



TEMPLE SINAI

KESHER

DECEMBER 2023

KISLEV / TEVET 5784

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SINAI STANDS WITH ISRAEL



YEAR-END GIVING: THE MITZVAH OF TZEDAKAH

LISA THORNER

As the year comes to a close, I am reaching out to express my gratitude for your continued support of Temple Sinai. Your commitment to our congregation has made a significant impact on the lives of those we serve, and we are truly grateful for your generosity. In making your plans for year-end tax-deductible contributions, please consider a gift to Temple Sinai. Temple Sinai's End-of-Year Appeal helps us bridge the gap between our operating budget and our income. Membership dues simply do not fully cover what it costs to keep the Temple running.

As you are aware, Temple Sinai launched the Chai-Five campaign at the High Holy Days in September. If you haven't already done so we are asking that you consider making a year-end contribution to this campaign. Your donation can be ear-marked to programming for Young Families, Empty Nesters, Adult Education or Sinai Experiences.

I am excited to share that an anonymous donor has graciously pledged to match up to \$25,000 for the Chai-Five campaign until December 31, 2023. With your donation, the effect is doubling the impact of every contribution. This means that for every dollar you donate, our generous supporters will contribute an additional dollar. Whether you can contribute \$18.00 or any other amount that fits your budget, every dollar will be matched, bringing us one step closer to our goal.

I also want to provide you with some compelling reasons why making a donation at this time can have a profound effect on Temple Sinai.

Maximizing Your Impact: Making a donation before the end of the year allows you to maximize your impact. Many donors choose to give during this time to take advantage of tax benefits.

Meeting Year-End Goals: Like any organization, we set annual fundraising goals to ensure the sustainability and growth of our programs. Your support now can help us meet and even exceed those goals.

Addressing Urgent Needs: Throughout the year, unforeseen challenges and urgent needs arise. By giving before the end of the year, you provide Temple Sinai the flexibility to address these issues promptly.

Celebrating Achievements Together: As we reflect on the year's accomplishments, we invite you to share in the joy of the positive changes your support has helped us achieve. Your generosity is a vital part of our success, and we want to celebrate these achievements together.

Thank you for your generosity, and we wish you a Happy Chanukah filled with warmth and peace. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

L'Shalom,

Lisa

Lisa Thorner
Executive Director



Chai-5! For High Holy Days to Chanukah to **December 31!**

sinaidenver.shulcloud.com/form/chai-five-campaign-2023



TEMPLE SINAI'S LIGHT THE NIGHT

A celebration of Chanukah and a dedication to
“stand in solidarity against hate.”

SUN. / DEC. 10 / 4:00PM

AT TEMPLE SINAI

**SPEAKERS: Mayor Mike Johnston; Chris Smith,
Superintendent CCSD; Pastor Mayes, Denver's Greater
Ministerial Alliance; Scott Levin, ADL**

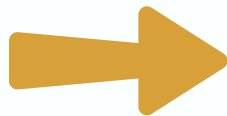


**Latkes. Donuts. Hot Chocolate. Food Trucks.
Face Painting. Balloons. DJ.**

RSVP HERE!

EVENT IS FREE.

**SPONSORSHIPS ARE
AVAILABLE FOR \$136.**



**[sinaidenver.shulcloud.
com/form/chanukah-
festival-2023](https://sinaidenver.shulcloud.com/form/chanukah-festival-2023)**



Chai-5! For High Holy Days to Chanukah to **December 31**



WHY DECEMBER 31?



WE ARE BEYOND GRATEFUL TO FOR A GENEROUS (ANONYMOUS) DONATION FOR \$25,000 TOWARDS THE CHAI-5 CAMPAIGN. **WE ARE EXTENDING OUR APPEAL UNTIL 12/31 SO THAT WE CAN MATCH THE \$25,000!** HELP US REACH OUR TOTAL GOAL OF \$50,000!

THE CHAI-5 PROGRAM

OUR NEW, EXCITING & INNOVATIVE FUNDRAISING EXPERIENCE

Chai-5 is a fundraising program that will support selected areas of emphasis within our Sinai community. Chai-5 helps make sure that we can both maintain existing programming and also fund new and innovative ways to bring us all closer together. We hope that everyone will take part with an investment of Chai (\$18) X 5 = (Chai-5). You can choose to allocate your units of Chai as you wish.

REIGNITE THE LIGHT HERE'S WHERE YOUR DOLLARS CAN GO:

YOUNG FAMILY PROGRAMMING

- SINAI STORKS
- FAMILY CONCERTS
- TWISTED SHABBATS

EMPTY NESTER PROGRAMMING

- MEET UP GROUPS AND OUTINGS
- CLASSES
- CULTURAL ARTS

ADULT EDUCATION

- CLASSES
- CONCERTS
- SOCIAL AND INTERGENERATIONAL EVENTS

SINAI EXPERIENCES

- OUTDOOR SPACE ENHANCEMENTS
- SPECIAL PROJECTS
- EXCLUSIVE CONGREGATIONAL PROGRAMS

CLICK TO DONATE TODAY!

sinaidenver.shulcloud.com/form/chai-five-campaign-2023



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THE CHAI-5 ADVANTAGE

DONATIONS HEAD STRAIGHT TO THE BOTTOM LINE

YOUR GIVING BECOMES VERY SIMPLE

Dues, general donations, program costs and Chai-5 represent your investment and commitment to Temple Sinai. Our other events that raise money are our Annual Event, Shabbat Shirah, Artist in Residence and Scholar in Residence Weekends (to name a few) - all of which directly tie to specific Temple funds.

YOU CHOOSE EXACTLY WHAT AREAS INSPIRE YOUR HEART

You can commit your Chai-5 donation to specific areas; whatever inspires you the most.

CHAI-5 MAKES YOU A TRUE PARTNER AND STAKEHOLDER IN TEMPLE SINAI

The program will show you precisely how we plan to use funds. It provides full transparency and makes us all partners in Temple Sinai's finances.



SHINING A LIGHT ON TEMPLE SINAI'S BROTHERHOOD

Congratulations to Temple Sinai Brotherhood for a highly successful charity Golf Tournament this past August. Special thanks and appreciation to Paul Levine, Joey Stasio, and Barry Seidenstat for their hard work and dedication in planning and executing an amazing event enjoyed by all. This year, a record-setting ninety-two, that's right...92 golfers participated, and combined with the additional generous donations received, the Brotherhood raised over \$7,500 for Israel Study Tour (IST) scholarships and to support future Brotherhood programming.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors for their generous support. Their sponsorships played a crucial role in the event's success, enabling us to create a memorable experience for all participants. We greatly appreciate their commitment to our cause and look forward to future collaborations.

- Presenting Sponsors
 - Rich Harris, Harris Family Law
 - Marshal Abrahams
- Title Sponsors
 - Rick Rheins
 - Jay Cohen, GC2 Professional Service, CPA
 - Richard Frank, Centregroup.com
 - Nathan Mendel, M and C Consultants
 - Jesse Blum, Denver Jewish Chamber of Commerce



If you missed out, there will always be next year to have a great time with fellow Brotherhood and Temple members as well as with the growing number of folks from the larger Denver community who look forward to this event as the word continues to spread.

Speaking of Temple Sinai Brotherhood, a fresh off-the-press set of Brotherhood By-Laws has been produced and distributed and we are very excited about the new energy surrounding the recent standup of a formal Brotherhood Board of Directors. Jon Levison is joined by Gary Eisenberg - Programming, Ed Schultz - Treasurer, Wayne Lepkin - Secretary, and Stacy Pocrass - Membership as members of this Board. This is an exciting time for Temple Sinai and we are fortunate to have the full support of Rabbi Rheins and Rabbi Shields as the Brotherhood Board is busily taking great steps towards restarting a viable presence within the congregation and the larger Jewish community. Watch for the announcements about upcoming events as we work to bring members together to create, grow, and strengthen friendships. You won't want to miss out!

Suggestions for future events, questions, or just to make sure your name gets on the email list being developed to get the word out, please contact Jon Levison at jon.levison@gmail.com or our Membership VP, Stacy Pocrass at spocrass@comcast.net. Lisa Thorner and Rabbis Rheins and Shields are also available as points of contact for the same.

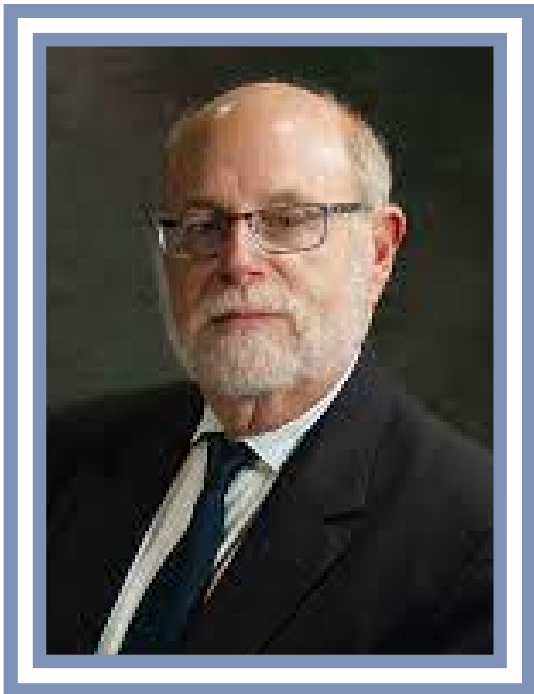
REGISTRATION
OPENING
MID-DECEMBER!

save the date

Scholar in Residence

Rabbi Richard Address

January 19-21, 2024



Jewish Sacred Aging is a forum for the Jewish Community with resources and texts that feature discussions on the implications of the revolution in longevity for Baby Boomers and their families.

jewishsacredaging.com

Jewish
Sacred
Aging®



SPONSORSHIPS
AND TICKETS
AVAILABLE MID-
DECEMBER

SAVE THE DATE

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE, JOE BUCHANAN

WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 23-25, 2024

at Temple Sinai



Texas-born and southern-raised, Joe Buchanan makes country music that is steeped in Torah. Struggling with religion and his place in the world, a revelation from his wife about her Jewish identity changed everything. After joining the Tribe, Joe released his debut album, "Unbroken," which sparked nationwide tours, an original Shabbat service, a thriving online community, and a workshop about the choice to become Jewish. Gather up for good times with his latest release, "Back From Babylon" and get everything else on his website: www.joebuchananmusic.com.





BRINGING LIGHT TO DISPEL THE DARKNESS RABBI RICK RHEINS

The message of Chanukah is especially timely and meaningful this year. Every December the sun sets earlier and earlier, stealing away light and warmth. This year, world events bring the creeping darkness that threatens to overwhelm us. The frightening rise of antisemitism in the United States and around the world is an alarming reminder that the purveyors of hatred, bigotry, and racism still plague us in the 21st century. Even more shocking are the violent displays of antisemitic and anti-Israel groups on college campuses. It is a shameful stain on the integrity of our centers for higher education that Jewish students are bullied by fellow students and radical faculty.

But like the brave Maccabees, modern Jews will not sit quietly and meekly in the face of antisemitism. In ancient Israel, our people found inspiration in even the smallest spark of light. It was a time in history when the Syrian-Greeks of the Seleucid Empire tried to smother our faith with the darkness of their oppressive rule. But our ancestors remembered the lesson taught from generation to generation: "Not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit, said the Lord of Hosts" (Zechariah 4:6). We knew from the earliest days that might and power are no match for a positive, loving, and compassionate spirit and attitude.

The Jewish community in Colorado is blessed to have great friends to stand with us. Our political leaders, with a very few exceptions, have given both vocal and physical support of protection and alliance. Our national leaders have enacted bipartisan legislation to fight antisemitism and to provide vital help to Israel as she battles Palestinian and Iranian sponsored terrorists. And our neighbors have expressed heartfelt prayers to let us know that they are loving friends.

Don't let the darkness fool you. It is always darkest just before the dawn. As we kindle lights on our chanukiyot, let us also be aware of the eternal light that God has shined on the world and our people. Let us not lose courage as we hear the voices of the evil few who are amplified by cynical and self-serving media. Rather, let us find strength and encouragement from the vast majority of our leaders and neighbors who stand with us as allies against antisemitism, racism, and bigotry of all forms.

A single candle chases away the darkness. We are each a source of light and hope. As we stand together, our collective light will always be triumphant.

Chag Chanukah Sameiach!

Rick

Rabbi Rick Rheins

HAVDALAH SERVICE and LIGHTING of the CHANUKIAH

(Virtual)
Saturday
December 9
at 5:00 PM



Each month on the Saturday evening nearest to Rosh Chodesh (the beginning of the New Hebrew Month), our clergy will host a virtual Havdalah service.

Havdalah is a sweet and joyful way to conclude Shabbat and welcome the new week. These 10-minute virtual services have been very popular for people of all ages. As the Rabbis lead, many participate by lighting their own Havdalah candles and sipping wine or juice and enjoying the fragrance of the spices. Others simply join in with singing and sharing greetings. We hope that you and your loved ones will tune in!

The Zoom link will be sent prior to the service.



YOUR FLAME IS NEEDED

RABBI MICHAEL SHIELDS

A student once approached his wise teacher and expressed disappointment over the many areas in his life that weren't as he wanted or hoped them to be.

He responded to his teacher, "You speak at length about that which you need. What about that which you are needed for?"

What a powerful message!

True, we all have things that we feel we lack, but instead of focusing on how much we need, let's focus on what we are needed for! This perspective enlivens rather than dampens our spirits, enabling us to live out our potential with enthusiasm and joy.

Indeed, this is the meaning of the Talmudic saying, "The entire world was created for me" – that every individual has been charged with a unique mission and the universe awaits the fulfillment of each one.

And though our worries, wants and needs may threaten to drown us like floodwaters, they can never extinguish the light within our soul – that driving purpose for which we were created.

This is the message of Chanukah: the light burns on, the flame within every individual is inextinguishable.

Don't allow your needs to make you feel needy, rather remember that the world desperately needs your flame. Yes, we need you!

So, I hope you will all bring your flame to our Light the Night gathering on Sunday, December 10 at 4:00pm.

Wishing you and your family a very Happy Chanukah!

Michael

Rabbi Michael Shields



CHALLAH MAKING FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT



TWISTED SHABBAT
join the fun with Rabbi Shields!

Friday, January 12

@ Temple Sinai



sinaidenver.shulcloud.com/form/twisted-shabbat-january-12



THE RITUALS AND TRADITIONS OF CHANUKAH

The First Night of Chanukah is Thursday, December 7!

Chanukah means “dedication.” About 168 BCE, Antiochus Epiphanes, the Greek ruler of Asia Minor, sought to impose Greek culture and idolatry upon Jews and all the other peoples he ruled. Though some Jews bent to his will and assimilated fully, most of our Jewish ancestors, led by the Maccabees, resisted the plan and revolted against Antiochus. The war lasted some three years and is considered history's first struggle for religious freedom. Despite overwhelming odds, the Judeans were successful and joyously engaged in the rededication (chanukah) of their Temple on the 25th of Kislev in 165 BCE.

The miracle of the Maccabees’ victory is commemorated annually by Jews for eight days --- kindling candles, singing songs, exchanging gifts, offering prayers of thanksgiving, and rededicating ourselves to the cause of religious liberty. Chanukah originally was developed to parallel the eight-day Festival of Sukkot (which was the traditional time for dedicating the Temple). Over time, the eight days of Chanukah were linked by a Rabbinic midrash to a miracle of sacred oil.

Candles are added to the chanukiyah from right to left but are kindled from left to right. The newest candle is lit first. (On the Shabbat of Chanukah, kindle the Chanukah lights first and then the Shabbat candles.)

First light the shamash, “the helper candle.” Then use the shamash to light the other candles of the chanukiyah.



THE CHANUKAH BLESSINGS

The First Night of Chanukah is Thursday, December 7!

As we light the candles we sing:

Barukh atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melekh ha'olam, asher kideshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu lehadlik ner shel Chanukah.

"Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to kindle the Chanukah lights."

Then we say:

Barukh atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melekh ha'olam, she'asah nisim la'avoteinu v'imoteinu bayamim haheim baz'man hazeh.

"Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of old at this season."

On the very first night we also add shehecheyanu:

Barukh atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melekh ha'olam, shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higianu laz'man hazeh.

"Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season."

B'nei Mitzvah in 2024 & 2025

Know that it is never too late to have our children experience the life-affirming joy and pride of accomplishment by leading a service as a Bar or Bat Mitzvah. If you have a child who will turn 13 (or older) in 2024 or 2025 and you do not yet have a reserved service date, please call Rabbi Rick Rheins or Rabbi Michael Shields and we'll answer all your questions and help you find a date that works for your family.

Or if you would like to stop in, date selection request forms are available in the Temple Sinai office. We can also mail one directly to you.

Know that our clergy work personally with each student and their family to help create a memorable celebration that will bring a lifetime of blessings.

Sick? Struggling? Want a call or a meeting? Inform the Rabbis!

Adding to the agony and frustration of dealing with illness or struggling with a difficult time is the nagging thought that you are forgotten and that no one cares. Temple Sinai most certainly cares about every one of our members. Rabbi Rheins and Rabbi Shields are always quick to make a call and/or visit to any of our members and their loved ones. We also have a group of volunteers on our Caring Committee who will do their best to respond with cards, calls and offers of assistance.

Please call or email our Rabbis and let them know that you'd like their help.

Confidential messages can be made directly to:
Rabbi Rick Rheins, rabrheins@sinaidenver.org
Rabbi Michael Shields, rabbishields@sinaidenver.org

Interested in becoming Jewish or learning more about Judaism? Sign up for the next Introduction To Judaism course!

The Rocky Mountain Rabbis & Cantors (RMRC) offers a nationally renowned 28-week Introduction to Judaism (ITJ) course. This program is taught by Rabbis from the Reform, Conservative, Reconstructionist, and Modern Orthodox movements. ITJ is a cornerstone of the Denver Jewish community's conversion program. It is one of the few in the country in which Rabbis from all the respective movements participate.

There is a modest fee for the course, but some scholarships are available. If you are interested in the Introduction to Judaism course, please call either Rabbi Rick Rheins or Rabbi Michael Shields.

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

All services are open for in-person attendance and will be streamed live at sinaidenver.org/livestream or on our Facebook page at Facebook.com/SinaiDenver

WEEKLY

EREV SHABBAT SERVICE

FRIDAYS, 6:00 PM

Join us to welcome Shabbat every Friday evening. Temple Sinai's service is a rich mixture of Jewish tradition and modern egalitarian spirit which makes for an inviting and inclusive experience for those of every age and background. Our service is filled with wonderful music that includes both traditional and modern melodies. Thoughtful messages from the Rabbis enhance our services. We conclude every Erev Shabbat service with an *oneg* dessert and social time to renew friendships and meet new friends.

SHABBAT MORNING MINYAN

SATURDAYS, 9:00 AM

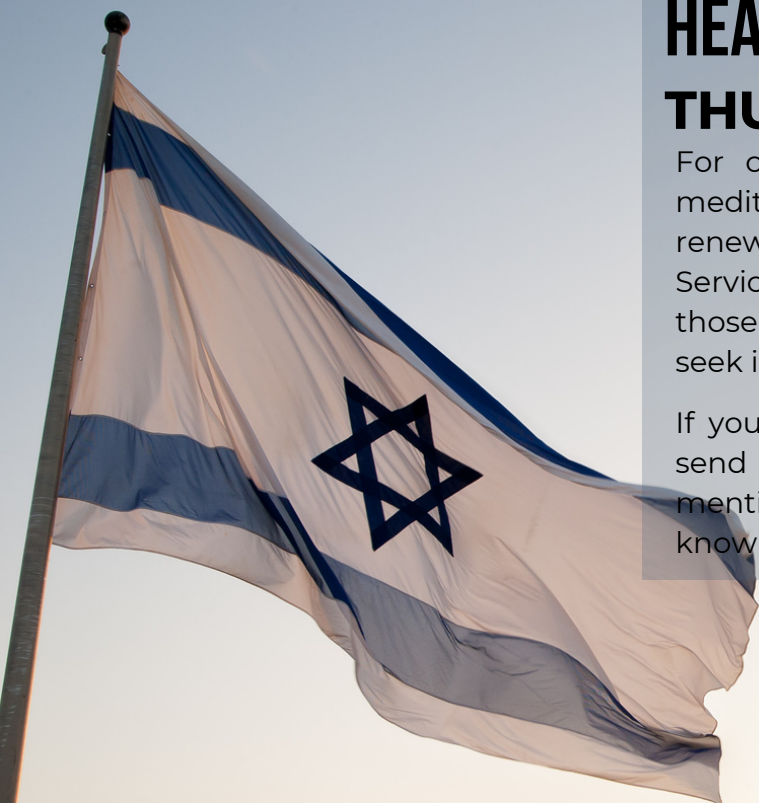
Every Shabbat morning we have a lovely service that encourages participation and *ruach*, a joyous spirit. In addition to the Rabbis, congregants are invited to help lead the service. Opportunities are available for members to read Torah, provide a short *drash* (message about the Torah portion) and help lead the prayers. If you are interested in leading a part of the service, contact Rabbi Rick Rheins or Rabbi Michael Shields. This service is a fabulous way to celebrate Shabbat and to meet wonderful new friends.

MONTHLY

HEALING SERVICE / VIRTUAL, AT 11:00AM THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

For our Healing Service, we gather virtually for prayers, meditations, music, and the warm embrace of friends to renew our sense of hope, strength, and healing. The Healing Service is for those who are struggling with their health, for those struggling with sadness and grief, for caregivers who seek inspiration as they pray for the welfare of loved ones.

If you are unable to attend the Zoom Healing Service, just send us the name(s) of the loved ones you would like mentioned during our prayers. Please be sure to let them know that they are in all our thoughts and prayers.



CLASSES: DECEMBER

**BROTHERHOOD, BIBLE & BEER
MEN TALKING TORAH WITH RABBI SHIELDS**
DARCY'S BISTRO AND PUB
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5 AT 6:00PM

Each month, Temple Sinai men get together for a little study, discussion, and camaraderie. It is a perfect opportunity to renew friendships and make new friends.

LUNCH AND LEARN
COME LEARN, DISCUSS, DEBATE
AND MEET FRIENDS
DECEMBER 7, 14, 21, 28 AT NOON

We'll review ethical and moral issues in selected Jewish texts, discuss hot current topics, and debate the important issues of the day. Bring your lunch and join in the discussion. It's a great way to learn as well as meet new friends!

Lunch and Learn will now be **IN-PERSON AT TEMPLE SINAI** with a **VIRTUAL OPTION!**

**SHABBAT TORAH STUDY
WITH RABBI ZWERIN AND
RABBI KAYE**
SATURDAYS, 10:30AM (VIRTUAL)
DECEMBER 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Join Rabbi Zwerin and Rabbi Kaye on Shabbat mornings to explore the next few verses in the Torah, and examine the commentary surrounding the text. Regardless of previous knowledge, everyone is welcome to add to the weekly discussions or just to listen. The class began with Genesis 1 in 1986 and are now in our 38th year. We have reached the final few chapters of Deuteronomy. As this last book of the Torah comes to an end, so does the life of Moses - and, he has much yet to teach us all before he ascends his last mountain.

**SINAI SUNDAYS
FALL-WINTER 2023
EXPLORING THE TALMUD
TRACTATE KETUBOT**
WITH RABBI RICK RHEINS

This year's Sinai Sundays class will continue to explore some of the most important passages and interesting stories in the Babylonian Talmud. Each week we will read and discuss selections from the Talmud. This semester we are studying Tractate Ketubot. It does not matter if you already have a familiarity with Talmudic text or are exploring it for the first time. Come and join us as we explore and discuss the great stories and passages of the Talmud!

The classes will be held virtually.
Sundays, 10:00-11:00am.

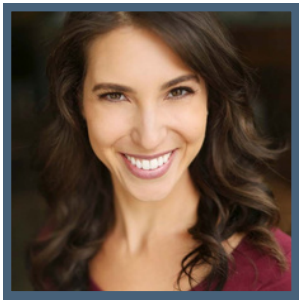
REMAINING 2023 DATES:
DECEMBER 3, 24

**EXPLORING THE HEBREW BIBLE
THE SECOND BOOK OF SAMUEL
WITH RABBI RICK RHEINS**
TUESDAYS AT NOON
DECEMBER 5, 12, 26

In December we will continue reading and discussing the Second Book of Samuel. These passages of the Hebrew Bible contain the stories of King David and King Solomon. For each session, Rabbi Rick Rheins will provide a PDF text as well as selections from classic commentaries. Of course, we will also engage in a lively discussion!

**ZOOM LINKS AND
ACCOMPANYING MATERIALS
WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL
PRIOR TO EACH SESSION.**





ON A MUSICAL NOTE . . .

RUTHIE LIPSHULCH

CANTORIAL SOLOIST

As we prepare to begin the 8-day Festival of Lights, we pray that your home is brightened with renewed love and joyous spirit.

Join us at Temple Sinai this Friday, December 8 at 5:30pm as we light our chanukiot before the Shabbat service. Bring your chanukiah and three candles (two for the second night of Chanukah and one for the shamash). We'll have treats and songs to add to the celebration!

For this Chanukah, let us remember that each person can be a light that shines blessings.

Enjoy the video below of "**We Are Light**" by composer Steven Schwartz; I am on vocals and I'm featuring David Schlossberg on piano.

Chanukah Sameiach!

Musically yours,

Ruthie

Ruthie Lipshulch

WE ARE LIGHT

click arrow to play

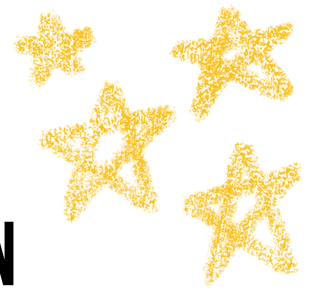
The video player features a central image of a lit chanukiah (candle holder) with a warm, bokeh background of lights. The title 'WE ARE LIGHT' is arched over the top. Blue musical notes are scattered around the player, and a white play button is centered in the foreground.



RUTHIE@SINAIDENVER.ORG



SHEILA PURDIN DIRECTOR, EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



It's our incredible teachers and staff that shine a light on Temple Sinai's Preschool each and every day.



Lyuda



Jen



Angiza



Sharon



Kandyce



Light attracts. Where a lantern is placed, those who seek light gather around.



Maggie



Tim



Shelly

Rachel



Storia



Jocelyn



Colleen



Da'Nae



Hannah

“Take your candle and light the world.”



Keilah



Christine

“Give light and people will find the way.”



Sandy



Alexis



Maryam



Joanne

“The shamash is the candle that lights the others. Be the shamash.”



Sidia



Hilary



Debbie



Beatrice



Tanya



The candles are many, but the light is one.



Marisa



Yelena



Lena



Bring your light to the world, and the darkness will flee.



Rachel



Steve



Nadia



Olga



party like it's
1980

S A V E T H E D A T E

**SINAI'S PRESCHOOL + RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
ANNUAL FUNDRAISER**

2.10.2024 | 07:00 PM



DONI KAYE

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

LIGHT AND DARK

We are fast approaching the shortest daylight hours of the year. During this time, many of us are adversely affected physically, emotionally, and mentally by the shorter hours of sunlight; the colder temperatures; depending on our geographic location, the wetter, colder, and cloudier conditions; the lower levels of vitamin D available to us from sunlight, and also, the temporal distance from many people's vacations and family time. At this time of darker, colder, cloudier days, it's fitting that we take a quick look at where Judaism uses the imagery of light in the darkness, serving as a way to transmit positive and inspiring energy. This symbolism helps us create common threads between Jewish history, observance, and wisdom for living. Let us now take a brief journey through examples of contrast between light and dark in Judaism, from which we gain perspective about what Judaism entrains us to do with darkness.

Where there is darkness, we are called upon to seek and follow the light.

During this time of year, our calendar includes the celebration of Chanukah, a festival created during rabbinic times to commemorate two different miracles. The major miracle of Chanukah is in fact the military victory over the Syrian-Greeks by the Maccabees. The more popular miracle which we remember has to do with Temple practice. When the Maccabees discovered the Holy Temple in a state of disrepair, they identified a spiritual and communal need to use a jar of oil imprinted with the sign of the high priests enough to last 1 day instead lasting 8 days to light up the Chanukah menorah in the Temple. Eight days was the exact amount of time it takes to produce purified oil of the same quality. Fittingly, the Jewish community chose to focus on a symbolic source of light and connection, as opposed to the military aspects of the history and its associated darker themes even in the face of victory. A famous debate between the rabbinic houses of Hillel and Shammai about how to perform the ritual associated with Chanukah resulted in the decision that the custom we adopt should be the one which reflects that we increase the amount of light each night, reflecting an increase in the joy associated with getting deeper into the holiday.

Where there is darkness, we are called upon to seek and follow the light.

The lunar calendar, the primary way we mark and count time in Judaism, is replete with the cycles of dark and light. We begin observing a new lunar cycle as marked with the absence of the moon in the nighttime sky. In a way parallel to the symbolism of increasing light in the Chanukah celebration, we announce the new month when there is close to no visible moon in the sky. By mid-month, we can see a full moon, and by month's end, we are back closer to no visible moon. Additionally, in ancient Israel, the beginning of a month was announced through a chain of fires lit on mountaintops. This way, all lands would roughly follow the same calendar. Following this cycle directs our attention to the light amid the dark, and we base all our observances and holidays around the contrast of light and dark which is the night sky.

Where there is darkness, we are called upon to seek and follow the light.

When the ancient Israelites sojourned through the wilderness, the Torah tells us that they were led by a cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night. Even at night, we were pursuing light literally, even as we journeying toward a mysterious promise of lightness embodied by the vision of arriving in the land of Canaan which would become the kingdom of Israel.

Where there is darkness, we are called upon to seek and follow the light.

During the time of the Tabernacle or Mishkan, the portable Temple in the wilderness, and during the time of the Temples in Jerusalem, Jewish people worshiped G-d through consuming a portion of their assets in fire on altars. Jewish people globally were eventually called upon to bring their portion of their produce to Jerusalem to be offered to G-d and consumed through fire and meals. This showed Jews globally that what their labors produced was also produced by G-d's work as an entity embedded in the fabric of creation. Transforming the product of their labors into a journey, a ceremony, and a contribution to the priests and to G-d, is a process seemingly immaterial to modern humans, which served the purpose to all Jews that G-d values, possesses, and needs their contributions to Creation. From distant lands Jews may have traveled, regardless of how fruitful their harvests were, to be part of the Jewish civilization. When Temple times ceased, Jews replaced physical offerings with the offering of prayer, and intention and action dedicated to G-d. The transformation of contribution to G-d's Creation and humankind shifted from the physical to the mental and spiritual realm.

Where there is darkness, we are called upon to seek and follow the light.

Virtually every Jewish observance involves inviting in a new energy by lighting candles. Shabbat, Yom Tov, Yahrzeits, and so on begin by lighting candles and reciting blessings. This matches the fact that the Jewish day, holidays included, begin around sundown. Thus, symbolically, Jewish people begin to think about the promise of a new day, symbolized by creating light in the dark, when the day's light is diminishing. We begin to think about the promise of opportunity the following day on a normal day, and the important themes of a special day, when darkness is surrounding us. We invite in the light of the next day when our minds, emotions, and bodies may throw our intentions off.

Where there is darkness, we are called upon to seek and follow the light.

Judaism compels us to treat contrasts with care and intention. As demonstrated by the symbolism embodied in Jewish memory and tradition, darkness should be viewed as an opportunity to showcase with certainty the potential for light, by contrast, that arrives swiftly with the sunrise, the waxing moon, the lighting of the Chanukah and festival candles, the offerings in Jerusalem, the flame of uniqueness alive inside all of us even at the darkest times...

L'Shalom,



Doni Kaye, Director of Education




STAY CONNECTED - UPCOMING PROGRAMS: DECEMBER



JEWISH WAR VETERANS

MONTHLY MEETING
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3
9:00 AM
TEMPLE SINAI



**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5
6:00 PM**

DARCY'S BISTRO & PUB



Parenting Conversations:
A Series for Mindful Parenting
With **Jody Altman Stacks**
December 11, 9:15 AM

RSVP
sinaidenver.shulcloud.com/form/parenting-conversations-2023-2024



BROTHERHOOD BREAKFAST

DECEMBER 14 / 9:00AM

Morning Story
4930 S Yosemite St.
Greenwood Village

KNITTING AND CROCHETING FOR JOY

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20
1:00 PM**
AT TEMPLE SINAI

QUESTIONS? CONTACT JANE ROBBINS: JANEROBBINS.CPA@GMAIL.COM

**SEE YOU AT
SINAI!** 🌟🌟🌟 🧤🧤



Shabbat Chanukah at Temple Sinai
Friday, December 8
5:30pm Pre-Neg / 6:00pm Service

Bring your menorah and we'll light together with a pre-neg reception at **5:30pm**



HERO WINTER BREAK CAMP

December 18th-22nd
December 26th-29th

Temple Sinai Social Hall

Half Day: Ages: 3-5 yo
Time: 8:30am-12:00pm
Price: \$55

Full Day: Ages: 4-5 & 6-8
Time: 8:30am-3:30pm
Price: \$105

Scan to Register or Contact:
HEROFox@HEROKidSports.com
720-593-8409

@HEROKIDSPORTS
www.HEROKidSports.com



SINAI PROGRAMS WITH AN IMPACT

Christmas in the Park

BE A PART OF IT!

HELP OVER 1,000 HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS THIS WINTER!

WE ARE COLLECTING NEW HATS, GLOVES AND SCARVES & HAND KNIT ITEMS. ALSO NEED TARPS.
TO MAKE A FINANCIAL DONATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE TEMPLE OFFICE AT 303.759.1827.
HOME DEPOT GIFT CARDS ARE ALSO WELCOME.

QUESTIONS? EMAIL SUSAN LEVINE: SULEVINE64@GMAIL.COM

DROP OFF ITEMS AT TEMPLE SINAI'S LOBBY

KNITTING AND CROCHETING FOR JOY 2023

A special thank you to Temple Sinai member, Jane Robbins, for leading this beautiful initiative!



THIS IS ONLY 25% OF KNITTING FOR JOY'S PRODUCTION THIS YEAR. IT IS GOING TO KAVOD SENIOR LIVING, JFS AFGHAN RESETTLEMENT, CHRISTMAS DAY IN THE PARK FOR THE HOMELESS, URBAN PEAK, AND THE BABY ITEMS TO TEMPLE SINAI'S CARING COMMUNITY. WE ARE SO PROUD OF THE HARD WORK!

BOOST YOUR CONNECTIONS THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS AND JEWISH OPPORTUNITIES!

WHETHER IT'S FOR SUMMER CAMP, STUDIES, A LIFECYCLE EVENT OR TRAVEL, THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS THAT YOU CAN BE AWARDED AN EXTRA BOOST OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO FULFILL YOUR PERSONAL OR FAMILY'S GOALS.

TEMPLE SINAI IS FORTUNATE TO HAVE FAMILIES AND RESOURCES WHO HAVE DESIGNATED MONETARY FUNDS FOR THAT EXTRA "BOOST." THESE FUNDS WERE ESTABLISHED FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS BUT THEY ALL HAVE THE SAME COMMON PURPOSE - **TO HELP JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS KEEP THEIR JEWISH SPIRIT ALIVE!**

THESE SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES ARE TO BE USED; IT FILLS THE HEARTS AND SOULS FOR EVERYONE WHEN SCHOLARSHIPS AND OPPORTUNITIES ARE AWARDED. EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST AND MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR JEWISH JOURNEY!

THE JEFFREY O. ROSENBERG MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Jeffrey O. Rosenberg Memorial Scholarship for Jewish Studies was created by his family to honor his memory and to sustain his passion for Jewish scholarship and culture. Each year this scholarship will support:

- 1) Textbooks and course materials for Temple Sinai members enrolled in higher education Jewish study courses and rabbinic studies. Distributes up to \$500 each year to one or multiple students. The applicant should write a letter describing their Jewish studies course(s) and the course materials they would like covered.
- 2) B'nei Mitzvah tutoring for families: Provides a student with \$500 each for B'nei Mitzvah tutoring.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN, CO SECTION

For congregants who identify as a woman and are hoping to further their education after high school or might be an older returning student later in life, the NCJW, Colorado Section will be awarding a number of scholarships to Jewish women in need of assistance with their tuition to college or technical school attendance this fall 2023. Application and information can be found at www.NCJWColorado.org/programs.

StandWithUS KENNETH LEVENTHAL HIGH SCHOOL INTERNSHIP

This is a year-long, college accredited program for student leaders in 11th and 12th grade who want to proactively and positively impact their local schools and communities. Leventhal interns learn about Israel, how to effectively combat antisemitism, and cultivate leadership skills through personalized mentorship. They bring education to their peers through interactive and creative initiatives and programs. Leventhal interns travel to Los Angeles for two leadership conferences throughout the school year.

ALAN FARBER MEMORIAL CAMP SCHOLARSHIP

Jewish summer camp of your choice! First time campers and needs based!

Temple Sinai members Lori and John Spanbauer generously established the Alan Farber Memorial Camp Scholarship Fund in loving memory of Lori's brother Alan. This annual scholarship will help Temple Sinai students from qualified families attend a 2-week or 3-week Jewish sleep-away summer camp. The scholarship is also available for any mini-camp sessions for a camper's first camp experience. The scholarship is available to all campers based on financial need that otherwise would prevent them from attending sleep-away camp.

To Apply: Please contact Lisa Thorner, Executive Director, for more information at [\(303\) 759-1827](tel:3037591827) or lisa@sinaidenver.org.



LEARN MORE AND APPLY AT:

SINAIDENVER.ORG/WHAT-WE-DO/SCHOLARSHIPS



LISA THORNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: LISA@SINAIDENVER.ORG

PAY TRIBUTE TO YOUR LOVED ONES

It is never too late to remember a loved one or to celebrate a graduation, confirmation, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, a special birthday or any other milestone. The events that we experience individually are meant to be shared with our Sinai community. Here are several ways in which to do so:

BRICK-BY-BRICK PROJECT

Brick by Brick is an ever-evolving commemoration of the special moments and people that shape and influence our lives. Bricks can be purchased online at <http://www.sinaidenver.org/brick-by-brick.html>. The display of bricks is located in front of Temple Sinai's entrance. Cost: \$125 (4x8 Brick) and \$250 for (8x8 Brick).



WALL OF REMEMBRANCE

The Wall of Remembrance, located outside the Zwerin Sanctuary, is a way to memorialize the passing of a loved one. Name plates are inscribed with the name of the departed along with the English and Hebrew date of death. Cost: \$300.



TREE OF LIFE

The Tree of Life sculpture was created by the renowned synagogue artist Sanford Werfel. The branches of the tree form the Hebrew words "Etz Chaim." The stones at the roots of the Tree are symbolic of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. The golden leaves and stones may be inscribed to highlight or commemorate joyous occasions, including births, weddings, anniversaries, graduations or to honor family, parents or friends. Cost: \$175 to inscribe a leaf and \$1,000 to inscribe a stone.



TRIBUTES

IN MEMORIAM

- **Stanley Byron Bauer**, husband of Sandra Bauer, father of the late Charles D. Bauer, Craig J. (Koky) Bauer, and Ryan D. Bauer, brother of Rebecca Schneirson, grandfather of Ethan Bauer, David Bauer, Benjamin Bauer, and Naomi Bauer
- **Herb Ehrlich**, uncle of Terry (David) Appel
- **Ron Epstein**, husband of Sara Jane Simon, father to Terry Epstein (Jep Seman), Patty Epstein, David Epstein, and Will Epstein; poppy to grandchildren Jordan and Taylor Ivey, Caroline and Abigail Seman, Alec, Bryn, and Paige Segall, and Lowen and Rose Epstein
- **Annette Finesilver**, wife of the late Judge Sherman G. Finesilver; mother of Jay (Mary Banerjee) Finesilver, Steve (Brenda) Finesilver, and Susan Finesilver; grandchildren Justin (Megan) Finesilver, Lauren (Alex Anderson) Finesilver, Sararose (Mark) Posseno, Felicia (James) Shepard, Mary (Doug) Niewiarowicz, Rebecca Finesilver, Zachary Finesilver, Mitchell Finesilver, Joshua Finesilver, Matthew Finesilver, and Madeline Stanton; and great grandchildren, Emmie Finesilver, Penelope Rose Posseno, Marzanna Niewiarowicz, Corbyn, Carson, Olivia, and Emersyn Shepard
- **Herbert Maslin**, husband of Helen Maslin; father of Larry (Marilyn) Maslin, Cindy Moore, Debbie Robinson; Grandfather of John (Lauren) Maslin and David (Jewels) Maslin, Dylan Erickson, Alicia (Dean) Mock and Mandi Robinson
- **Dr. Stephen Meitus**, brother of Doug (Marty) Meitus, uncle of Melissa (Josh) Liff and Jacob Meitus, great-uncle of Anna and Eliza
- **Frank Post**, father of Gordan (Bonnie) Post, grandfather of Maxwell and Zachary
- **Richard Sampson**, survived by his wife, Carolyn Sampson; daughter Amy (David Cooley) Sampson
- **Robin Schaffer**, mother of Hannah (Brian) Svoboda, grandmother of Harrison, Leo, Lily
- **Jack Shedleman**, brother of Paula (Rich) Workman

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ALAN FARBER MEMORIAL CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Alan Farber

John & Lori Spanbauer

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