and drink, all to benefit Sinai House.
- In early June, we are planning an outing to Top Golf, where we can enjoy a sports-themed entertainment venue set out like a golf driving range, with climate-controlled, weather-protected hitting bays for 6 people. We hope members of the Sisterhood will join us for this event.
- The Brotherhood also showed its support for the temple by supporting the Capital Campaign and partnering with the Sisterhood to sponsor kiddush cups for B'nei Mitzvot and the Yom Kippur Break Fast. We plan again this year to serve as a sponsor of the Tricia Davis 5K for Sinai House at Rock Creek Park on Mother's Day. We also contribute the cornstalks used to decorate the Sukkah for Sukkot.

TSMRJ is always looking for men who can help us with ideas and energy to expand what we do. Contact Howard Oppenheim [howard.i.oppenheim@gmail.com](mailto:howard.i.oppenheim@gmail.com) to get involved.



Gin and whiskey tasting in the Sukkah.



Trivia Night.

## TEMPLE SINAI WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM

The Temple Sinai Women of Reform Judaism (TSWRJ) offered a full calendar of opportunities in 2022-2023 to get together, learn, pray, eat, give back, and even hike. Many thanks to TSWRJ Board Presidents Ellen Croog and Audrey Kramer for their leadership, to our program coordinators, and to the many volunteers. Here are some highlights from this year:

- Capital Area Food Bank fundraiser. Temple Sinai responded generously to TSWRJ's annual call for donations at the High Holidays, raising \$30,000 to help the food bank provide healthy meals to people in the Washington metro region.
- Chanukah Mart, November 2022. In-person once again! Congregants enjoyed schmoozing, shopping, and noshing on familiar foods such as latkes, sufganiyot, kugel and stuffed cabbage.
- Shabbaton, January 2023. More than 60 Temple Sinai women came to the temple for a day related to the theme "Women of the Bible – Rebels with a Cause." Rabbi Goldstein and Cantor Croen led us in a meaningful service. Activities also included lively facilitated discussions, a *tzedakah* project, and, of course, lunch.
- Authors' Roundtable, March 2023. More than four dozen congregants and friends came to the Bet Am for a panel of three noted local authors: Curdella Forbes, Liz Scheier, and Martha Anne Toll. TSWRJ's Fran Rothstein moderated.
- Second Seder, April 6, 2023.
- Sisterhood Shabbat service, April 21, 2023.



Photos top to bottom: Chanukah Mart, Authors' Roundtable, and hiking in Rock Creek Park.

The year began with the fall welcome meeting for all TSWRJ members and concluded with our annual spring membership meeting (May 17). Other activities were tours of the Holocaust Museum, the Capital Area Food Bank, and a private home to see a collection of Indian art. There was a play reading and a book discussion (Nina Totenberg's book, *Dinners With Ruth*). We co-sponsored a brunch and discussion on May 7, "Intertwined Narratives: Black-Jewish Relationships in America," with the WRJ of Temple Emanuel in nearby Kensington, Maryland.

Mahjong ("Mahj") players meet weekly on Wednesday evenings and Liz Brenner-Leifer leads hikes once a month on Sundays in Rock Creek Park. The doors of the TSWRJ Judaica shop are open (or can be open by appointment), and we are available to help with your simcha luncheons. There are so many ways to join us as we engage in Temple Sinai's Core Value of **being a caring community whose members feel a sense of belonging**. Learn more at: [templesinaidc.org/tswrj](http://templesinaidc.org/tswrj).

Andrea Harnett, Carole Brand, Celia Josephs, Helene Sacks, Ilana Gordon, Karen Allen, Michelle Engelmann, Myra Jacobs, and Rita Brickman contributed to this report.



## THE TEMPLE SINAI NURSERY SCHOOL

It has been another joyful year of growth and learning at Temple Sinai Nursery School – the 30th year of our program! The children continue to flourish under the care of our remarkable faculty, who nurture the children's sense of wonder through developmentally appropriate play-based experiences. As our children work with clay, paint, manipulatives, blocks, beads, natural materials, and more, their curiosity propels learning. Through storytelling, imaginative play, building, climbing, experimenting, planting, cooking, and sharing ideas with one another, TSNS children build lasting relationships, resilience, confidence, and a strong sense of identity.

This year we were thrilled to welcome children to the Outdoor Classroom, the newest learning space at TSNS. Situated between the Bet Am and upstairs classroom wing, the Outdoor Classroom was designed to delight and engage our young learners and has become a favorite destination for exploration in our TSNS community. The ongoing construction at the temple has also been fascinating for the children, who have enjoyed carefully observing the building process through windows in the construction fence and designing their own projects in the Digging Square added to the playground this year.



Weekly Shabbat Sing celebrations, monthly Family Shabbats, and holiday celebrations like our Chanukah Party, Purim Parades, and Passover

Sing-Along provided opportunities to gather, sing, and dance with our amazing clergy team. Favorite annual events like our Special Visitors' Day and Art Show and Spring Auction returned to the calendar with great fanfare, and new events like our Parents and Faculty Trivia Night

Out provided additional opportunities to come together as a community, with some friendly competition between classes adding a little extra excitement.

Monthly *tzedakah* initiatives led by each class have supported an array of local non-profits, providing a meaningful and authentic way for Nursery School children and families to take part in *tikkun olam*. This year, organizations including Mary's Center, Lucky Dog Animal Rescue, C.L.A.P. (Childhood Literacy Adds Potential), and ShareBaby were the recipients of boxes full of donations from our generous community.



back to our community.

Accredited by NAEYC for over 20 years, TSNS takes great pride in this national recognition of the high-caliber work of our school. This year we were re-accredited for another five years, with nearly perfect scores on our portfolios, classroom assessments, and overall program evaluation, and 100% scores in Curriculum, Teaching, Families and Community Relationships, Physical Environment, and Leadership and Management! Considered the gold standard for early childhood program credentialing, the NAEYC accreditation process is a rigorous one, taking over a year of work to complete.



The 30th Anniversary of TSNS truly gives us much to celebrate. Our TSNS Community Cookbook, a collection of over 200 recipes from families, faculty, and staff prepared in honor of this milestone in our school's history, is hot off the press – please reach out to the Nursery School Office if you are interested in purchasing a copy! We are also getting ready to engage in a significant renovation of the playground, a favorite destination for all Temple Sinai children. For more information about the Just Play More campaign and how you can participate, please turn to page 18.

– Ali Hurewitz, Director of Early Childhood Education

TSNS is a place of learning not only for the children, but also for our parents and faculty members. This year the teachers enjoyed many learning opportunities, including sessions with Claire Lerner, child development specialist; Sandy Lanes, Reggio pedagogical consultant; and Jacky Howell, educational coach and author. In November, our entire faculty also attended the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Conference, which provided us with an incredible chance to learn from experts from around the country and the world and bring innovative ideas





## THE TEMPLE SINAI RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & YOUTH EDUCATION

### Top 10 Awesomes of 2022-2023 (in no particular order)

1. This year brought the incredible “sweetness” of the return of our annual BYOC – Bring Your Own Cereal Breakfast. All our TSRS students – from Grades 2-10 – had a chance to enjoy this fun tradition. And Sydney Smira brought us the most epic cereal we’ve ever seen: Wendy’s Frosty Cereal!
2. We welcomed nearly 30 kindergartners and their families to Temple Sinai Religious School in our B’yachad program. Whether celebrating Shabbat together with Cantorial Soloist Robyn Helzner, or joining Roberta Hockstein and friends in special Sunday programming, it was a year of fun and memory making. Check out the giant Lego menorah we made on Chanukah!
3. Maxwell Miller joined our team full time, and brought her energy, creativity, and outstanding teaching skills to our Youth Education Team. We’re so glad she’s part of the Sinai family!
4. With Rabbi Diamondstein as advisor, Sinaites got back to a regular schedule of in-person events and regular Sinaites Night Out (SNOs)! All 8th-12th graders at Sinai are welcome to connect to our Temple Youth Group (TYG). Follow on Instagram at @sinaiteens.
5. 1st Graders made the move from our family 1st grade program, Bonim, to being independent Sunday program-goers in March. It’s been super fun to have their 1st grade energy in the building on Sunday mornings, and to watch Morah Valerie with her students.



6. Sunday students welcomed two guest artists during the program year, helping us enrich and enhance our musical and worship experiences. Eliana Light and Ben Romano were awesome guests in our community – and we’re still singing about Matzah Pizza!
7. While construction went on at the building, our TSRS teachers have spent their year thinking about what they are building at Temple Sinai!
8. 7th and 8th graders came out every Tuesday night for Noar, exploring topics from yoga to the Supreme Court. Some highlights included the B’har Sinai youth music ensemble, directed by Neil Weston and Cantor Laura Croen, and an exploration of Jewish artists and the creation of artwork in their image.
9. Tot Shabbat and holiday programming brought so many children and their families to our play spaces for fun. We were so proud to augment our Tot Shabbat experience with a monthly Tot Storytime in our library with librarian Ruth Polk.
10. Most of all, 2022-2023 brought back a year of uninterrupted, in-person, joyful learning experiences to TSRS – and we couldn’t be happier to be back together.







When we launched the **Honor our Heritage, Build our Future** campaign in 2018, we did not expect that we would still be active five years later in 2023. That said, this is not an “eternal” campaign, and we are pleased to share that the campaign will wind down this fall. THANK YOU to the nearly 500 member families whose generosity has enabled us to approach the finish line.

The final phase of our campaign, which will coincide with the High Holidays, echoes the theme of the *Ne'ilah* Yom Kippur service: **“The Doors to our new Building are Opening; The Gates of the Campaign are Closing.”** We hope to inspire all members of the Temple Sinai community to be part of this once-in-a-generation campaign and have their names inscribed on the walls of Temple Sinai.

*“And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.” Exodus 25:8*

### The Building is Opening; The Gates of the Campaign are Closing



In June 2022 we celebrated the groundbreaking of the Renovation & Expansion project's South Addition construction. Over the past year we have seen the space change dramatically—first with demolition of the existing space, then with the excavation and foundation work, and now with the structure of the new addition rapidly rising and taking shape. It has been exciting to see these changes every week. If you haven't done so, you can follow along with the evolving progress of the project on our website at [templesinai.org/category/renovation](https://templesinai.org/category/renovation).

*Pitchu li sha'arei tzedek  
Avo vam odeh Yah.*

**פְּתֹחוּ-לִי שַׁעֲרֵי-צֶדֶק אֲבָא בָם אוֹדֶה יְיָ.**

*Open to me the gates of righteous  
ness; I will enter into them, I will  
give thanks unto the Eternal.*

These are the words that will greet us as we enter Temple Sinai's new addition when it opens this fall.



Last year, we were able to gather together in the refreshed sanctuary and social hall. And now, we are excited that the new addition is on track to open in September 2023 (with all the usual caveats about expecting the unexpected when it comes to construction!) to provide access for the new school year and the High Holidays.

**Please save the date for a September 29/Sukkot grand opening celebration.**

If you have questions about the South Addition and how it will enrich the future of our congregation, we'd love to answer them! We are also happy to offer tours of the construction site and explain what is happening in greater detail.

### Financial Overview

This campaign started in 2018 with the goal of raising a minimum of \$8 million to renovate the sanctuary, expand the building, and create a \$2 million sustaining fund to help our community thrive. While we have exceeded that initial goal and have raised close to \$11 million as this report went to print, inflation and the necessary phasing of the project because of the pandemic have raised overall total campaign costs to \$14–15 million. We are confident that our congregation has the capacity to achieve this final goal.

While the temple has a plan to finance the gap between the amount currently raised and the overall costs of the project, we will be working hard between now and the end of the year to reach the final goal so that we can minimize the amount that must be financed. You can help us close this gap and reduce the temple's financing burden.

*“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*

### The Path Forward

In 1950, seven families had a vision for Temple Sinai as a congregation based in faith, fairness and action. While we have grown, we are true to their vision and are leaders in the Reform Jewish movement, recognized as one of the most innovative centers for Jewish education, cultivating generations of Jewish leaders.

This is a once-in-a-generation campaign — widespread support brings us closer together and strengthens our bonds as a community with shared values and goals.

### The gates are closing!

We hope to inspire the remaining 600+ Temple Sinai members who have yet to support the campaign to join us with a generous donation. As this transformational campaign closes, we will be honoring those who made this possible with a donor recognition display in the new addition. Please inscribe your name in the history of Temple Sinai!

### Thank you to all who have participated

We are enormously grateful to the approximately **540 temple families** who have already joined us with a multi-year pledge or gift. This transformational project would not be possible without your leadership and generosity.

We are humbly asking current donors to consider extending their pledge by 1-2 years — or if you made a one-time gift, to increase that gift to a level that is comfortable for your family.

Thank you to all who have made this campaign a reality.

### Just Play More: A Campaign for the Playground at Temple Sinai

*“The playground is an extension of the classroom in learning opportunities... where possibilities for creativity are endless.” ~Perri Iger-Silversmith, Founding Director of Temple Sinai Nursery School*

As part of the Renovation & Expansion project, we have already reshaped the temple’s playground, which is integral to the child-centered educational programming that is the foundation of our Nursery and Religious Schools. The space now extends into a beautiful wooded glen, adding more area than was lost to the South Addition; a new outdoor classroom space next to the Bet Am was also developed as part of the temple’s commitment to bringing vibrant and engaging learning experiences outside.

With the Just Play More campaign, we will continue to modernize and refresh the playground, which is enjoyed by children and families throughout the Temple Sinai community. The playground also plays a significant role in the curriculum of the Nursery School. We believe that play is the primary vehicle through which learning progresses in the early years and the playground is an integral space for this learning to occur. In this expansive outdoor space, children engage in their own, self-chosen, thrilling play, during which they can take risks, build resilience, deepen friendships, and strengthen growing bodies. Now, as the Nursery School celebrates its 30th Anniversary, the playground will benefit from this exciting reimagining, bringing new and intriguing opportunities to explore, climb, slide, and play to the children of our Temple Sinai community.

The launching of this campaign, which includes significant new additions to this space, will support play that is more challenging, more engaging, more exciting, more varied, more creative, more collaborative, and more dynamic. In this state-of-the-art outdoor playscape, we envision joyful learning for our children and families and a new space for gathering as a community, including:



- Large Climber
- Snail Climbers
- Multi-Piece “Logstake” Course
- Saucer Spinner
- New Surfacing
- “Out-itorium” Gathering Space
- Double Slides
- Water Feature with Pump & Water Wheel

For more information about the Just Play More playground modernization campaign and to support the creation of a new playground to sustain learning and play for the next 30 years, please reach out to:

Ali Hurewitz, Director of Early Childhood Education: [ali.tsns@templesinaidc.org](mailto:ali.tsns@templesinaidc.org)

Noah Benjamin, Asst. Director of Development: [nbenjamin@templesinaidc.org](mailto:nbenjamin@templesinaidc.org)

### Campaign Summary

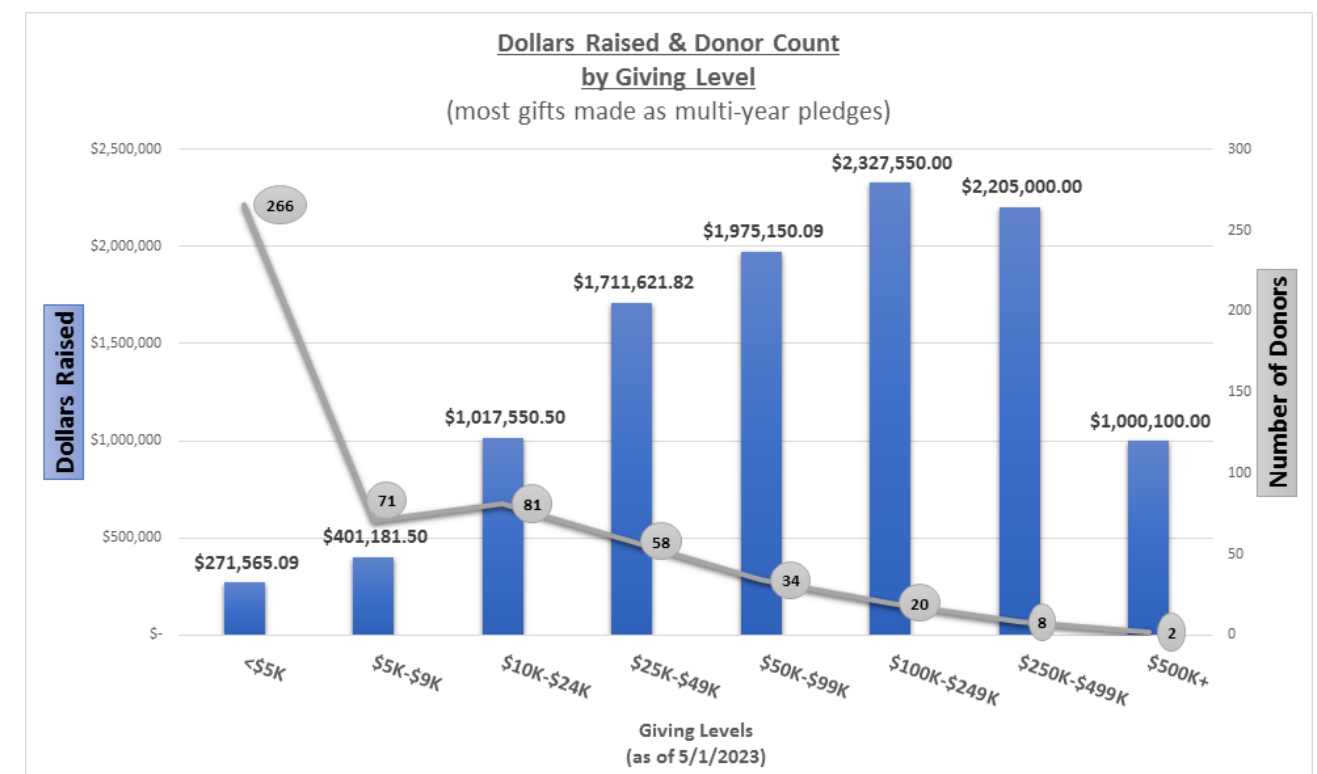
As of this printing, thanks to the generosity of the Temple Sinai community, almost \$11 million has been pledged to the Honor our Heritage, Build our Future Campaign. Overall, we’ve received donations from 540 different donors and 486 current temple families, which is about 42% of our congregation.

The vast majority of donations to this campaign have come in the form of multi-year pledges—often paid over 5 years. For many, these are the largest charitable commitments they or their family have ever made, and we are happy to work with donors to spread their gifts out over multiple years.

Since we re-launched the campaign in 2022 following the pause brought upon by the Covid pandemic, we had received almost \$1 million in new pledges and gifts from 69 donors. Many of these are from current donors who have generously extended their pledges, as well as from new donors joining the campaign for the first time.

We need your help to fully fund this once-in-a-generation project. If you have not yet made a pledge or have not made an additional gift during this second phase of the campaign, please consider joining us. Together, we can close this campaign strong!

- Total Pledges: **\$10,909,719**
- Total Donors: **540**
- Total Member Donors: **486**
- Percent of Members Participating in Campaign: **42%**
- New Pledges & Gifts (Since Start of 2022): **\$926,444**
- New Pledge Extensions: **55**
- New Donor Pledges: **14**
- Total Members Yet to Join the Campaign: **675**
- Total Current Donors Yet to Extend Pledges: **417**





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

Esthy* & James Adler Anonymous (4) Elaine Kotell Binder & Richard Binder The Brickman Family Naomi & Clarke Camper Edward B. Cohen & Charlene Barshefsky Timothy S. Davis Isabel ("Liz") Dunst Karen Barr & Andrew Engel	Michelle & Glenn Engelmann Andrew Gilman & Dianne Rudo Deborah & Kenneth Jaffe The Kolton Family in Memory of Adam Kolton David Marchick & Pamela Kurland The Leibenluft Family Sarah Binder & Forrest Maltzman Libby & Ronald Merrill Herbert (z"l) & Barbara Mintz	Arnold, Diane, & Geraldine Polinger Thorn & Sharis Pozen Peter Scher & Kim Tilley Lafe Solomon & Cam Crockett Helen & Dan Sonenshine Temple Sinai Women of Reform Judaism John & Ellen Villa Gorelick-Waldhorn Family Fund Marc Zwillingler & Kirsten Chadwick
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\$50,000 to \$99,999

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The Ammerman Family Foundation  
in memory of Harvey & Lenell Ammerman  
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Nancy Liebermann & Joe Godles  
Syma & Martin Mendelsohn  
Jenifer & Aaron Panner  
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Catherine A. Ribnick  
Salicki  
Schwartz Family  
Michael & Apple Sussmann  
Temple Sinai Nursery School  
Natalie Lichtenstein & Willard Tom  
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John & Diane Yochelson  
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Jim Jaffe & Leslie Sewell  
Marvin & Madeleine Kalb  
Jonathan & Lisa Kanter  
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Peter R. Kolker  
Peter & Judy Kovler  
Greg & Kuri Levine  
Rosann Wisman & Michael Lilek  
Deborah & Robert Litt  
Marsha Shaines & Robert Loesche  
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Stephen C. Messner & Elizabeth Prelinger  
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Mr. & Mrs. William Passer  
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Rabbi Fred N Reiner & Susan M Liss  
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The RISS Foundation  
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Dan & Flo Rosenblum  
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Edward & Kathryn Schwartz  
Robert Snyder & Carol Green  
Marcie Solomon  
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Devin & Lauren Talbott  
Temple Sinai Men of Reform Judaism  
Karen & Darwin Walker  
Philip West & Barbara Yellen  
Peter Winkler & Barbara Kraft  
The Zelin Family

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Mike Abramowitz & Susan Baer  
Jeffrey & Ellen Agler, in memory of Talia Agler  
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David & Ari Antonelli  
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Emily & Adam Berman  
Annie Binder & Michael Kubzansky  
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Rich Cohen & Lyn Schlitt  
The Coleman Family  
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Anne & Burton Fishman  
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Meredith Margolis & Gary Goodweather

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Steven Guttentag & Stacy Winick  
Jim & Niesa Halpern  
Robert & Jill Hazan  
Ellen Heiman  
Lauren Aronson & Rob Hendin  
Susan Beyer Home\*: For the hurt, Mercy. For the least, Justice. For every soul, Warmth.  
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Deborah Jospin  
Jennifer & Gregory Kaufmann  
James Kessler & Susan Kidd  
Cynthia Cook & Meyer Kestnbaum  
Sarah & Israel Klein  
Barbara & Norman Knopf  
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Reta Guttman\*  
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Laura Kumin & Kevin Mulshine  
Beverly & Mark Nadel  
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Perry Pockros & Patricia Neuman  
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Lois J. Schiffer  
Richard & Joyce Schwartz  
Meg Seldin & Reuben Altizer  
Gary & Caryn Seligman  
Daniel & Katherine Simon  
Ann Sloane  
Allen & Susan Snyder  
Steven Snyder & Deborah Eichhorn  
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Darrell & Deborah Tanno  
Helen Trilling  
Seth & Lisa Tucker  
Ruth Uhlmann & Craig Mathews  
Nelly Urbach  
Ginny Levin & Bruce Vinik  
Rob Vogel & Bonnie Malkin  
Lance & Meredith Wade  
Kip Weissman & Kathy Balog  
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Dr. & Mrs. Frank Workman  
Dr. Robert Zeskind & Maryetta Andrews-Sachs  
Andrea Stone & Stephen Zuckerman

\$5,000 to \$9,999

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Wendy Bogart  
Ravelle Brickman  
Kenneth & Linda Chaletzky  
Stephanie Chaplin  
Lori Berman & Jack Deutsch  
Susan & Charles Edson in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Edson Blier  
Marc F. Efron  
Suzanne Eichhorn\* & Lew Priven  
Phyllis & Steven Fagell  
Nathan & Esther Finkelstein  
Laura Forman & Richard Bender  
Debbie & Nick Fox  
Jonathan & Sharon Franklin  
Tara Sonenshine & Gary Friend  
Michael Fuchs & Myra Jacobs  
Frank\* & Ann Gilbert  
Betty Ginsburg  
Cynthia A. & Leonard M. Glassman  
Andrew Goldsmith & Miriam Fishman  
Andrew Goldstein & Julie Rawe  
Rabbi Hannah Goldstein & Josh Friedman  
Mitchell Goldstein & Susan Schiffer  
Sally Greenberg & Abbe Smith  
Peter & Shari Gronvall  
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Leslie Hall & Bill Busis  
The Marcus Foundation  
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Sue Steinman & Steve Heyman  
The Gordon/Horowitz Family  
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Sandra Hughes  
The Ingber Family  
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Jeffrey Alpher & Haley Kaufman  
Julia & Matt Kepniss  
Steve Klitzman & Justine Lisser  
Kenneth & Audrey Kramer  
Family of Amy Kurtz & Joe Fuld  
Frank Liebermann\*  
Julie & Andrew Mannes  
Scott Mezistrano & Jeff Kaye  
Sarah Bloom Raskin & Jamie Raskin  
David & Jo Ann Reiss  
Steven Riskin & Claudine Isaacs  
Barbara Rosenbaum & Robert Feldhuhn  
The Goldsmith-Rosenthal Family  
David Saperstein & Ellen Weiss  
Janis & Philip Schiff  
Sue & Steve Schiffman  
Mr. Jonathan Schiller  
Karen Rothenberg & Jeffrey Seltzer  
Michael Sibarium & Laura Govoni-Sibarium

Marjorie H. Sonnenfeldt  
Kathryn & Mark Spindel  
David M. Stevens & Linda A. Wymbs  
Tikkun Olam Foundation  
Daniel & Veronica Suleiman  
Howard Tarnoff & Robyn Miller-Tarnoff  
Michael (z"l) & Allison Tierney  
Seth & Jan Tievsky  
Gail & Barry Wides  
Susan Schwartz Wildstrom

\$1,800 to \$4,999

Anonymous (3)  
Susana Raquel Berger & Ashley Baia  
Lois Berkowitz  
Philip Birnbaum  
Dr. David & Mrs. Anne Brill  
Susan B. Chertkof, Stephen Z. Chertkof & Elizabeth A. Cullen  
Catherine L. Copp  
Victoria Croog  
Melinda Salzman & Sherman Edwards  
Cantor Laura Croen & Mark Erlich  
Anne Falk  
Gary Falk  
Don Fishman & Sonya Schwartz  
Barbara & Herb\* Franklin  
Joshua, Rebecca, Samantha, & Natalie Gordon  
Michael & Marcia Greenberger  
Carolyn Gruber  
Haya & Jeffrey Hakim  
Laura Trivers & Mark Harkins  
Judith N. Herr & Robert J. Samuelson  
Ali & Barry Hurewitz  
Michael Isenman & Allison Mostow  
Susan Jakes & Jeffrey Prescott  
Matthew Jessup & Zena Carmel-Jessup  
Michael & Jean Kaliner  
Hugh & Caroline Kaplan  
Ron Kimball & Ellen Ostrow  
Ellen & William Kominers  
Ed & Stephanie Lebow  
Lon Levin  
Marci Levin & Joel Resnick  
Lisa Marcus, David Levine & Family  
David Levis & Elena Boley & Family  
Edward Levy  
Judge Alan & Elizabeth Lourie  
Stephanie Lowet & Ames Gross  
Adam & Olga Lurie  
Tracy & Billy Mann  
Larry & Rochelle Margasak  
Myron Marlin & Ilyse Veron  
Mitchell & Michele Miller  
Nicole & Joshua Mintz  
Beth W. Newburger  
Debbie & Adam Rappaport  
Marc & Lauren Regardie  
Joyce & Kenneth Robbins  
Zerek Schwartz & Cantor Rebecca Robins  
Jennifer Rudy & Seth Krevat  
Joyce & Lester Scall  
Julie & Mark Schuman  
Rita & Bob Siegle  
Daniel & Maxine Singer  
Don & Judy Squires  
Bob & Jinny Stern  
Amy K. Taylor  
Barbara Tenenbaum  
Dana Brusca & Colin Watson  
Philip Webre & Jayne Shister

Rabbi Stephanie Bernstein & Henry Winokur  
The Zaft/Chlopak Family in honor of Olivia Zaft's Bat-Mitzvah  
Regina, Micah, & Shira Ziegler  
Beverly Zweiben

Up to \$1,800

John Adamovich & Rachel Miller  
Ira & Joy Adler  
Jeremy Alper & Jody Feder  
Nick Anderson & Esther Schrader  
Anonymous (15)  
Cherrill Anson  
Steve Asin & Paula Sweeney  
Richard & Carol Gross  
Yevgeny Gurevich & Marina Fishbein  
Joe & Merna Guttemtag  
The Hauptman Family  
Ira & JoAnn Heiman  
Cantorial Soloist Robyn Helzner  
Craig Iscoe & Rosemary Hart  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Jablon  
Jay Josephs  
Julian & Celia Josephs  
Barbara & John Jost  
Christina Joy  
Jonathan & Cheri Kamin  
Irving E. Kaminsky  
Helaine Klasky & William Wechsler  
Leah Brasch & Dan Koch  
Aaron & Charlotte Kramer  
William & Better 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  
Jean & Gary Diamond  
Jena Fields & Dan Ekstein  
Joe Ersek & Rachel Landau  
David & Jane Fairweather  
Alan Farkas  
Mike & Doris Feinsilber  
Barney & Patrice Feinstein  
Kim Feinstein  
Dan Feldman & Gayle Weiswasser  
Lance Ferderer  
Ellen Fern & Brett O'Brien  
The Feuer Family  
Ray & Sharon Fields  
Harold & Arlene Finger  
Mara Bralove & Ari Fisher  
Andrea Harnett & Benjamin Fisherow  
Flavelle Family  
Gail Fieder  
Kristin Fogle; in memory of Marvin Kranz  
Harold Freilich & Susan Edelheit  
Daniel & Margery Friedman  
Mark & Rachel Friedman  
Michael Friedman  
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Rivka Garver  
Rita A. Gaylin  
Kenneth Geller & Judith Ratner  
Charlotte Engel Gendler in honor of the milestone birthday of Andrew Engel  
Tamar Gendler  
Robin B. Gerber

Catherine Hefternan Gibson & Micah Gibson  
Mark & Susan Ginsburg  
Andrew Glickman & Julie Cohen  
Andrew & Aviva Goldfarb  
Ross Goldman & Lauren Roth  
Jordan Goldstein & Hillary Davidson  
Jamie Agins & Robert Greenberg  
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 Guttemtag  
The Hauptman Family  
Ira & JoAnn Heiman  
Cantorial Soloist Robyn Helzner  
Craig Iscoe & Rosemary Hart  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Jablon  
Jay Josephs  
Julian & Celia Josephs  
Barbara & John Jost  
Christina Joy  
Jonathan & Cheri Kamin  
Irving E. Kaminsky  
Helaine Klasky & William Wechsler  
Leah Brasch & Dan Koch  
Aaron & Charlotte Kramer  
William & Better 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  
Annie L. Vinik & James Lawrence  
Ellen Lazarus  
Rebecca Kapell Leigh  
Jennifer & Glenn Leon  
Nicole Donath & Sean Lev  
Carin & Jason Levine  
Sue Levine & Leon Fink  
Elliott & Judith Lichtman  
Lance Lipman  
Benjamin & Saskia Loewy  
Miguel Lopez Forastier & Peta Hellmann  
Benjamin & Chris Lourie  
Erin & Owen Lourie  
Benita Alk Lubic  
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  
Jon Nathan & Dora Chen  
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Don Nesbeth  
Monroe & Rosalind Neuman

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Nancy Furman Paul & Marc Paul  
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Andrea & Brian Polsky in memory of Larry Willis  
Elia Powers & Mara Gandal-Powers  
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Michael & Gretchen Robbins  
Julie Rosenthal  
Rabbi Adam Rosenwasser & Shalom Rosenberg  
Larry & Margy Ross  
Erica Sawyer  
Reggie Schatz  
Deborah & Howard Scheck  
Aaron Schuham & Christopher Anders  
Robin B. Schwartzman  
Sandra Schwarzbart  
Susan & George Schwellling  
Ann Shalleck & James Klein  
Barbara Shapiro  
Julie Guerrero Schor & Justin B. Shor  
Janet Shatz Snyder  
Mindy Sherman in memory of Jennette & Max Sherman  
Shmuel Shoham & Ruth Polk  
Kenneth Simonson & Jan Solomon  
Gertrude Slifkin  
Virginia Sloss  
Craig & Jessica Smith  
Claire Snyder  
Deborah Solomon & Jed Graham  
Michael & Amy Solomon  
Ed & Sarah Spector  
Helen & George Steinheimer in honor of the 40th Anniversary of Carole & Nicholas Brand  
Richard Steyer & Patricia Xeller  
Adam & Anita Stoll  
Edward Ehrenberg & Barbara Stolon  
David Stoopler & Natalie Orpett  
Sarah Struble & Matt Handverger  
Jonathan Rich & Anna Swerdel  
Ronny & Hannah Tabeka  
Stanley Talpers\*  
Maxine & Paul Teller  
Debbie & Henry Tyrangiel  
Dr. Douglas Usher & Dr. Libbie Rifkin  
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  
Nancy Zuckerbrod & Michael Roark

\* Of Blessed Memory

## THE DAVIS CENTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

*Temple Sinai's social justice work is thriving under the umbrella of the Davis Center for Social Justice. Our many programs have provided insights and unique perspectives on a wide variety of topics including reproductive rights, environmental justice, the arrival of migrants to our area, and more. This past year, we hosted two inspiring Shabbat programs: one on gun violence prevention with Steve Dettelbach, Director of the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and another featuring Mini Timmaraju, President of NARAL. These services directly connect our Jewish identity with our deep-seated roots as a congregation committed to tikkun olam. We also launched our monthly newsletter and blog as a way to keep the entire community informed of our wide range of social justice activities.*

*The Davis Center continues to support refugees through our sponsorship of the Noori family; we have also provided financial support to organizations working directly with the increasing number of vulnerable migrants arriving in our area. Our Davis Center Youth Board has been involved in raising funds for the Capital Area Food Bank and working with our Green Team to enhance our building grounds. We hosted an event with over 60 temple clergy, leaders and members on activating racial equity to affirm our commitment to being an antiracist congregation. Our Green Team has been hard at work planting new trees and a pollinator garden. WIN's ongoing work with our interfaith partners involves affordable housing, climate change and more. And we have continued to engage over 300 congregants in our postcard writing efforts to increase voter turnout through our Get Out The Vote campaigns.*

*These programs are just a sampling of the work the Davis Center has engaged in during the past year, pursuing our Core Value of **Olam**. We continue to organize and voice our concerns on a wide range of social justice issues. Read on for more about the great work of our various initiatives below.*

*To learn more about each of our initiatives and to get involved with the work of the Davis Center, visit our website, [daviscenter.org](https://daviscenter.org), or contact Social Justice Coordinator Jenny Cohen ([jcohen@templesinai.org](mailto:jcohen@templesinai.org)).*

### GET OUT THE VOTE (GOTV)

Over 150 Temple Sinai teens and adults came together in 2022 to ensure that eligible voters around the country were registered to vote and had the ability to have their voices heard. Temple Sinai continued to join with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism and Reclaim Our Vote in this effort. Congregants wrote postcards, made phone calls, and sent texts to ensure that people knew where and how to register to vote and when and where to vote. These efforts continue with state elections in 2023 as we gear up for the presidential election in 2024.

### THE GREEN TEAM



*Green Team members and WIN organizer Sidra Siddiqi test the stove in TS kitchen for nitrogen dioxide emissions.*

The Temple Sinai Green Team, co-chaired by Sarah Barr Engel and Liz Feldman, has been actively engaged in actions that reflect Jewish values by advancing the environmental sustainability of Temple Sinai's building and grounds, by supporting climate legislation at the local, state and federal levels, and by promoting best practices for congregation members to take to increase their own sustainability.

Activities in the fall of 2022 included organizing a wildflower planting activity at Temple Sinai Religious School's back-to-school event, collecting recycling and compost at the WRJ Chanukah Mart, planting native trees on the Temple Sinai grounds, and preparing soil for a pollinator garden to be planted in the spring. Temple Sinai also joined the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition, a network of Jewish community organizations who recognize the existential threat and moral urgency of climate change and commit to taking action.

In early 2023, the Green Team co-hosted the Zwerdling Program on environmental justice, "Environmental Injustice: What Is It and What Can We Do About It." Other activities in 2023 include developing a Temple Sinai Climate Action Plan with support from the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition, planting the pollinator garden, and promoting climate legislation under consideration by Maryland General Assembly, Montgomery County, and the DC Government and City Council.

### GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION GROUP

Despite the lingering pandemic, the Temple Sinai Gun Violence Prevention Group (GVP) remained very active and engaged during the past year. Highlights included:

- Webinars with state officials and GVP advocates about the contents and status of gun safety bills in Maryland and Virginia and breaking the cycle of gun violence through community intervention.
- A Gun Violence Interfaith Shabbat Service on December 9, 2022 featured guest speaker Steven Dettelbach, Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. The service also marked the 10th anniversary of the Sandy Hook Elementary School gun massacre and the fourth anniversary of the Tree of Life Synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh. We were honored to be joined by Tony Harris, a former security guard at Temple Sinai, who was seriously wounded during an assault rifle attack in D.C. at the Edmund Burke School in April 2022.
- The release of a free, 120-page digital "toolkit" published by the Interfaith GVP Network to engage more houses of worship on GVP. The toolkit, entitled *Turning Faith Into Action: An Interfaith Toolkit to Engage the Faith Community on Gun Violence Prevention*, is the most comprehensive "how-to-do-it" manual for congregations to engage on GVP to be published in many years.



*Tony Harris (2nd from left) lighting candles with students from the Edmund Burke School at the GVP Shabbat service on December 9, 2022.*

For a more detailed summary of GVP Group activities and accomplishments, future plans, recordings of major GVP programs, and to download a copy of the Interfaith Toolkit, visit our page on the Davis Center website.



## MULTIRACIAL SINAI

Throughout the past year, the temple's Multiracial Sinai Committee (MRS) strove to broaden and deepen our congregation's Core Values of **belonging** for all who participate in our synagogue, celebrating our inclusive and diverse community, and working towards our goal of being a multiracial and antiracist congregation.

In May 2022, MRS and Temple Sinai hosted Ilana Kaufman, Executive Director, Jews of Color Initiative, to present *Beyond the Count: Perspectives and Lived Experiences of Jews of Color*. More than 75 attendees from synagogues in the DMV participated in a discussion by a panel of Temple Sinai Jews of Color elaborating on their own experiences. Jews of Color from across the DMV gathered before the presentation for an informal dinner of sharing, dialogue and fellowship. The program highlighted the racial and ethnic diversity of American Jews and the work we need to do to repair systems of inequality in our own Jewish community.

Within Temple Sinai, the MRS Racial Equity Project (REP) continued its efforts to bring a racial equity lens to our congregational life. A notable example, with ongoing dialogue between REP and the Renovation and Expansion Committee, minority-owned businesses were encouraged to participate in all stages of the contracting process for the ongoing major construction on our site. REP worked with many other committees to look for opportunities to contribute to the dismantling of racist patterns and structures. This work is ongoing.

In December, more than 60 Temple Sinai board members, committee chairs, active MRS volunteers, clergy, and senior staff convened in an all-day interactive working session to build collaboratively our future as an antiracist synagogue. In the year ahead, MRS will seek to build on the energy generated by the working session to help define and implement actionable priorities across the congregation. The new committee co-chairs will seek to emulate the achievements of our founding co-chairs, Deitra Reiser and Cathy Goldwyn.

MRS continues to offer the 6-week Building Racial Stamina (BRS) class, facilitated by congregants. These guided discussions, in which over 130 congregants have already participated, aim to raise self-awareness of race, and awareness of the impact of race in our communities; to affirm and embrace the belonging of all people at Temple Sinai; and to develop racial stamina – the ability to engage in conversations and work that further racial justice. We also continue to sponsor an affinity group in which congregants of color can get to know each other and share their experiences in our temple.

Visit [templesinaidc.org/multiracial-sinai](https://templesinaidc.org/multiracial-sinai) to learn more about upcoming activities.

## REFUGEE, ASYLUM AND MIGRANT SUPPORT

It has been a busy year for this program. As sponsors for the Noori family, Temple Sinai volunteers have worked hard to move the family towards independence. In particular, we have provided significant professional assistance to Noori to aid his search for adequate employment and have devoted considerable efforts to ensuring the four children experience success at school. We have extended our rent support at the house the Nooris currently occupy until the end of the school year in order to enable Noori to secure better employment and to avoid disrupting the children's studies.

On other fronts, we have provided financial assistance to refugee support non-profits such as Women for Afghan Women, and fellow faith organizations, including St. Columba's and St. John's Norwood. A Temple Sinai member actually provided housing for a family sponsored by St. Columba's. We assisted the wife of one of our long-term refugee friends, Khan Mohammad, to safely exit Afghanistan, and she recently gave birth to the couple's first child. We have also provided significant assistance to Khan's brother Raz and his family, who recently arrived in the US.

We are happy to report that Blondy Mayele, an asylum seeker from Congo whom we have assisted for more than four years, was successful in obtaining asylum, and that his fiancée recently gave birth to their first child.

Temple Sinai has provided financial support to organizations working directly with individuals who, after crossing the southern border, have been transported to the DMV. In consultation with these organizations, we are charting a path that will enable the synagogue to aid in their relief and advocate to increase government support.

Temple Sinai members have been incredibly generous with their contributions and volunteer time, making all these efforts possible.

## REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS GROUP

Temple Sinai's Reproductive Health and Rights Group is actively fighting for reproductive rights and abortion access through our fundraising efforts, educational programming, and advocacy. Thank you to our active group of volunteers who help carry out our mission.

Before the devastating Dobbs decision was handed down in June 2022, we started researching organizations for an ongoing fundraising campaign benefitting three organizations that work on legal support, direct support and abortion access for people across the country: Baltimore Abortion Fund, NCJW's Jewish Fund for Abortion Access, and If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice. (Learn more at the Davis Center website.)

Our Google newsletter keeps our membership informed of programs, protests, educational, advocacy, and volunteer opportunities, as well as snippets of important news. We catalyzed our members to take action by writing postcards, making phone calls and texting (mostly through Reclaim Our Vote) to get out the vote in the November 2022 general elections, in the elections where abortion was on the ballot in Michigan and Kentucky, and in the April 2023 special Wisconsin Supreme Court primary and election.

### Educational and Fundraising Events:

- Our Zoom program in August 2022 featured representatives from the three organizations in our fundraising campaign for the entire congregation to learn more about the critical importance of their work.
- We brainstormed next steps with Rabbi Goldstein in October 2022 where many members stepped up to participate in and chair our subcommittees to help do the work of our group, including volunteer opportunities, educational programs and speakers, and Repro Shabbat.
- Our guest speaker for Repro Shabbat, held in January 2023, was Mini Timmaraju, President of NARAL Pro-Choice America.
- Our program on "The Janes" featuring Heather Booth, one of the founders of the Janes, was also held in January. Both Mini Timmaraju and Heather Booth inspired us to continue to take action.
- A March 2023 program just for teens, Pizza and a Conversation for Teens: Reproductive Rights and Abortion, featured our own Dr. Sara Imershein.
- In May 2023 we held a panel discussion on Reality After Roe: Religious, Medical, Legal and Policy Perspectives, featuring experts drawn from our temple membership.



Temple Sinai's Reproductive Health and Rights group with Mini Timmaraju, President of NARAL Pro-Choice America (front row, third from right)



## WASHINGTON INTERFAITH NETWORK (WIN)

As a multi-racial, multi-faith citywide organization, WIN is working on multiple campaigns to make the District of Columbia a more equitable and just community. This past year, Temple Sinai cemented its leadership in WIN citywide as Rabbi Hannah Goldstein joined its strategy team and Barbara Kraft became part of its newly created board of directors.

In Upper Northwest, Temple Sinai members are leading the WIN Ward 3 Affordable Housing Group, organizing for development of affordable housing at sites including the Chevy Chase Civic Core (anticipating construction of a new public library and community center on Connecticut Avenue) and the Western Bus Garage. Key partners include Adas Israel, Chevy Chase Presbyterian, National United Methodist, and St. Columba's. We have also collaborated with high school students at Jackson-Reed and Georgetown Day School to canvass and educate neighborhood residents about the history of deliberate racial segregation in Ward 3.



Temple Sinai members show up with WIN to support black homeownership.



Rabbi Goldstein offers Jewish perspectives at convening of clergy of WIN institutions.

Other WIN initiatives include:

- **Black homeownership:** The Black Equity through Home Ownership (BETH) effort is focusing on increasing rates of new home ownership among Black residents of DC as well as providing resources for maintenance and property tax relief to ensure that longtime owners can remain in their homes.
- **Addressing climate change:** WIN is documenting dangerous methane gas leaks at the street level as well as measuring emissions in homes, particularly in public housing units. With new federal dollars available for clean energy, WIN is working to ensure that those funds are used to retrofit apartments and houses with electric appliances and wean DC residents off gas.
- **Public safety:** WIN is focused on evidence-based solutions to gun violence, promoting actions such as increasing the number of "violence interrupters," dispatching mental health professionals rather than police when 911 calls indicate someone is in crisis, and providing culturally competent behavioral health services, particularly for young people.

In the lead up to 2022 DC Council elections, WIN convened hundreds of residents to ask candidates to make commitments to act on specific campaign items.

We continue to look for additional members of the congregation who are looking for opportunities to participate in anti-racist action, interfaith dialogue and relationship building, and *tikkun olam*.

In 1992, Temple Sinai members, inspired by the spirit of *tikkun olam*, and seeking to make a significant contribution to the local community, founded Sinai House, to enable unhoused families to transition to independence by providing safe and affordable housing, comprehensive social services, and financial support. As we have for the last 30 years, Sinai House continued that endeavor in the past year, serving four families in residence at Sinai House and three families in our new post-residency program.

Our annual Homes & Hearts Shabbat Service, held on Friday, November 11, 2022 (1st photo), was an extra special 30th anniversary celebration. Current and former Sinai House staff, residents, board members, volunteers and Temple Sinai clergy submitted video reflections. Rabbi Noah Diamondstein edited the video, lending music from his recently released album, "My Whole Heart." After the service, attendees listened to live music while enjoying food celebrating the countries of origin of some of our alumni.

Watch the Sinai House 30th Anniversary Video Tribute: [vimeo.com/769170864/d932356922](https://vimeo.com/769170864/d932356922)

The Sinai House holiday party for current and former families, board members, service providers and tutors was held on Saturday, December 17, 2022, at Temple Sinai and marked the first time that Santa Claus visited Temple Sinai. Former members of Girl Scout Troop 34008 Bethesda helped the children choose gifts for their families and teachers in the Secret Santa Shop, which was stocked from the bountiful donations of new and gently used items temple members contributed at the Homes & Hearts Shabbat (2nd and 3rd photos).

It was wonderful to be back in person at Rock Creek Park to celebrate Mother's Day at the Tricia Davis 5K for Sinai House on May 8, 2022! (4th photo) 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. We are proud to report that in 2022 we surpassed the record amount we raised in 2021! You can view race photos taken by JDBaker Photography at [jdbakerphotography.com/Events/2022-Tricia-Davis-Sinai-House-5K-Walk-Run](https://jdbakerphotography.com/Events/2022-Tricia-Davis-Sinai-House-5K-Walk-Run).

Our 100-year-old Sinai House facility is made of sturdy brick, but it needed extensive renovations this past year. The goal of the Tricia Davis 5K for Sinai House on May 14, 2023 is to help replenish the commitment fund.

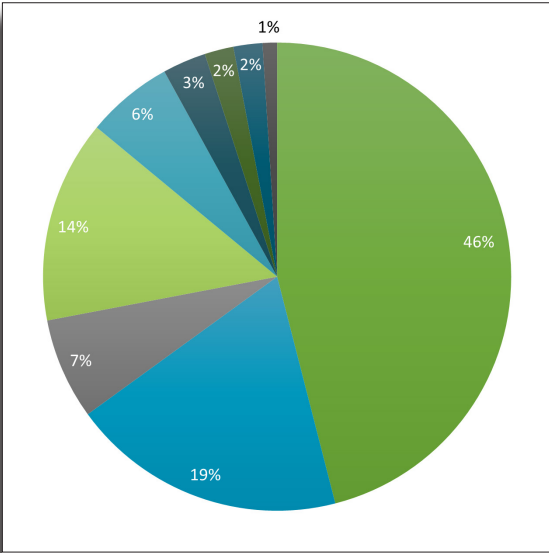




FINANCIAL  
OVERVIEW  
*Fiscal Year June 1, 2021 – May 31, 2022*

APPRECIATING OUR  
DONORS

Where does money for temple programs and operations come from?

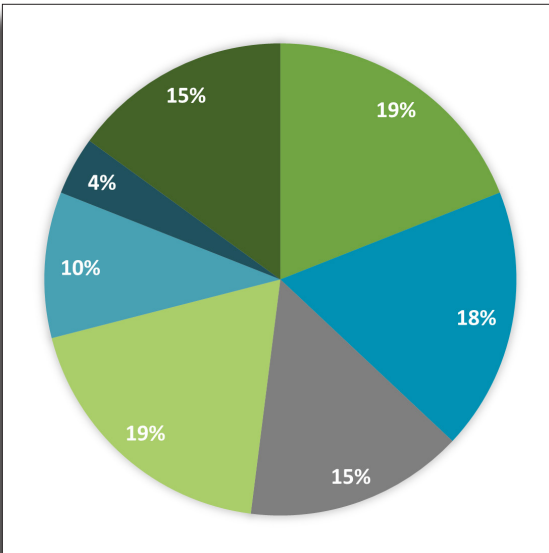


Revenue		
Membership Financial Commitment	\$3,065,943	46%
Nursery School	\$1,245,882	19%
Religious School & Youth	\$443,873	7%
Covid Relief Grants	\$910,203	14%
Contributions	\$362,191	6%
Program Revenue	\$200,965	3%
Other	\$126,567	2%
Endowment Allocation	\$151,544	2%
Sustaining Fund Allocation	\$95,403	1%
Total	\$6.6 Million	100%

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 46% of operating revenues in 2021-22. Generous additional contributions from members constitute another 6% of revenues. In 2021-22, 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 3% of revenues.

What does the money support?



Expenses		
Administration	\$1,257,149	19%
Ritual	\$1,187,878	18%
Facilities & Security	\$968,649	15%
Nursery School	\$1,238,489	19%
Religious School & Youth	\$629,077	10%
Programs	\$293,640	4%
Other	\$1,017,890	15%
Total	\$6.6 Million	100%

Personnel costs account for the largest share of expenses, totaling 73% of all operating expenses.

Giving at Temple Sinai

Temple Sinai has a long and rich heritage of *tzedakah*, consistent with our Jewish tradition to express charity and feelings of sorrow and joy through charitable contributions. 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 Temple Sinai members, family, and friends contributed almost \$2.25 million above and beyond membership financial commitments. These gifts supported a wide variety of funds, committees, and causes including the temple operating budget, the Honor our Heritage Build our Future Campaign for Temple Sinai (the Capital Campaign), Temple Sinai endowments, the Temple Sinai clergy discretionary funds, and our many specialized restricted 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@templesinaidc.org](mailto:nbenjamin@templesinaidc.org).

We recognize and thank all our current Rimonim Society members!

Esthy* & Jim Adler	Emil Frankel	Marsha Shaines &	Daniel & Flo Rosenblum
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Chris Intagliata & Larry Asbell	Tara Sonenshine	Martin & Syma Mendelsohn	Sandra Schwarzbart
Ruth S. Baker-Battist &	Frank & Ann Gilbert	Libby & Ronald Merrill	Gertrude Slifkin
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Charlene Barshefsky	Ellen Heiman	Tom Plotz & Cathy Klion	Nelly Urbach
Isabel P. Dunst	Ann Ingram	Rabbi Fred N. Reiner &	David N. Weber
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Betty Ferber &	Rosann Wisman &	Chip Rosencrans	* Of Blessed Memory
Robert Pomerance*	Michael Lilek	Ted & Linda Rosen	

ARZA FUND

496 members made voluntary contributions to this fund.

SINAI HOUSE FUND

573 members made voluntary contributions to this fund .

RABBI EUGENE LIPMAN SOCIAL ACTION AND  
TZEDAKAH FUND

553 members made voluntary contributions to this fund.

\$ FOR ISRAEL FUND

501 members made voluntary contributions to this fund.

## ANNUAL SUPPORT FOR GENERAL PURPOSES

*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 only 46% 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.*

Andrew & Linda Adelson, Ira & Joy Adler, James Adler, The Agler Family, Kent & Karen Allen, Nick Anderson & Esther Schrader, Maryetta Andrews-Sachs & Robert Zeskind, Edward Angel & Susan LaMountain, Anonymous (2), Cherrill Anson, David & Ari Antonelli, Lawrence Asbell & Christine Intagliata, Karen & Andrew Auerbach, Jane Axelrad, Andrew Baker, Michael & Raanan Baratz, Ruth Bartfeld, Michael & Marilyn Barth, Paul Batlan & Shelley Poticha, David Berger, Lois Berkowitz, Donald & Norma Berlin, Seth Berlin & Susan Mayer, Bonita Berman, Robert & Teresa Bernstein, James Berry & Hali Edison, James & Barbara Bershon, Jaime Biderman & Lauren LeRoy, Nathan Billig & Gail Weinmann, Richard & Elaine Binder, Philip Birnbaum, Dylana Blum & Jonathan Kallmer, Amy Borrus & Richard Miller, Nicholas & Carole Brand, Ravelle Brickman, Rita & David Brickman, Matthew & Hillary Brill, Michael Bromwich & Felice Friedman, Ann & Kenneth Brown, Gustav & Sheila Buchdahl, Raymond Buring, Martin Burns & Wendy Kahn, Alice Burton, Naomi & Clarke Camper, Emily Carrier & Andrew Miner, Kenneth & Linda Chaletzky, Stephanie Chaplin, Arthur & Betsy Chotin, Anthony Ciccone & Robin Glantz, Leonard & Evelyn Coburn, Mr. & Mrs. Barry Cohen, Edward Cohen & Charlene Barshefsky, Nat Cohen & Lynn Parseghian, Colleen Connors & Howard Opinsky, Paul & Carol Cooper, Catherine Copp, Stanley Cowan & Jeffrey Allen, Evan & Rachel Croen, Robert & Ellen Croog, Rachael Curran, Timothy S Davis Family, Jim Degnan, Ben Denckla & Sarah Reber, Mark & Andrea Dettelbach, Jack Deutsch & Lori Berman, Morris & Nancy Deutsch, George & Sue Driesen, Sue Ducat, David DuGoff & Victoria Bor, Isabel Dunst, Mary Ann Dutton & D. Jean Veta, Patricia Eanet & Mikel Frazee, Hope Eastman, Sherman Edwards & Melinda Salzman, Tony &

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***Special thanks to those who supported our High Holidays Support Fund to underwrite the added costs of our 5783 High Holidays. These gifts allowed Temple Sinai to maintain a spiritual and meaningful experience in both a virtual and in-person format:***

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## ENDOWMENTS

*These donors made contributions to support Temple Sinai's special endowments.*

### **Bernstein Religious School Endowment Fund**

Susan Goldenson, Rabbi Stephanie Bernstein & Henry Winokur

### **Endowment Fund**

Judith Harkavy Bor\*, Betty Ferber, Martin & Syma Mendelsohn, Nelly Urbach

### **Florence & Irwin Speyer Endowed Music Innovation Fund**

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*These donors made contributions to support Temple Sinai's Social Justice programs and initiatives. For more information about the Davis Center, see pages 22-26.*

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