

TEMPLE SINAI

# KESHER



September 2025  
ELUL/TISHREI 5785

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## EXILED FROM YOURSELF?

# RABBI RICK RHEINS

Too many are experiencing a growing sense of estrangement. Social divisions and political rancor contribute to feelings of isolation. Friendships and even families have broken up over disputes and clashing perspectives. But perhaps most troubling is a loss of one's personal sense of values, faith, and self-esteem. Lest one thinks that this is a new phenomenon, consider the teaching of Rabbi Sholom of Belz from nearly 200 years ago. He noted three exiles: that some were exiled from Israel, our ancestral homeland; that some were exiled from other Jews; and that some were exiled from themselves.

His concerns resonate with our modern experience. We, too, have (at least) three types of exile plaguing the Jewish people. The first is the vulnerability felt by Jews in the Diaspora when we confront antisemitism. Acts of intolerance shake us from a false sense of security. We thought that antisemitism was no longer a problem in the 21st century and especially so in the freedom and prosperity of the United States. Unfortunately, the rise of hatred against Jews from the political and social extremes (both far right and left) remind us that that we are a tiny minority. This exile of vulnerability can only be overcome when we join together for mutual aid.

The second exile is when Jews are in exile from other Jews. Those who choose to distance themselves from synagogue life can feel disconnected from Judaism and the Jewish people. It is so sad that we have family and friends who chase ephemeral pleasures, lifestyles, and distractions only to find that they have lost the richness of their Jewish spiritual, intellectual and cultural heritage. At the core of Judaism is the understanding that all life is of God. And through daily acts of loving kindness, intellectual curiosity, and spiritual expression, we celebrate our personal bonds with the Eternal. To neglect this is to risk being lost in a heartbreaking exile.

**The third and most severe exile is when a Jew is alien to him/herself.** One can convince him/herself that "I don't need anyone or anything." Exiled from one's people, one's faith, and one's community can

quickly devolve into an exile from family, friends and from the very core of one's being. Left with self-pity, indignation, self-righteousness, cynicism, and fierce independence, a person is left - - - alone.

September begins a time of teshuvah, a time for repentance, a time for forgiveness, a time for renewal. Literally, teshuvah means "return." This is a time when we take note of the distance between our values and our lived realities. This is the time to return from the exile that separates us from family, from community, and from our covenantal bonds with God and the Jewish people. This is the time to look in the mirror and wonder, "Who have I become? Am I now defining myself by the stuff I've accumulated and the pretense of practiced poses rather than by the core values I once championed?"

The gates of God's compassion never close; but it is up to us to return from the exile. As we enter the New Year 5786, consider this beautiful meditation inspired by Rabbi Milton Steinberg (found on page 667 in our Yom Kippur machzor):

*To live life in all its fullness  
is to stand, in awe, before an open gate---  
to gaze into a doorway of hope,  
a wondrous portal of possibilities.  
Many are the gates of our lives;  
many the treasures toward which they lead.  
And how many close behind us---lost, forgotten, and  
sealed forever?  
How many gates? How many years?  
Standing, in awe, before the gates of a new year  
we see its most precious gift:  
the minutes and the hours, the days and the weeks---  
the treasure house of time.  
Every moment is a vessel of infinite holiness.  
Every morning, noon, and night is a gateway to life's  
immensity.  
How will I use this precious gift?*

Susan, Joshua, Sam, and Jakob join me in wishing you and your loved ones a sweet year filled with God's blessings of good health, happiness, and prosperity.

*L'Shana Tovah tekatayvu vet'chataymu,*

*Rick*

**Rabbi Rick Rheins**



## PREPARING OUR HEARTS IN ELUL: A PATH TOWARD THE HIGH HOLY DAYS

# RABBI MICHAEL SHIELDS

As the month of Elul arrives, our tradition invites us into a sacred season of preparation. The High Holy Days do not appear suddenly; rather, Judaism gives us the gift of Elul as a month of reflection, repair, and return. The Psalmist writes, “Adonai is close to all who call upon God, to all who call upon God in truth” (Psalm 145:18). Elul is our opportunity to call out in truth, to look inward with honesty, and to look outward with compassion.

The rabbis of the Talmud remind us that true *teshuvah*, repentance or return, requires not only prayer to God, but also reconciliation with one another. We cannot approach Yom Kippur with a whole heart unless we first seek forgiveness and healing in our human relationships. Elul, then, becomes our laboratory for compassion: a time to practice kindness, humility, and renewal.

At Temple Sinai, Elul is also a time to come together as a community. We prepare not only as individuals but as a *kehillah kedoshah*, a sacred community. When we join in prayer, study, and participate in acts of *chesed* (kindness) and synagogue life, we strengthen the bonds that carry us into the New Year. The Shulchan Aruch teaches that a shofar is sounded each morning of Elul, awakening our souls to the work ahead. In that same spirit, our synagogue offers programs, learning opportunities, and gatherings to help us awaken together.

This year, we encourage you to make Elul a time of engagement: join us for Shabbat services, study sessions, and volunteer opportunities; reach out to a fellow congregant you haven’t seen in a while; bring your family to participate in our preparations for the High Holy Days. Your presence not only enriches your own journey, it strengthens the life and spirit of Temple Sinai.

*L’shanah tovah tikateivu—May you be inscribed for a year of goodness.*

*Rabbi Shields*

Rabbi Michael Shields

### **Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur Morning Kavanah Services**

I invite you to join me for our Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur Kavanah Services—on Tuesday, September 23 and Thursday, October 2 at 9:45 AM. The Hebrew word Kavanah means “intention” or “direction of the heart,” and these services are designed to help us approach the High Holy Days with deep focus and authenticity. In a smaller, more intimate setting, we will explore the themes, prayers, and holiness of these sacred days through study, music, prayer, and the gift of being present with one another. The Kavanah Services create space for personal reflection and communal connection, helping us to enter the New Year with open hearts and renewed spirits.

### **Confirmation at Temple Sinai**

Is Your Teen Ready to Explore Judaism in a Way That Feels Real?

This fall, Confirmation at Temple Sinai is open to all 10th graders (and 11th, and 12th graders who have not gone through it yet)—and it’s not about lectures or tests. It’s about conversation, connection, and discovering what Judaism means at this stage of life.

Led by Rabbi Michael Shields and Rabbi Rick Rheins, our Confirmation program creates a space for teens to ask big questions, explore Jewish values, and build friendships grounded in curiosity, meaning, and authenticity. Whether your teen is deeply connected to their Jewish identity or still figuring it all out—they’ll be welcomed, heard, and inspired.

Confirmation concludes with a special Retreat in the spring.



# HIGH HOLY DAYS MESSAGE

## LISA THORNER

As we welcome another New Year, we take time to reflect on all that has unfolded over the past twelve months. The High Holy Days provide a sacred opportunity to renew our spirits, rejuvenate our souls, and set our hopes for a healthy, meaningful, and prosperous year ahead. While we cannot ignore the challenges in our world today, we remain deeply grateful for the blessings we share and the strength of our community.

Temple Sinai continues to flourish with the resources, creativity, and resilience to meet the challenges that come with change and growth. As we begin the New Year, I hope each member will consider the greater possibilities we can achieve together—through building relationships and engaging in the life of our congregation. The true success of Temple Sinai is realized when dedicated volunteers embrace our mission, our vision, and the values of inclusion. This involvement not only strengthens Temple Sinai, but also deepens the sense of community for us all.

I invite you and your family to experience the warm, welcoming, and spiritual environment we strive to create. As we continue to make Temple Sinai your “Jewish home,” we offer programs and activities that foster connection, meaning, and joy. Our doors are open to everyone. We welcome interfaith families, those exploring conversion—individually or as a couple—and Jews who seek to reconnect with Judaism and the Jewish community.

From adult education classes to weekly Shabbat services, from Brotherhood and Sisterhood to our dynamic Chavurah program, there are countless opportunities to engage. Temple Sinai also offers a leading Preschool and Religious School, providing exceptional Jewish and academic experiences for our children.

Our clergy and staff work tirelessly to support our congregation, through both celebrations and challenges, meeting each of you wherever you are in life. This coming year is especially exciting as Temple Sinai continues to grow, strengthened by the dedication of our leadership, staff, and volunteers.

### Highlights from the past year include:

- Welcoming 82 new households into our community.
- A successful Chai-5 Campaign that raised over \$60,000 (see the Keshet for this year’s goals).
- Musical Shabbats and vibrant programming for every demographic including Twisted Shabbat, Sinai Social, Lifelong Jewish Learning, Antisemitism programming, Mitzvah Day, holiday celebrations, and more.
- A thriving Preschool and Religious School, offering transformative Jewish and academic experiences for our children.
- The revitalization of our youth group program since COVID.
- Beautiful ritual services and abundant opportunities for learning.
- Installation of solar panels throughout our buildings, made possible by a \$550,000 grant from the City of Denver, helping Temple Sinai meet the city’s sustainability criteria.

### Looking ahead, here are some highlights for the coming year:

- Launch of a new Chai-5 Campaign (see details on the following page).
- Construction of Phase 2 of our outdoor space, featuring a basketball court, picnic area, grills, and an enhanced grassy area for community gatherings.
- Creation of a new youth lounge, designed as a dynamic and welcoming space for all generations.

Finally, I want to express my sincere gratitude to our Board of Trustees, committees and each of you for all that you do for our Sinai family. We should be proud of the congregation we have become over the past 58 years. Personally, it has been a blessing to be part of Temple Sinai for more than 17 years. You make this sacred community possible.

I look forward to seeing you during the High Holy Days, and I wish you and your loved ones a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

*Lisa Thorner*

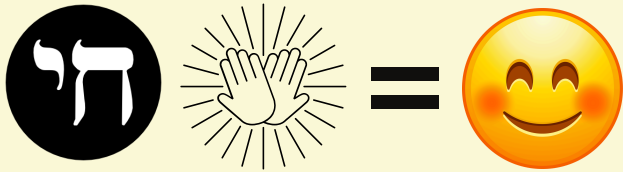
Lisa Thorner

# CHAI-5! TO CHANUKAH

## The Chai-5 CAMPAIGN

### Chai-5 makes you a true partner and stakeholder in Temple Sinai

Temple Sinai is excited to announce The Chai-5 Campaign which supports selected areas of emphasis within our Sinai community. Chai-5 helps assure we can maintain existing programming and invest in new innovative ways to bring us together. From now until Chanukah, we hope you will invest at least Chai (\$18) X 5 = \$90 (Chai-5). You can choose to allocate your units of Chai as you wish.



### THE CHAI-5 ADVANTAGE DONATIONS HEAD STRAIGHT TO THE BOTTOM LINE

Programs and events can be expensive to produce. Chai-5 gives you a voice and brings us TOGETHER. Chai-5 donations head straight to the bottom line.

#### GIVING AT SINAI IS SIMPLE

Dues, donations, program costs and Chai-5 participation represents your investment and commitment to Temple Sinai.

#### YOU CHOOSE THE AREAS THAT INSPIRE YOU

You can commit your Chai-5 donation to specific areas or give to the overall campaign.

We hope everyone will make an investment of chai (\$18) x 5 = \$90! or whatever is right for you.

### HERE IS WHERE YOUR DOLLARS CAN GO:

#### TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENTS:

Connecting Everyone to Sinai.

- Sound system improvements.
- Video screens in Study and Abrahams Family Chapel.
- Enhance ADA compliant technology.
- Updated computers for Religious School students.

#### INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAMMING:

Building community, deepening relationships and passing Jewish values across generations.

- Increased programming that brings together all demographics.
- Shabbatons, retreats and family-friendly dinners.
- Chesed Buddies that pair older members with younger families.

#### BUILDING BEAUTIFICATION:

Major physical upgrades and renovations of Temple's property and facilities.

- Upgrade Zwerin Sanctuary walls with sound tiles.
- Landscaping.
- Interactive donor and Yahrzeit wall.

**TEACHER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT** - Continuous process of equipping Preschool and Religious School teachers with the knowledge, skills, tools and support needed to improve their effectiveness in the classroom.

- Continuing education stipends.
- Conferences, workshops and professional trainers.

**UPDATED YOUTH LOUNGE AND HOSPITALITY SPACE:** Updated Youth and Hospitality Space to create a dynamic, flexible and welcoming environment that meets the needs of all generations.

- A dedicated, welcoming space that encourages kids of all ages to spend more time at Temple.
- Technology stations for digital and creative learning.
- Coffee station that creates a shared working area for adults.
- Dedicated family area to include PJ Library, toys and games for younger children.





# RUTHIE LIPSHULCH

## CANTORIAL SOLOIST



### Musical Shabbats – Save the Dates!

Musical Shabbats are joyful, song-filled Friday evening services where prayer and music blend to create an uplifting, spiritually rich experience. Led by our cantorial soloist and musicians, these services feature inspiring melodies, both traditional and contemporary, that encourage participation, connection, and community.

- Friday, September 5
- Friday, November 21
- Friday, January 30 (Shabbat Shirah Weekend)
- Friday, March 13



**Youth Choir  
Kickoff!**  
**Sunday,  
September 14**  
**12:15–1:15 PM in the  
Chapel**



Musically Yours,  
*Ruthie*  
Ruthie Lipshulch

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR  
INTERGENERATIONAL  
PROGRAM! AN EVENING  
WITH CANTORIAL SOLOIST  
RUTHIE LIPSHULCH

### *Let's Learn the Meaning of the High Holy Days Through Music!*

*How can we use music to learn about our tradition?*

Join Cantorial Soloist Ruthie Lipshulch for an evening of music, reflection, and connection as we explore the deeper meanings of the High Holy Days through melodies and curiosity.

**Tuesday, September 16**  
**6:00-7:00pm**  
**Temple Sinai Chapel**

Adults will reflect, listen, and connect. Children will have a joyful, interactive experience learning through music! We will leave with new insights and inspiration to carry into the High Holy Days season. Open to all ages. Light nosh to follow.

**RSVP HERE**



# High Holy Days 2025 5786



## PREPARING FOR THE JEWISH NEW YEAR SELICHOT PROGRAM AND SERVICE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 AT 7:00 PM  
AT TEMPLE SINAI



The New Year holds such promise and potential. Each of us has the opportunity to start fresh and bring the best of our values and character to shine. The High Holy Days have proven over the past 3,500 years to be extraordinarily important to help us reflect, repent, learn and grow. The Selichot program and service (traditionally held on the Saturday evening that is at least three days before Rosh HaShanah) help us to prepare ourselves emotionally, intellectually and spiritually for a transformative experience during the High Holy Days.

This year, Selichot is on Saturday evening, September 13, with both Rabbi Rick Rheins and Rabbi Michael Shields teaching sessions. In addition, our fabulous Temple Sinai Adult Choir will present several traditional songs that are featured during the High Holy Days and express so poignantly the spirit Judaism.

After the programs, we will join together for a very meaningful Selichot service which will conclude with the sounding of the shofar and the dressing of our Torah scrolls in their High Holy Days white covers. The Selichot programs and service are open to all and free of charge. Please invite your friends to join us!

### SELICHOT SCHEDULE: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

**STUDY PROGRAMS 7:00 – 7:45 PM / REFRESHMENTS 7:45 – 8:00 PM / SERVICE 8:00 – 8:45 PM**



# High Holy Days 5786/2025

A HOME FOR YOUR JEWISH JOURNEY

Richard S. Rheins, Senior Rabbi  
Michael Shields, Associate Rabbi  
Raymond Zwerin, Rabbi Emeritus  
Stephanie Podolak, President  
Lisa Thorner, Executive Director

## HIGH HOLY DAYS SCHEDULE

### Selichot

#### Saturday, September 13

7:00 - 7:45 PM: Study Programs

7:45 - 8:00 PM: Refreshments

8:00 - 8:45 PM: Service

### Erev Rosh HaShanah

#### Monday, September 22

7:30 PM: Erev Rosh HaShanah Service

### Rosh HaShanah 1st Day

#### Tuesday, September 23

8:30 - 9:00 AM: Family Rosh HaShanah (Ages 0-6)

8:45 - 11:15 AM: Machaneh (Camp) Rosh HaShanah:

A High Holy Days Youth Experience (Grades K-5)

9:00 - 11:15 AM: Preschool (0-5) Babysitting

9:00 - 11:15 AM: Traditional Service

9:45 - 11:15 AM: Kavanah (Alternative) Service

11:30 - 12:30 PM: Intergenerational Family Service

4:00 - 4:30 PM: Tots and Tashlich (Rosamond Park)

4:30 - 5:00 PM: Tashlich Service (Rosamond Park)

### Rosh HaShanah 2nd Day

#### Wednesday, September 24

10:00 AM: Traditional Service

### Cemetery Memorial Services

#### Sunday, September 28

Rose Hill: 10:30 AM

Fairmount: 11:30 AM

Mt. Nebo: 11:45 AM

### Erev Yom Kippur - Kol Nidre

#### Wednesday, October 1

7:30 PM: Kol Nidre Traditional Service

### Yom Kippur

#### Thursday, October 2

8:30 - 9:00 AM: Family Yom Kippur (Ages 0-6)

8:45 - 11:15 AM: Machaneh (Camp) Yom Kippur:

A High Holy Days Youth Experience (Grades K-5)

9:00 - 11:15 AM: Preschool (0-5) Babysitting

9:00 - 11:15 AM: Traditional Service

9:45 - 11:15 AM: Kavanah (Alternative) Service

11:30 - 12:30 PM: Intergenerational Family Service

2:00 - 3:15 PM: Discussion

3:30 PM: Afternoon Service

5:15 PM: Yizkor Service

6:00 PM: Neilah Service

### Erev Sukkot

#### Monday, October 6

6:00 PM: Sukkot Service

### Sukkot

#### Tuesday, October 7

10:00 AM: Sukkot Service

### Friday, October 10

6:45 PM: Pizza in the Hut Sukkot Dinner

### Erev Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah

#### Monday, October 13

5:00 PM: Simchat Torah Spaghetti Dinner

6:00 PM: Festival Service

### Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah with Yizkor

#### Tuesday, October 14

10:00 AM: Torah Service & Yizkor

We look forward to celebrating  
another High Holy Days season  
with you!

# Greetings and Memorial Book

## HIGH HOLY DAYS 2025 / 5786



Dear Congregants,

We are delighted to take this opportunity to reach out to you with information about the 2025/5786 High Holy Days Greetings and Memorial Book. The book will be available online AND distributed throughout the High Holy Days beginning on Erev Rosh HaShanah, Monday, September 22. We welcome you to place a message in the book.

### High Holy Days Greetings:

Send a special holiday message, honoring an individual and/or celebrating a simchah (joyous occasion) like a birth, anniversary, B'nei Mitzvah, wedding, graduation, etc., or send wishes for the New Year.

Examples:

In Honor Of:

The birth of Ella Levinson

From: Loving Grandparents, Sara & Ed Gold

L'Shanah Tovah!

To our Sinai Friends and Family

From: the Katz Family

### Memorial Book:

The Memorial Book is a wonderful opportunity to memorialize and remember those who have been called to their eternal rest. This book will also include a listing of all members and family members who have passed away since Yom Kippur last year.

Example:

Beloved Parents and Grandparents, Joseph and Carol Goldberg z"l

Remembered by: The Goldberg/Stein Family

**Submissions for this year's book are due by September 17.** Click below to submit your greeting and/or memorial. We thank you for your support.

If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Wolf at [jessica@sinaidenver.org](mailto:jessica@sinaidenver.org) or 303-759-1827.

Thank you, and we look forward to sharing the High Holy Days 2025/5786 with you.

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT](#)



## FOSTERING BELONGING AT TEMPLE SINAI

# DEBBIE FOSTER

## DIRECTOR OF ENGAGEMENT AND PROGRAMMING



### **The Engagement Committee**

Beginning this summer, 19 congregants joined hearts and minds to envision and create fresh opportunities for connection and belonging at Temple Sinai. We will be supporting efforts to make Temple Sinai's membership, leadership, staff, and activities more diverse, equitable, and inclusive. Here are some exciting new ways to get to know one another at Sinai.

**Name Tags** – Beginning in September, there will be a special name tag table in the lobby before services and programs. We encourage members and guests to make a name tag. There will be different colors for members and guests – as we want to make our guests easy to spot, so we can welcome them!

**Rosh HaShanah Reception** – Rosh HaShanah is a celebratory time and we want to give congregants a chance to connect and schmooze. Thanks to several generous donors, we will have a Rosh HaShanah reception after both the morning and Intergenerational service. There will be sweet treats near the pavilion AND by the outside fountain in the courtyard.

**Rosh HaShanah Lunch** – For adults who would like to enjoy a meal after services, a group of congregants will be heading to Shanghai Kitchen at 12:30 PM. You must RSVP by Sunday, September 21 to Phyllis Nalick at [phyl0735@gmail.com](mailto:phyl0735@gmail.com). There are 55 spaces available.

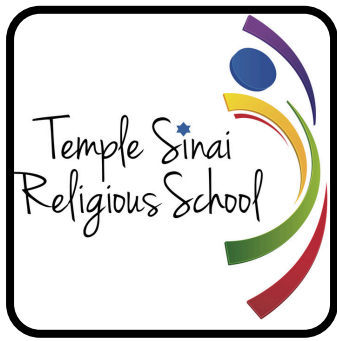
**New Member Shabbat Brunch** – The Engagement Committee will be helping staff plan a beautiful Shabbat brunch on Saturday, November 15 for all our newest members!

If you would like to be part of this wonderful group of congregants who foster belonging at Temple Sinai, please email me at [debbie@sinaidenver.org](mailto:debbie@sinaidenver.org)!

Shana Tova U'Metukah,

*Debbie*

Debbie Foster,  
Director of Engagement and Programming



## A JOYFUL BEGINNING TO OUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL YEAR

The new school year at Temple Sinai Religious School is off to a wonderful start! Our first two sessions have been filled with energy and excitement as students, teachers, and our dedicated Madrikhim (teen teaching assistants) came together to begin another year of learning and growth. Classrooms are alive with curiosity, song, friendship, and the joy of being part of our synagogue community.

Throughout the year, we will continue to live out the five core values that guide all we do at Temple Sinai Religious School: Kavod (Respect/Honor), Chesed (Kindness), Shalom (Peace & Wholeness), Torah (Commitment to Learning), and Kehillah (Sacred Community). These values shape not only what we learn, but also how we treat one another and the spirit we bring to our community.

If you have not yet enrolled your child in Temple Sinai Religious School, we warmly invite you to do so—it's never too late to join! And if you know of other Jewish families who might be interested, please help us extend the invitation to join our synagogue and school communities. Together, we are building a vibrant, joyful, and meaningful year of learning and connection. Please contact our Director of Education, Doni Kaye at [doni@sinaidenver.org](mailto:doni@sinaidenver.org) or Rabbi Shields at [rabbishields@sinaidenver.org](mailto:rabbishields@sinaidenver.org).



### *Welcome to our Shinshin*

My name is Tomer Eli and I'm 18 years old. I am from Parades Hana-Kakur. I have two loving parents and a brother who's 20 years old and is currently serving in the military. I LOVE theatre and music... a theatre kid through and through! I'm also super into hiking and skiing.

The reason why I'm so thrilled to be in Colorado is that I want to meet and have meaningful relationships with as many of you as I can! Feel free to talk to me about anything always.

Super excited to meet you!



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: “OSI” SLADEK TO BE INDUCTED INTO THE COLORADO AUTHOR’S HALL OF FAME

Denver, CO, July 30, 2025 – The Colorado Authors’ Hall of Fame has announced the 13 new inductees to this year’s Hall of Fame Gala taking place on Saturday, September 6, 2025 at the Double Tree Hilton Denver Tech Center. Among them is Oscar “Osi” Sladek, a child survivor of the Holocaust, folk singer/songwriter, author and respected Jewish community leader. When he talks of his troubled WWII childhood in Slovakia and Hungary, he touches his heart and says, “I can’t not talk about it. The Nazis took away all of our citizenship rights and slowly but surely, they stripped us of everything.”

Osi has been publicly speaking about his story of survival for more than 50 years. A significant percentage of Sladek's extended family was killed during the Holocaust. Eleven of his cousins, his grandparents and several aunts and uncles perished in the genocide. He was smuggled between borders and amazingly survived in the bitter cold Tatra mountains along with his parents. He wants people to understand that the Holocaust felt like it was in slow motion as he lived through it. "It didn't happen overnight."

Sladek arrived in Colorado in 1959 with his newly-wed wife, Denverite Selma (Rosen) Sladek. Already an established composer and folk artist who performed throughout Israel, Venezuela and on stages in Hollywood, Sladek notably headlined the 1960 Colorado Folk Festival, sharing the bill with Odetta, Judy Collins, Josh White and other folk luminaries. He has dedicated the past sixty years to community leadership in Colorado and California, Holocaust education and has touched the hearts of countless people with his voice and music.

Now 90 years old, Sladek’s 2024 childhood memoir, *Escape to the Tatras: a Boy, a War and a Life Interrupted* (Amazon/Audible) was co-written with Corinne Joy Brown and praised by National Book Award winner James Carroll as “...a masterpiece of love and survival.” When he speaks to groups, he reveals, "I always tell young people don't hate. Don't learn how to hate, because it's going to kill you in the end," he said. "That's one lesson I share with most young people."

In 2019, Governor Jared Polis presented Sladek a community service award at the 2019 Mizel Institute Annual Dinner. He was honored for his “commitment to inspire understanding, moral courage and social responsibility.”

More about Osi’s story at [www.escapetothetatras.com](http://www.escapetothetatras.com)

Osi’s NBC Daily Blast Live interview can be viewed here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yiOTyBf-dsc>

Osi’s April 25, 2025 extended interview with Colorado Public Radio’s Ryan Warner can be found here:  
<https://www.cpr.org/show-episode/april-25-2025-holocaust-survivor-and-folk-musician-osi-sladek/>

Oscar “Osi” Sladek and 12 others will be inducted into the Colorado Authors’ Hall of Fame on September 6. Tickets are open to the public to purchase tickets to attend the gala at <https://www.coloradoauthorshalloffame.org/>.

# Jacob

by Allan Wilson

I have wrestled with God—  
not in visions of angels,  
but in long nights of doubt,  
in silence heavy as stone.

I bore my questions  
like scars,  
each one a mark  
of survival.

And then—  
Rebecca.

Love not as rescue,  
but as recognition.

The one who saw me whole  
before I knew what whole could be.

Like Ruth, I followed,  
not out of duty,  
but devotion.

“Your people will be my people,  
your God my God.”

We stood together,  
beneath the chuppah,  
and I gave my vows  
to her,  
to us,

to the story we now share.

Conversion was not a step  
but a crossing.

Not an ending  
but a homecoming.

Each prayer,  
each mitzvah,  
each name spoken—

Jacob—  
ties me back,  
ties me forward.

I wrestled,  
and I was not broken.

I loved,  
and I was remade.

I entered,  
and I belong.

**Allan Wilson shared this beautiful poem during Shabbat services in August. We wanted to make sure everyone has the chance to read and enjoy it.**

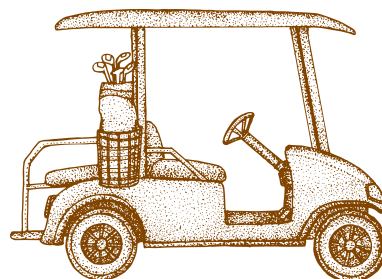


**Allan and Rebecca Hea-Wilson on their wedding day**

# Snapshots from our Welcome Back Picnic!



# Brotherhood Golf



# JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

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

### Temple Sinai's Grief Support Group

#### Fall-Winter Schedule 2025

Temple Sinai's Grief Support Group will renew this fall with our new counselor, Ana Dodson. These sessions are free for Temple Sinai members. RSVP [here](#) (required). The process of grief differs from person to person. We are proud to offer an opportunity for our members to share and learn. Together we will find strength and support.

Our fall-winter schedule is:

Sunday, September 14 at 11:00 AM

Sunday, October 26 at 11:00 AM

Sunday, November 16 at 11:00 AM

Sunday, December 14 at 11:00 AM

## MONTHLY

### HEALING SERVICE / VIRTUAL AT 11:00 AM

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

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.



# ADULT EDUCATION



**EXPLORING ANCIENT JEWISH LITERATURE:  
APOCRYPHA WITH RABBI RHEINS**  
TUESDAYS AT NOON / VIRTUAL  
**SEPTEMBER 2, 9, 16, 30**

We will continue reading ancient Jewish texts by exploring the Apocrypha literature.

“Apocrypha” means “hidden things” and these stories did not make the final canon of the Hebrew Bible. For the most part these were beloved stories that were written over two-thousand years ago (approximately 400-100 BCE).



**LUNCH AND LEARN**  
COME LEARN, DISCUSS, DEBATE  
AND MEET FRIENDS  
**THURSDAYS**  
**SEPTEMBER 4, 11, 18, 25**  
AT NOON

Review ethical and moral issues in selected Jewish texts. Discuss hot current topics the important issues of the day Bring your lunch!

We will serve the text and topics!

**NEWCOMERS QUICKLY AND EASILY  
FIT RIGHT IN!**

**It's a great way to learn and  
meet new friends!**

## JEWISH WAR VETERANS

The Denver unit of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA meets at Temple Sinai one Sunday morning each month at 9:00 AM. They provide excellent no cost breakfast, guest speakers, camaraderie, and social interaction.

Come check them out! For more information call, text or email

Don Price at

[donpriceusna73@gmail.com](mailto:donpriceusna73@gmail.com) or

(443)-995-9055. All are welcome.

On September 7, the speaker will be retired Marine Colonel Tom Duhs talking about the US Army's 10th Mountain Division.

## LIFELONG JEWISH LEARNING

6:30-8:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

**OCTOBER 8, 22**

**NOVEMBER 5, 19**

**DECEMBER 3**

To kick off this fall's **Lifelong Jewish Learning** series on Oct 8, Judy Winnick will introduce us to another unsung Hero of the Holocaust, **JAN KARSKI (1914-2000)**. His determination to save the Jews of Europe knew no bounds.

He is commonly referred to as, **“The Man Who Tried To Stop The Holocaust.”** After hearing his courageous story, you will understand why he was honored with a multitude of awards including an **Honorary Citizen of the State of Israel, A Righteous Among the Nations and the United States Presidential Medal of Freedom**. Elie Wiesel once said, “Thanks to Jan Karski, more than one generation continues to believe in humanity.”

# 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 Rick Rheins and Rabbi Michael Shields will be quick to respond when any of our members and loved ones are struggling. In addition, Temple Sinai has a wonderful group of volunteers on our Caring Community who help to provide assistance. Please call or write to our rabbis and let them know that you'd like their help and attention. Confidential messages can be made directly to:

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

## B'nei Mitzvah Dates are available in 2026 & 2027

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 2026 or 2027 and you do not yet have a reserved date for a service, 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. Date selection request forms are available in the Temple Sinai office and can be mailed 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.

# B'nei Mitzvah Dates Selection Meeting for 2028

## Sunday, November 2, 2025 at 11:00 AM

If your child becomes 13 years old or older in 2028, it is time to find a date for a Bar/Bat Mitzvah! On **Sunday, November 2, 2025 at 11:00 AM**, we will hand out a list of potential B'nei Mitzvah service dates and discuss details that you will need to know as you begin this exciting journey. At this meeting, each family will receive a Bar/Bat Mitzvah Date Request Form that asks you to list three potential dates. The families are urged to return the Date Request Form by December 30, 2025. At that time, we will do our best to accommodate every family and reserve for you one of your top three choices. We truly look forward to working with you to help your children have a most memorable and meaningful experience. As they become B'nei Mitzvah, their achievement is a simchah, a joy for the entire community. Please feel free to contact one of us if you have any questions or concerns. We are pleased to begin to help you plan and prepare for your family's blessed simchah!

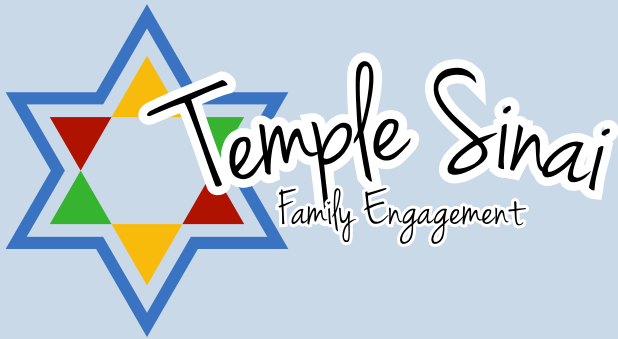
## ADULT B'NEI MITZVAH CLASS!

If you are interested in becoming an Adult Bar or Bat Mitzvah, please contact [Rabbi Rheins](#) or [Rabbi Shields](#). Depending on enrollment, we will begin with a Hebrew refresher course on Sunday mornings this fall. We will then offer classes that review Jewish liturgy and ritual observances. Once the class participants feel ready, we will choose a date for our service and begin preparing to read from a Sefer Torah. This meaningful experience is inspiring for the participants, their loved ones and the entire community. The exact dates of the classes and service will be determined by those who have expressed interest. So let us know if you want to be a part of this year's class!

## You Can Build Your Own Sukkah!

It is easier (and less expensive) than ever for those interested in building their own sukkah. While there are several different and good companies which will sell you a sukkah building kit, we highly recommend The Sukkah Project because it is a company that produces very affordable kits for making a family sukkah AND it is owned and operated in Grand Junction, Colorado! These popular kits go up in about 2 hours and will provide a real sukkah for your family and friends to enjoy throughout the Festival of Sukkot. It is a fun tradition to visit each other during the Festival, to raise the etrog, shake the lulav, and share a meal in the splendor of a sukkah. For more information, visit [www.sukkot.com](http://www.sukkot.com) or call 844-478-5568 between 8 AM and 10 PM (except Shabbat: Friday sundown to Saturday sundown). This is also a good time to order an etrog and lulav set. You can surf the web for a set.





# UPCOMING EVENTS

SEP  
**10**  
6PM  
*Temple Sinai Youth Group*



SEP  
**12**  
5:30 PM  
*Twisted Shabbat*

SEP  
**14**  
12:00 PM - 1:15 PM  
*Sinai Songbirds Youth Choir*

SEP  
**21**  
11:00 AM - 1:00PM  
*Sinai South  
Picnic and Playdate*

SEP  
**28**  
12:00 PM - 1:15 PM  
*Sinai Songbirds Youth Choir*



**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER  
SCAN QR CODE !**



## adult programming

### Musical Shabbat

Friday, September 5 at 6:00 PM

### Pardes Meditation Group

Saturday, September 6 at 8:00 AM

### Kugel Cookoff

Sunday, September 7 at 11:00 AM

### Brotherhood Shooting Club

Tuesday, September 9 at 11:00 AM

### Jewish Fertility Foundation Event

Tuesday, September 9 at 6:30 PM

### Sinai Sisterhood Drop-In Mah Jongg

Wednesday, September 10 at 1:00 PM

### Let's Learn the Meaning of the High Holy Days Through Music with Ruthie Lipshulch

Tuesday, September 16 at 6:00 PM

### Sinai Sisterhood Rock Painting

Wednesday, September 17 at 6:30 PM

### Brotherhood Breakfast at Morning Story

Thursday, September 18 at 9:00 AM

### Shabbat Outside

Friday, September 19 at 6:00 PM

### Pardes Meditation Group

Saturday, September 20 at 8:00 AM

### Sinai Sisterhood at Walk to End

Alzheimer's  
Saturday, September 20

## monthly

### Brotherhood, Bible and Beers

Darcy's Pub & Bistro

Tuesday, September 2 at 6:00 PM

### Knitting and Crocheting for JOY

Temple Sinai

Wednesday, September 17 at 1:00 PM

## weekly

### Exploring Ancient Jewish

Literature: Apocrypha with Rabbi  
Rheins

Tuesdays at 12:00 PM (virtual)

### Lunch & Learn

Thursdays at 12:00 PM (in-person and  
virtual)

### Zwerin/Kaye Avot Study

Saturdays at 10:30 AM (virtual)

## worship

Erev Shabbat: Fridays at 6:00 PM

Shabbat Morning Minyan: Saturdays at 9:00 AM

**Looking for High Holy Days events?  
Please see separate schedule!**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER  
SCAN QR CODE !**



# TEMPLE SINAI YOUTH GROUPS

**SAVE THE DATES!**



**Meretz & Ruach 2025-26**  
**Grades K-5**  
**Sundays, 12:00-1:30pm**

- October 26
- November 9
- December 14

Lunch is included

Program details will be  
announced at the  
High Holy Days



**Junior Youth Group 2025-26**  
**Grades 6-8**  
**Sunday, 1:00-3:00pm**

- November 2- Ice Skating



**Youth Group 2025-26**  
**Grades 9-12**  
**6:00pm**

- September 10- Ice cream Social at Coldstone
- October 29- Movie Night
- December 10- Escape Room

Follow us on  
social media!



facebook.com/SinaiDenver  
facebook.com/SinaiDenverRS  
instagram.com/temple\_sinai



check your inboxes for more program details and registration information



  
**ACTION**  
**AGAINST**  
**ANTISEMITISM**

# When We Speak Together, We Are Heard

The Action Against Antisemitism Committee is a vital part of Temple Sinai life. Meeting monthly—alternating between daytime and evening sessions, both in-person and on Zoom—the committee is lay-led and works in close partnership with synagogue staff and clergy to plan meaningful congregational programming.

In addition, the committee:

- Represents Temple Sinai in Kulanu, the ADL's congregational network for antisemitism
- Builds relationships with similar committees at other synagogues, as well as local and national organizations combating antisemitism
- Shares important updates and alerts from initiatives such as the JCRC Mobilization Corps
- Creates interfaith programming with non-Jewish organizations and houses of worship

Together, this work strengthens Temple Sinai's role as a leader in standing up to antisemitism while fostering understanding and connection within and beyond our community. *You are invited to join our committee. Contact Terri Tilliss at [Terri.Tilliss@incidentalsconsulting.com](mailto:Terri.Tilliss@incidentalsconsulting.com)*

## Call to Action!

**Your voice matters. The Action Against Antisemitism Committee invites every congregant to stand up against antisemitism by reaching out to your city, state, and federal representatives. Together, we can amplify our impact.**  
**VISIT: [usa.gov/elected-officials](https://usa.gov/elected-officials)**

**[Click here to sign up for Secure Community Network Webinars](#)**

## We Want to Hear From You

**Keep an eye on your inbox! A short survey will be arriving soon to help the Action Against Antisemitism Committee plan programming that reflects our congregation's needs and priorities.**

## Shared Roots Learning

**Join us for "SHARED ROOTS," a free 10-session course on the shared history and values of Christians and Jews. Designed to foster understanding and unity in the face of antisemitism, sessions are open to all (registration required), with three held at Temple Sinai and security at every location. Email [Jeremy@storiesofantisemitism.com](mailto:Jeremy@storiesofantisemitism.com) for more information and to register.**

**For more information about our committee, click [HERE](#)**

TEMPLE SINAI'S  
CARING COMMUNITY

PRESENTS  
THE 2025 COMMUNITY

# Kugel Cookoff

**Sunday, September 7 | 11:00 AM**

**\$5 per kugel submission**

**\$5 per kugel tasting**

**\$10 at the door**

Proceeds will benefit the Caring Community whose mission is to support the Temple

Temple Sinai invites all kugel chefs to show off their kugel skills!

Bake your famous kugels, sweet, savory and People's Choice, for a chance at the title of Kugel King or Queen!

There will be a panel of judges and prizes for the winning kugels.



[HTTPS://SINAIDENVER.SHULCLOUD.COM/  
M/KUGEL-COOK-OFF-2025](https://sinaidenver.shulcloud.com/m/kugel-cook-off-2025)

**RSVP  
HERE**

25

# Twisted Shabbat

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

5:30PM

Twisted Shabbat gathers families for a joyful, meaningful, and yummy Shabbat evening. Older siblings can be our Challah Helpers too!

5:30-5:50: Jr. Congregation

5:50-6:15: Challah making

6:15-7:00: Dinner and Shabbat activities

7:00: Join together in Oneg

REGISTRATION WILL BE CLOSED ON WED 9/10. NO EXCEPTIONS.

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#)





TEMPLE SINAI'S  
**OUTDOOR  
SHABBAT**

*Join Temple Sinai for a Friday night Shabbat in  
our beautiful outdoor space.*

**FRIDAY  
September 19  
6:00PM**

Bring your blankets and camping chairs for  
this casual service for all!

# TEMPLE SINAI BOOK CLUB

September 17, 2025\*: **Last Twilight in Paris** by Pam Jenoff (F)

October 29, 2025: **The Hebrew Teacher** by Maya Arad,  
translated by Jessica Cohen (F)

November 19, 2025\*: **The New American Antisemitism: The  
Left, The Right, and the Jews** by Benjamin Ginsberg (NF)

December 17, 2025\*: **Confidential** by Mikolaj Grynberg,  
translated by Sean Gasper Bue (F)

January 28, 2026: **Jewish Space Lasers: The Rothschilds and  
200 Years of Conspiracy Theories** by Mike Rothschild (NF)

February 25, 2026: **The Thinking Heart: On Israel and  
Palestine** by David Grossman (NF)

March 25, 2026: **Kissing Girls on Shabbat** by Sara Glass (M)

April 29, 2026: **Scrolls of Deborah** by Ester Goldenberg (F)

May 27, 2026: **The Wolf Hunt** by Ayelet Gundar-Goshen (F)

June 24, 2026: Choose Book Selections for 2026-27!

**BOOK GROUP MEETS LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE  
MONTH UNLESS INDICATED BY \***

**11:00 AM-12:30 PM**  
**TEMPLE SINAI**

**OPEN  
TO ALL!**

# **B'nei Mitzvah Date Request Info Session 2027-2028**

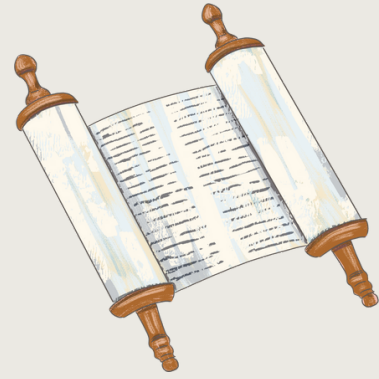
**Sunday,  
November  
2**

**11:00am-12:00pm  
Temple Sinai**

**Do you have a child who will be turning 13 in 2027 or 2028 ? This is an opportunity to get some general information, ask the rabbis any questions, and receive the form you will need to fill out to request your date.**

**Date requests are due by Friday, January 16, 2026 at which time the rabbis will review and assign dates.**

# SELECT YOUR TORAH VERSES



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4 | 9:30AM-12:00PM

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You're invited to a **special Shabbaton** at which those students who become B'nei Mitzvah in 2026 and 2027 will be able to **select their own Torah verses** with Rabbi Rheins, Rabbi Shields, and other rabbis and teachers.

This program begins at 9:30 AM with a model Shabbat service facilitated by Rabbi Rheins. At 10:30 AM, you will meet with our Sinai clergy and some of our teachers to review the options for your respective Torah portion. Each student will then have the opportunity to select the exact verses of their Torah portions.

We will have plenty of time for questions and answers regarding the Mitzvah process at Temple Sinai.

If your child becomes 13 in 2027 (or 2026) and does not yet have a Bar/Bat Mitzvah date, fill out the following [Date Request Form](#) and return to [jessica@sinaidenver.org](mailto:jessica@sinaidenver.org).

We look forward to seeing you here soon! Please reach out to our clergy with additional questions.

# BROTHERHOOD/SISTERHOOD



UPCOMING EVENTS WITH

## BROTHERHOOD

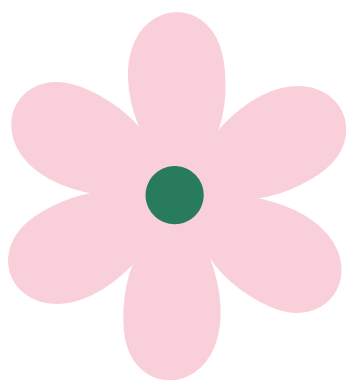
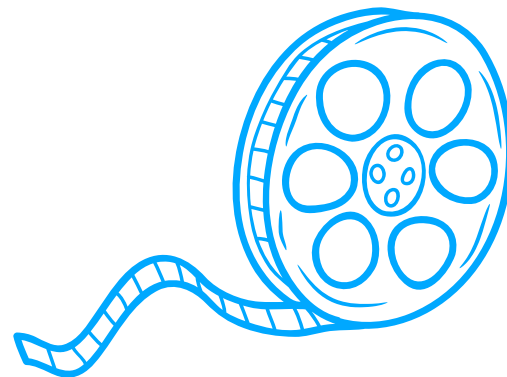
9.2 TUESDAY, 6:00 PM  
MONTHLY BIBLE AND BEERS  
DARCY'S BISTRO AND IRISH PUB

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9.9 TUESDAY, 11:00 AM  
MONTHLY SHOOTING CLUB  
THE SHOOTIST RANGE

---

9.18 THURSDAY, 9:00 AM  
MONTHLY BREAKFAST  
MORNING STORY RESTAURANT



UPCOMING EVENTS WITH

## SISTERHOOD

9.7 SUNDAY, 11:00 AM  
KUGEL COOKOFF

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9.10 WEDNESDAY, 1:00 PM  
DROP-IN MAH JONGG

---

9.17 WEDNESDAY, 6:30 PM  
ROCK PAINTING CLASS

---

9.20 SATURDAY  
WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

---

9.28 SUNDAY, 1:00 PM  
SHALOM EMBODIED

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# A Home for your Jewish Journey!

[www.sinaidenver.org](http://www.sinaidenver.org)

## TEMPLE SINAI BROTHERHOOD

Brotherhood brings members together to create, grow and strengthen friendships within the larger Temple Sinai community through social, Temple and community service activities. Contact Jon Levison, [Brotherhood@sinaidenver.org](mailto:Brotherhood@sinaidenver.org).

## Sinai Sisterhood

Join our dynamic community of women of all ages and stages of life who gather for social and meaningful programs and events. Contact Janet Walker-Snider, [Sisterhood@sinaidenver.org](mailto:Sisterhood@sinaidenver.org).

## ACTION AGAINST ANTISEMITISM

Join our committee to help us host, educate and bring the community together as we all stand up to Anti-Semitism and live one of our core Jewish values, Tikkun Olam. Contact Terri Tilliss, [Terri.Tilliss@incidentalsconsulting.com](mailto:Terri.Tilliss@incidentalsconsulting.com).



Social events for our members in the 50+ demographic.



"Volunteers on Demand" are congregants interested in helping with various Sinai programs. Contact Debbie Foster, Director of Engagement and Programming, [Debbie@sinaidenver.org](mailto:Debbie@sinaidenver.org).



LLJL Sessions are varied, spanning the gamut from the religious to the secular, but always featuring a Jewish aspect. The Wednesday night lectures are held from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm. Contact Marty Meitus, [martymeitus@gmail.com](mailto:martymeitus@gmail.com).



CARING COMMUNITY TEMPLE SINAI

This group works together to reach out to our congregants with new member welcome, new baby, get well and condolence baskets. They reach out in many other ways via cards and calls. Contact Nancy Eisenberg, [neisenberg314@gmail.com](mailto:neisenberg314@gmail.com).



We hold monthly meetings, the second Sunday of each month from 9:30 am to noon that includes time to enjoy breakfast followed by informative speakers and/or media presentations on current topics of interest and veteran affairs. Contact Don Price, [donpriceusna73@gmail.com](mailto:donpriceusna73@gmail.com).



Our lay-led meditation group meets on the first and third Saturdays of the month at 8am for 50 minutes of contemplative practice. All levels are welcome.



KNITTING AND CROCHETING for JOY

Join us on the third Wednesday of each month. The items you design and handcraft will be donated to different organizations. Contact Jane Robbins, [jane Robbins.cpa@gmail.com](mailto:jane Robbins.cpa@gmail.com).



Our Sinai Tzedek committee engages in a number of Social Action projects including Mitzvah Day, Habitat for Humanity, Meals for Metro Caring and Christmas in the Park. Contact Debbie Foster, Director of Engagement and Programming, [Debbie@sinaidenver.org](mailto:Debbie@sinaidenver.org).



Being in a Chavurah, (Hebrew for friend group), is a wonderful way to connect with other congregants from Temple Sinai. If you would like to join an existing Chavurah or form a new group, we have options. Contact Shana Cohen, [Shana@sinaidenver.org](mailto:Shana@sinaidenver.org).



Join us for a morning of stimulating discussion with interesting people of diverse backgrounds. All books selected have a Jewish theme or a Jewish author. Meetings are held the 4th Wednesday of each month 11:00-12:30 pm. Contact Donna Zucker, [donnadzucker@gmail.com](mailto:donnadzucker@gmail.com).



If you are a lover of music join Temple Sinai's Adult Choir. We sing at High Holy Days services and Musical Shabbatot throughout the year. Contact Choir Director Leah Hamilton, [LHDoReMi@aol.com](mailto:LHDoReMi@aol.com).

# Families



A place where each child is encouraged to learn and grow in a developmentally appropriate, nurturing and loving environment. Contact our Director of Early Childhood, Sheila Purdin at [Sheila@sinaidenver.org](mailto:Sheila@sinaidenver.org). If you would like to be involved as a parent, contact [pto@sinaidenver.org](mailto:pto@sinaidenver.org).



Our Religious School instills in our students and their families a love of Judaism, the Jewish people, and Israel and seeks to provide the tools for each person's spiritual journey through the lens of Reform Judaism. Contact our Director of Education, Doni Kaye at [Doni@sinaidenver.org](mailto:Doni@sinaidenver.org). If you would like to be involved as a parent, contact [kathymzeiger26@gmail.com](mailto:kathymzeiger26@gmail.com).



We are a synagogue for the entire family and offer fun and meaningful programming for children and adults to connect with one another including our monthly Twisted Shabbat experience. Contact our Director of Engagement and Programming, Debbie Foster at [debbie@sinaidenver.org](mailto:debbie@sinaidenver.org).



Sinai South is Temple Sinai of Denver's engagement initiative for those living in the South Suburbs of Denver (Highlands Ranch, Castle Rock, etc.). Contact Debbie Foster, [debbie@sinaidenver.org](mailto:debbie@sinaidenver.org).



Youth Choir is a time for the Songbirds to share their voice at Shabbat services once a month. Contact: [Ruthie@sinaidenver.org](mailto:Ruthie@sinaidenver.org).

# Temple Sinai Youth Groups



Our monthly afternoon programs for K-5th foster strong peer connections and fun experiences at Temple immediately following Religious School. Contact Jenifer Engel, [jenifer@sinaidenver.org](mailto:jenifer@sinaidenver.org).



Junior Youth Group is the ultimate destination for middle-schoolers seeking fun and community. Contact Jenifer Engel, [jenifer@sinaidenver.org](mailto:jenifer@sinaidenver.org).



Led by teens, TSYG offers inclusivity, support, and fun, empowering teens to shape their Jewish community. All high schoolers are welcome at our monthly events. Contact Jenifer Engel, [jenifer@sinaidenver.org](mailto:jenifer@sinaidenver.org).

# Classes with our Rabbis



Sinai Sundays, Exploring the Hebrew Bible Tuesdays via zoom, Torah Study Saturdays 10:30 via zoom, and many others throughout the year including an Adult B'nei Mitzvah program.



Thursday from 12 pm - 1 pm for a conversation about texts, tradition, and current events that impact Jews, Israel and the world.





## Alan Bee Farber Memorial Camp Fund

*FROM FIRST CAMP TO LIFELONG JEWISH CONNECTION*

This fund was created by the Farber/Spanbauer family in memory of our beloved brother and son, Alan Bee Farber. Growing up, our family didn't have much in the way of money, but our parents were determined to give us a life rich in experiences, values, and community. One of the most cherished parts of that life was Jewish summer camp. Through scholarships, Alan and Lori were able to attend sleepaway camp, where they learned and lived Jewish values – Tikkun Olam: Repairing the World, Chesed: Lovingkindness, and Talmud Torah: Lifelong Learning – while building deep friendships and enjoying the beauty of the great outdoors.

Alan passed away in 1987 at the age of 30. In his honor, we established this fund to “pay it forward” – to help children who might not otherwise have the means to attend Jewish camp, so they too can experience the magic we knew so well.

### 2026 Camp Season Scholarship

- Applications will open early Fall 2025
- Scholarships are for children who otherwise would not be able to afford Jewish sleep away camp.
- Funds are awarded to first time campers *only*.
- All scholarships are need based and in alignment with the *Alan Bee* core values of *Tikkum Olam, Chesed, and Talmud Torah*

Let's Bee in touch...



# JEWISH INTEREST FREE LOAN

## JIFL

### JEWISH INTEREST FREE LOAN OF COLORADO

If you are Jewish, live in Colorado and are in need of financial hardship assistance, we might be able to make a difference in your life.

Funds may be loaned for a variety of situational basic needs - medical bills, car repairs, necessary home repairs and unexpected business expenses, etc.

"If you loan money to my people, you shall not lay upon them interest." Exodus 22:24

"The world stands on three things: Torah, Worship, and deeds of kindness." Pirke Avot 1:2

#### Additional Loan

Thanks to a generous grant from the Rose Community Foundation, we are happy to announce a new loan opportunity! Families: if you are looking for support with sending your children to Jewish activities (ECE, camp, day school, etc.), JIFL may be able to help you!

For further information or for a confidential consultation, please contact Lorie Bohm Klumb at [lkumb.jifl@sinaidenver.org](mailto:lkumb.jifl@sinaidenver.org)

Jewish Interest Free Loan (JIFL) is looking for volunteers to help us teach loan recipients how to make and follow a budget. This commitment is about two hours a month, but will provide a lifetime of better financial planning by JIFL applicants. 35 Please contact Lorie Bohm Klumb at 720-263-7314 for more information.

# TEMPLE SINAI IS HIRING

## TEMPLE SINAI IS HIRING!

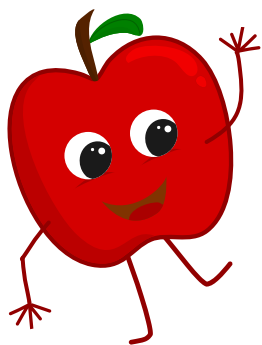
Temple Sinai is hiring a Director of Development and a Youth Coordinator!  
If you or anyone you know might be interested, please have them contact [Lisa Thorner](#), Executive Director, 303-759-1827.

The job descriptions can be found below. We are excited for the opportunity to bring someone enthusiastic onto our passionate and dedicated team!

[CLICK HERE  
FOR DEVELOPMENT](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR  
YOUTH COORDINATOR](#)

## WELCOME TO TEMPLE SINAI'S NEWEST MEMBERS



Sarah & Andy Allan, Charlotte and Noah  
Andrea & Stuart Gavurin  
Becky & Jeremy Hamel, Arden and Maya  
Crystal & Benjamin Hill, Ned  
Emily & Spencer Kimball, Hank and Cooper  
Jessica & Drew Lyneis, Noah and Jacob  
Rick Newberger  
Valerie Pritchett & Eric Miller, Rebecca and Emily  
Gary Solomon, Sonya and Evan  
Debra Simon  
Lauren & Matthew Thompson, Cody and Connor  
Danielle & Scott Wilhour, Benjamin and Simone  
Minda & Nathan Winger, Jacob and Maeve

## IN MEMORIAM

- **Marsha Alpert**, wife of Ted Alpert, mother of Jonathan (Amanda) Alpert and Gregg (Sara) Alpert, grandmother of Aria and Ever, sister of Joyce Groussman and Jeff (Amy) Cohan), step-mother of Ryan (Barrie) Alpert and Rusty Alpert
- **Sharon Birnbaum**, sister of Stanley (Suzi) Kerstein
- **Marjorie Sovel Goldberg**, sister of Terry (Art) Heller
- **Celeste Gorden**, mother of Pam (Judge Dana) Wakefield, grandmother of Michael Wakefield and Daniel Wakefield
- **Rochelle Grebb**, mother of Morey (Rocio) Grebb and Lori (Mitch) Grebb Petrie, grandmother of James, Austin, and Nicole
- **Pearle Rae Kortz Levey**, mother of Ken (Barbara) Laff and Lisa (Alan z'l) Laff
- **Richard Mestetsky**, husband of Linda Mestetsky, father of Alison (Joshua) Magno, grandfather of Avi Magno

*Zikhranam Livrakhah, may they be remembered for a blessing.*

# 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.

## **ALLAN AND HELENA STRIKER SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

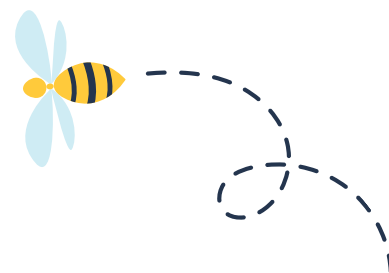
Temple Sinai is honored to offer a new scholarship, the Allan and Helena Striker Scholarship Fund. This is a needs-based scholarship generously funded for the purpose of supporting academically strong young men completing their senior year of high school and attending college the following year. The scholarship amount is \$2,500.

## **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 for any of these scholarships please contact Lisa Thorner, Executive Director, for more information at [\(303\) 759-1827](tel:3037591827) or [lisa@sinaidenver.org](mailto:lisa@sinaidenver.org).



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**i** **LEARN MORE AND APPLY AT:**  
**[SINAIDENVER.ORG/WHAT-WE-DO/SCHOLARSHIPS](https://www.sinaidenver.org/what-we-do/scholarships)**

**✉** **LISA THORNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: [LISA@SINAIDENVER.ORG](mailto: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:

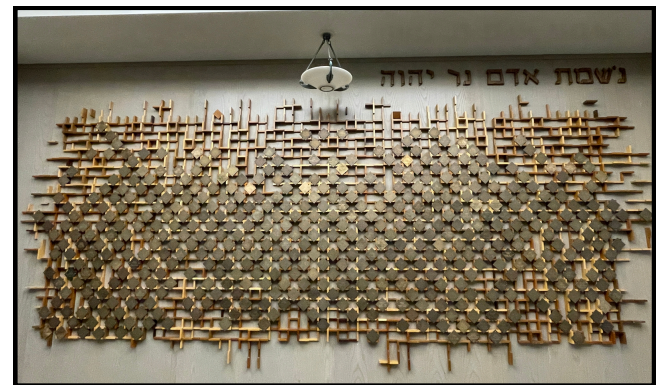
## BRICK-BY-BRICK PROJECT

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: \$350.



## 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.



**ALAN FARBER MEMORIAL CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

Phyllis Goodman  
Howard Harris  
John & Lori Spanbauer  
Myrna Engbar and Joyce Roper  
John & Lori Spanbauer

**BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

Ernest & Hilde Berdach  
Byron & Evelyn Shafer

**CANTORIAL SOLOIST RUTHIE LIPSHULCH DISCRETIONARY FUND IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

Rose Rosenfeld and Sam Siegel  
Edward & Debby Rosenfeld

**IN HONOR OF:**

Ruthie Lipshulch's "Sing & Nosh"  
Edward & Debby Rosenfeld

**COHEN FAMILY B'NEI MITZVAH CHUMASH FUND**

**IN HONOR OF:**

Jeff and Jay Cohen's Birthdays  
Emanuel Isler  
Lenny Kark

**HAAG FAMILY ASSISTANCE FUND IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

Gussie and Herman Braun  
Stan & Nancy Braun

**JEWISH EDUCATION FUND IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

Sara Jane Epstein  
Alan & Anita Eisenberg

**JULIUS & HELEN RING IST FUND IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

Phyllis Goodman  
Helene Hoffman  
Melvyn & Roberta Klein  
Louis & Andrea Rosenthal  
Larry Meskin and Julius & Helen Ring  
Estelle Meskin  
Sara Jane Epstein  
Melvyn & Roberta Klein  
Max Rosenfeld  
Edward & Debby Rosenfeld

**MARILYN TOBIN MEMORIAL FLOWER FUND**

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

Irvin Joel Zwick  
Mort Lesser  
Marshall & Carol Tobin  
Renee Cohn, Myrna Engbar, Eleanor Foonberg, and Phyllis Goodman  
Marshall & Carol Tobin

**OSI & SELMA SLADEK CULTURAL ARTS / MUSIC FUND**

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

Phyllis Goodman  
Judy Botvin

**RABBI MICHAEL SHIELDS DISCRETIONARY FUND**

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

Florence Grossman  
Lee & Sharon Keene

**RABBI RICHARD RHEINS DISCRETIONARY FUND**

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

May August and Rachel Luterman  
Arnold & Joanne Luterman  
Liz Bohm and Lisa Klumb  
William & Lorie Klumb  
Abe Cohen  
Stephen & Mitzi Kurtz  
Sara Jane Epstein  
Vivian Sheldon Epstein  
Roberta Greengard  
Michael Ross  
Beverly Sunshine & Family  
Marjorie Sovel Goldberg  
Doug & Martha Meitus  
Phyllis Goodman  
Marshall & Helene Abrahams  
Gerald & Kathy Berenstein  
Richard & Barbara Finke  
Lorie, Will and Traci Klumb  
Stephen & Mitzi Kurtz  
Leslie Levy  
Doug & Martha Meitus  
Gail Kahn  
Barbara Glassman  
Terry Kirschner  
Marshall & Helene Abrahams  
Peter Knezevich  
Brian & Karen Kaehler  
Alex and Marguerite Rosey  
Vicky Baker  
Floradahl "Toots" Sacks  
Neal & Roseann Spevack  
Vera Vashavskaya  
Louis & Andrea Rosenthal  
Rosalie Wagner  
Abe Wagner & Susan Friedman

**IN HONOR OF:**

Wedding of David Applebaum and Wendy Glasser  
David Applebaum & Wendy Glasser Applebaum  
Brit Milah of Cameron Green  
Brandon & Victoria Green  
Lois and Fred Margolin on their 60th anniversary  
William & Lorie Klumb

**RABBI ZWERIN DISCRETIONARY FUND**

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

Leon Trasen  
Ben & Dee Trasen

**DONORS:**

Alan Geist & Shellie Wiener

**SISTERHOOD FUND**

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

Alex and Marguerite Rosey  
Vicky Baker

**TEMPLE SINAI GENERAL FUND IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

Lucille Drechsler  
Richard & Doreen Nadler  
Sara Jane Epstein  
Gerard & Sheila Rudofsky  
Don & Virginia Freedberg  
Lois & Arthur Finstein  
Louis Goldman  
Lawrence & Barbara Polman  
Phyllis Goodman  
Donna Boss and Family of Arthur & JoAnn Boss  
Michael Boxer  
Steven & Jo Ellen Cohen  
Deb Dorrier  
Mani & Lori Isler  
Alan Karsh  
Charlene Loup  
Rocky & Suzi Miller  
Donald Neuman  
William & Diane Ojile  
Gerard & Sheila Rudofsky  
Jay Spivak & Janet Baellow  
Francine Topelson  
Kathy Elbinger Grazi  
Jeffrey & Karen Galinkin  
Marcia Heller  
Jonathan & Betty Heller  
Terry Kirschner  
Bev Rouleau  
Richard Mestetsky  
Tim Bell & Alix Joseph  
Stanley Schaechter  
Kevin & Leslie Dunn  
Albert Sorkin  
Marc & Laurie Sorkin

**IN HONOR OF:**

Children and Grandchildren  
Michael & Geegee Brunschwig  
Ed and Liz Goldin on their 50th Anniversary  
Rabbi David & Donna Zucker

**DONORS:**

Duke & Sandy Kaminsky  
Eileen Matias  
Scott & Valerie Stern

**WE CARE/SOCIAL ACTION FUND IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

Sara Jane Epstein  
Murray & Eileen Englander

# STAFF AND BOARD

## SINAI STAFF:

### **RICHARD RHEINS**

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

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Vice President - **ROB EBER**

Vice President - **KATHY ZEIGER**

Vice President - **MARSHALL TOBIN**

Treasurer - **PHYLLIS BABICH**

Secretary - **ANA KOSER**

Past President - **DAVID EISNER**

## TRUSTEES:

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**AL BLUM**

**AMANDA BROOKS**

**REID GOODMAN**

**JEAN GUTHERY**

**REBECCA HEA-WILSON**

**JERRY LASSOW**

**ADAM MELNICK**

**RACHAEL NARCISI**

**TAMARA SIEGEL**

**JOHN SPANBAUER**

**JIM STONE**

**MELANIE WISEMAN**

**EMILY YATES**

# KEEP UP WITH TEMPLE SINAI



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303.759.1827



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