# CONGREGATION SINAL



# Year-at-a-Glance 2023 - 2024/5784 Take a Journey with Sinai!

Congregation Sinai
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# From Rabbi Cohen

Dear member of the Congregation Sinai Family,

A rabbi and a soap maker once went for a walk together. The soap maker said: "What good is Judaism? Look at the trouble and misery in the world, after thousands of years of teaching about goodness, truth, and justice, and peace, after all the study of Torah, and all the sermons on Midrash, and all the fine ideals of the Prophets! If Judaism is so wonderful and true, why should this be so?"

The rabbi said nothing. They continued walking, until he noticed a child playing in the gutter. The child was filthy with soot and grime. Then the rabbi said: "Look at that child. You



say that soap makes people clean but see the dirt on that youngster. What good is soap? With all the soap in the world, that child is still filthy. I wonder just how effective or helpful soap is after all?"

The soap maker protested and said, "But Rabbi, soap can't do any good unless it is used." "Exactly!" replied the rabbi. "So, it is with Judaism. Judaism isn't effective unless it is applied in daily life and used!"

This Hasidic story drives home an important point: the value of any religion, ideology or philosophy is directly proportional to the extent we embody its lessons. The sense of meaning and purpose Judaism can give our lives is a function of our engagement. No one else can do it.

This year's YAG (Year-At-A-Glance) presents a variety of ways to get engaged. Sinai hosts ongoing conversations and classes, from introductory experiences to those for advanced learners. There are some offerings that speak to our souls individually. Others are more universal in scope, giving us a chance to do "Tikun Olam," to act in order to fix the world.

No matter where you are on your journey, today can be an opportunity to engage and enrich your connection to Judaism, the Jewish community and to God. In preparation to your review of the YAAG, keep in mind the wisdom of where one has to take the first step. As an elder once said, "you know, when I was young I wanted to change the world. As I grew older, I wanted to change my family. Now that I am elderly, I realize that to attain those goals, I have to begin by fixing myself."

Please review this pamphlet and think about how you might engage in Jewish life, thought and action this new year. Please know that Cantor Newman and I are also here to provide individual guidance and encouragement.

May 5784 be a year of growth in knowledge and in action for you and yours,

Rabbi David B. Cohen

# 2023 - 2024/5784 Holidays & Festivals

Selichot - Saturday, September 9, 2023

Erev Rosh Hashanah - Friday, September 15, 2023

Rosh Hashanah - Saturday, September 16 - Sunday, September 17, 2023

Kol Nidre - Sunday, September 24, 2023

Yom Kippur - Monday, September 25, 2023

Erev Sukkot - Friday, September 29, 2023

Sukkot - Saturday, September 30, 2023

Erev Simchat Torah - Friday, October 6, 2023

Simchat Torah - Saturday, October 7, 2023

Chanukah – Friday, December 8 - Thursday December 14, 2023 (first candle Thursday, December 7)

Tu B'Shevat — Thursday, January 25, 2024

Erev Purim - Saturday, March 23, 2024

Pesach - Tuesday, April 23 - Monday, April 29, 2024 (1st Seder Monday, April 22, 2nd Seder Tuesday, April 23)

Erev Shavuot - Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Shavuot – Wednesday, June 12, 2024

# **Sukkot**

# **Erev Sukkot Service and BBQ**

Welcome New Members! Friday, September 29, 2023

5:30 PM Sukkot/Shabbat service\*

in-person or livestream - look to your Enews for Zoom link

6:30 PM Sukkot BBQ - in-person

Join us in our beautiful Sukkah for Sukkot!\* This fall harvest festival, also known as the "Festival of the Booths", commemorates a time in which the Jewish people lived in temporary huts (sukkot) during their wandering and during their time of harvest. \*indoors for inclement weather

# Sukkot Morning Service

Saturday, September 30, 2023

9:30 AM via Zoom - look to your Enews for Zoom link





# **Sukkot BBQ**

# Dine at the Annual Sukkot BBO!

Friday, September 29, 2023 5:30 PM Sukkot /Shabbat service followed by 6:30 PM Sukkot BBO

Celebrate Sukkot and enjoy friends, delicious food, and beer brewed by Sinai Brewing! Don't miss it!



# RSVP by Tuesday, September 23 at https://sinaisukkotBBQ2023.eventbrite.com

Please call the Sinai office to register with cash or check. No printed ticket needed.

#### Welcome New Members! Please RSVP as our guests for dinner!

Early Bird
By September 23
\$15 adults
Free for Kids
13 under

Just in Time
By September 26
\$18 adults
Free for Kids
13 under

Latecomers
September 27 &
After
\$20 adults
Free for Kids
13 under



Co-sponsored by: Sinai Brotherhood, Israel Committee, Savor Sinai & Sinai Brewing



# **Simchat Torah**

# Erev Simchat Torah with Consecration Friday, October 6, 2023 6:00 PM in-person

Dance with the Torahs while the band plays and unroll the scroll back to the beginning! We will also celebrate our new students with Consecration. *Taffy apples for all!* 



"Torah en Roma" (School & Itsy Bitsy Families)
Friday, October 6, 2023 at 5:15 PM
Join us for a FREE pizza dinner before the celebration!
RSVP by Tuesday, October 3 at
https://torahinromaschooldinner2023.eventbrite.com



# Simchat Torah Morning Service with Yizkor

Saturday, October 7, 2023 9:30 AM - via Zoom

Look to your Enews for Zoom link



# **Holidays & Festivals**

Celebrate Chanukah & Shabbat with a Latka Dinner Friday, December 8, 2023 7:00 PM



Join us to welcome Shabbat and the Festival of Lights with delicious Latkas and Sufganiyot.

# RSVP by Monday, December 4 at https://sinaichanukahdinner2023.eventbrite.com

Please call the Sinai office to register with cash or check. No printed ticket needed.

Early Bird By December 4 \$15 adults \$10 Kids 13 under Under 3 free Just in Time By December 6 \$18 adults \$11 Kids 13 under Under 3 free Latecomers
December 7 & After
\$20 adults
\$12 Kids 13 under
Under 3 free

#### **Purim**

Purim - for Kids and Families! Sunday, March 17, 2024 9:30 AM "Bluey Paw-rim Spiel" 10:00 AM Purim Carnival

Celebrate Purim with Sinai! Come in costume, play games, win prizes!



Purim - Adults Only "The Rocky Shushan Purim Spiel" This year, Achashverosh is a QUEEN! Saturday, March 23, 2024 7:00 PM Havdallah 7:30 PM Megillah Reading and Purim Spiel

It's going to be a great night! Come in costume! We will welcome our friends from Chaverim (Jewish Community Adult Special Needs) to partake in the festivities. Enjoy a sweet and savory Hamantaschen following the Spiel!



Interested in joining the "Sinai Players!" - Contact Josh at jopa7609@gmail.com

#### Mishloach Manot!

Celebrate Purim and send Mishloach Manot (gifts of food and treats) to family and friends. The Bible tells us that Jews first gave gifts of food to celebrate defeating



Haman's evil plot in the second century, B.C.E. Subsequently, the gift giving continued, reflecting the importance of friendship, community and connection. Look to your Enews for Mishloach Manot details.

# **Passover**

Passover (Pesach) Sinai Second Seder Tuesday, April 23, 2024 5:30 PM at Congregation Sinai

Come celebrate Passover at Sinai with a second seder appropriate for all ages! Together we will commemorate our journey to freedom from slavery. To keep this cost effective, this will be a partially catered event and participants will

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bring homemade items to contribute to the Seder. Look to your Enews for details. Looking for helpers! Please contact Jen at jfriedman@congregationsinai.org.

Passover Morning Service Tuesday, April 23, 2024 9:30 AM - via Zoom

Passover Morning Service with Yizkor Monday, April 29, 2024 9:30 AM - via Zoom

Look to your Enews for Zoom links



# **Yamim**

Yom Hashoa - Holocaust Remembrance Day Sunday, May 5 - Monday, May 6

Yom Hazikaron - National Day of Remembrance in Israel to commemorate fallen soldiers
Monday, May 13



Yom Haatzmaut - Israel Memorial Day Tuesday, May 14

Look to your Enews for the Milwaukee Jewish Community Yamim programming.

## **Shavuot**

Tikkun Leil Shavuot Tuesday June 11, 2023 7:30 PM location TBD

Shavuot Morning Service with Yizkor Wednesday, June 12, 2023 9:30 AM via Zoom - Look to your Enews for Zoom link



On Shavuot, we celebrate receiving Torah on Mount Sinai, it is customary to stay up all night and study Jewish texts. Known in Hebrew as a Tikkun Leil Shavuot, this all-night study session originated with the mystics in Sefad in the sixteenth century. We will gather for learning and dairy desserts! Look to your Enews for details.

# **Weekly Shabbat**

# Please look to your Enews for up-to-date location, links and further details.

All Friday night Shabbat Services begin at 6:00 PM unless otherwise indicated.

Weekly Friday Kabbalat Shabbat (September—June) 6:00 PM Service, 7:00 PM Oneg In-person and livestream

On Friday nights, our Sinai community gathers together to lift our voices in song and prayer and reflect on a



short D'var Torah - a discussion of the weekly Torah portion, the issues of the day and, not infrequently, the intersection between the two. Followed by a festive Oneg Shabbat (dessert reception) during which we greet old friends and make new ones.

Outdoor Kabbalat Shabbat Fridays, (June 28 - August 30, 2024) 5:30 pm Wine and Cheese 6:00 PM Service

The jewel in the liturgical crown! Join in our extraordinarily beautiful outdoor sanctuary where we enjoy the warm weather, wonderful music & words of wisdom.

Come early to catch up with friends with some wine and cheese!





#### Shabbat Vayinafash

Saturdays: Nov. 18, Dec. 23, Jan. 20, Feb. 17, Mar.16, April 20, May 18, 10:30 - 11:30 AM

Join Rabbi Cohen for a series of Shabbat morning prayer experiences.

Drawing from mindfulness practices such as meditation, movement and yoga, we'll explore Shabbat and prayer from a new and different perspective. The earliest Hasids (early 19th century) were explorers of mysticism and made use of multiple mindfulness modalities to reach their spiritual goals. Dress comfortably!

Shabbat Morning Torah Study Saturdays: 9:00 - 10:30 AM via Zoom

We invite you to join in a significant Jewish journey: online weekly Torah study, with Rabbi David Cohen. Why study Torah? It is the master narrative of our people, a road map for living a meaningful and purposeful life. It has been accessible and relevant to every generation since Mt. Sinai. Look to your Enews for the Zoom link

# **Limud (Learning) Shabbatot**

Shlicha Shabbat with Noa Gerrasi Friday, November 17 6:00 PM Service - In-person and livestream

Meet our new community Shlicha Noa Gerrasi! She will speak about "Intertribal identity"- her personal story and motivation to go on Shlichut. Help us give Noa a warm Sinai welcome!



Rockin' Shabbat Services
Fridays, November 3, January 12, March 1
6:00 PM - In-person and livestream

Invite your friends to see the band featuring Rabbi Cohen on the electric guitar, Cantor Newman, Julie Lookatch and Sarah Hwang on vocals. Don't miss these uplifting Shabbat experiences. Great for all ages!



Family Shabbat

Fridays, November 17, February 9, March 8, April 12 5:15 PM Potluck Dinner

6:00 PM Service - In-person and livestream

Families will have the opportunity to connect outside of the school setting. We will gather together for a potluck dinner, followed by Shabbat Family Services. Bring your favorite dish and enrich your weekend with the Spirit of Shabbat.



Social Justice Shabbat Friday, December 15 6:00 PM - In-person and livestream



Al Shlosha D'varim! The world is sustained by three things, by truth, by justice, and by peace. As we prepare for Mitzvah Day on Sunday, December 17, we will focus on the Jewish traditions of volunteerism and tzedakah.

Repro Shabbat Friday, February 16 6:00 PM - In-person and livestream

Repro Shabbat is a program of National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), Repro Shabbat takes place annually on Parshat Mishpatim, which contains the versus used to outline Judaism's approach to reproductive health, rights, and Justice.

The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates who turn progressive ideals into action. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children, and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms.



# **Limud (Learning) Shabbatot**

Shabbat Shira with special guest Jody Hirsh! Friday, January 26, 2024 6:00 PM Service - in-person and livestream 7:00 PM Congregational Dinner

Shabbat Shirah – the Shabbat of Song – commemorates the Children of Israel miraculously crossing the Red Sea and celebrating their escape from Egypt with song. Join us as we once again collaborate with Jody Hirsh and an ensemble of talented early music musicians. Together, we will embark on a spiritual journey, weaving ancient melodies with contemporary insights to make this a special Shabbat.





And then we'll enjoy a delicious dinner together, highlighting the foods of Tu Beshevat!

# RSVP by Monday, January 22 at https://sinaishabbatshiradinner.eventbrite.com

Please call the Sinai office to register with cash or check. No printed ticket needed.

Early Bird By January 22 \$15 adults \$10 Kids 13 under Under 3 free Just in Time
By January 24
\$18 adults
\$11 Kids 13 under
Under 3 free

Latecomers January 25 & After \$20 adults \$12 Kids 13 under Under 3 free

Teacher Appreciation Shabbat Friday, April 12 6:00 PM - in-person and livestream

Join us for a special Shabbat as we honor our teachers!!





the world

Come for **Shabbat ShaPIZZA** too at 5:15!Complimentary for Religious School families, teachers and Itsy Bitsy families , but please help us plan and RSVP on Eventbrite. Not in those categories? \$8.00 per person

rsvp by April 10 https://sinaishabbatshapizzaapril2024.eventbrite.com

Pride Shabbat Friday, June 14 6:00 PM - in-person and livestream

Join us for a Shabbat of singing, learning, and celebrating with our LGBTQ community. Help us to continue to make Sinai welcoming and inclusive.



SAVE THE DATE! - MCRC Shabbat Metropolitan Council of Reform Congregations Friday, June 7 7:30 PM

Hosted by Congregation Shalom. No services at Sinai.



# **Adult Learning**

# <u>Please look to your Enews for up-to-date information regarding location, links, and further details.</u>

Mazal Tov! - -حظ جيد! - lyi şans! How Muslims and Jews Mark Life's Signal Moments Rabbi David Cohen and Dr. Fathi Harpci

Tuesdays: 7:00 - 8:30 PM

October 17, 24, 31, November 7, 14, 21

at Congregation Sinai



Islam and Judaism share are related through Avraham/Ibrahim, shared origins in the Middle East, and, as we learned last year, share the same Genesis narratives from Adam and Eve, Noah, Avraham/Ibrahim, etc. There are both fascinating parallels and surprising differences.

This year, Dr. Fatih Harpci and I compare the ways Muslims and Jews mark particular points in the life cycle, such as birth, coming of age, marriage and divorce, recognizing the sagacity of elders, and death.

There is no cost for this class, but please register.

To register: https://howmuslimsandjewsmarksignalmoments.eventbrite.com

Professor Fatih Harpci, PhD is Associate Professor of Religion and chairs the Religion Department at Carthage College. Born and raised in Turkey, Professor Harpci's research focus has been Islamic history, Islamic eschatology and interfaith relations. His undergraduate degree was granted by Mamara University in Istanbul and received his PhD at Temple University, where he wrote on the Hadiths (oral traditions) in which Muhammad words and attitudes towards Jesus.



Rabbi David Cohen received his BA in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis University where he wrote an honors thesis in Assyriology, the study of pre-Israelite religion and studied Classical Arabic. He holds an AM in Education from Stanford University and is a Senior Rabbinic Fellow of the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, a think tank housing the Muslim Leadership Initiative which seeks to expand participants' critical understanding of the complex religious, political, and socioeconomic issues facing people in Israel and Palestine.



# **Adult Learning**

The World of Jewish Music with Cantor Richard Newman

Tuesdays: January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, February 6

7:00 PM

via Zoom - Look to your Enews for Zoom link

The world of Jewish music (a very loaded term in itself) is rich and diverse. Over a short span of time in the US, this musical tradition has experienced remarkable growth and

transformation. We will discuss the multifaceted realm of

Jewish music, examining its evolving role in identity, worship, and culture. From the melodies of liturgical music to Jewish music in entertainment, we will explore some areas of how music continues to interact with the ever-changing landscape of Jewish faith, community, and artistic expression.

Cost: Members — free, Non-members \$54

To register: https://theworldofjewishmusic.eventbrite.com

Introductory Judaism for Adults:

What they Never Told you in Religious School with Rabbi David Cohen

Sundays: 10:00 AM - 11:55 AM

October 15, November 19, January 7, March 3, April 21

at Congregation Sinai & available to Zoom

Look to your enews for Zoom link.

If the last time you encountered studying Judaism was before the age of 13, it's no wonder the entire enterprise - the stories, the customs, the worldview, the mission - it's no wonder if you found it all a bit ... juvenile.

Judaism wouldn't still exist if there weren't deeper, more significant, more adult ideas. Join us on four Sunday mornings as we encounter issues like spirituality and God, core Jewish values, Jewish history, Israel - the land, the people and the modern state, and more.

Level up (as they say) your understanding of Judaism and embrace the adult Judaism that can lead you further on the path to a life of meaning and purpose.

Whether you never studied Judaism, or haven't since you were young, these classes are great for anyone! These classes can stand alone, as each will focus on a different topic. Of course the more you can attend, the better the understanding!

Cost: Members - free, Non-members \$54

To register: https://inroductoryjudaismforadults.eventbrite.com



# **Adult Learning**

In the Rabbi's Study with special guest Murray Bernstein Sunday, November 5 10:00 - 11:30 AM at Congregation Sinai



In World War I, they called it being "Shell Shocked." In World War II, it was referred to as "Battle Fatigue" or "Combat Stress Reaction (CSR)." In the years after Vietnam, the nomenclature changed to "Post-traumatic Stress Sydrome" (PTSD). It was understood to effect those with varied trauma, acquired both on the battlefield and/or in civilian life.

Studies of Afghanistan and Iraq War veterans have shown that as many as 30 percent have developed PTSD. For veterans who saw combat, the risk of developing PTSD is even higher. The more tours and the more combat experienced, the more likely a soldier was to develop PTSD.

Sinai congregant Murray Bernstein served in Vietnam and was on the front lines of learning how to diagnose and treat those suffer from PTSD. Murray will share from his experiences "in country" in Vietnam as well as working in the VA system, stateside.

# **Adult Learning Series - S.A.G.E.S**



"You shall rise before the aged and show deference to the old; you shall revere your God, I am the Eternal." (Leviticus 19:32)

The Torah reminds us to value those who have come before us, and our duty to recognize, learn from, and respect age and life experience. S.A.G.E.S honors and engages our older adults with spiritual opportunities, programming, and classes (in-person and virtual) for older adults, their caregivers and family.

Clergy Coffees 11:00 AM- 12:00 PM



Fridays: November 3, January 19, May 17

Newcastle Place - 12600 N. Port Washington Road, Mequon, WI 53092

Fridays: October 13, December 8, February 2, April 19

St. John's on the Lake, 1840 N Prospect Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53202

Join Rabbi Cohen and Cantor Newman for coffee, nosh, learning and schmoozing. Tell your friends! All are welcome.

# **Adult Learning Series - S.A.G.E.S**

Autumn Leaves: A Guided Brain Health & Wellness Art Class with Artist, Angela Shelstad, Project Hue and Dana Rubin-Winkelman, MSW, CAPSW Wednesday, November 15
1:00 - 2:30 PM via Zoom - Zoom linked emailed prior to class

Project Hue

Instructor and artist Angela Shelstad will provide a guided art class on Autumn Leaves. She will walk participants through a creative, hands-on experience. Dana will also share how creativity positively affects the brain. All artistic levels welcome (beginners too)!



Cost: Members — free, Non—members \$10.00 Register by Nov. 8 at: https://sagesautumnleaves.eventbrite.com

The mission of Project Hue is to highlight the life of the honoree and tell their story through art and film. This program reduces isolation, reinforces a strong sense of identity, improves self-confidence, and creates cognitive stimulation. Project Hue aims to improve the quality of life of seniors.





Made possible by a generous grant from Milwaukee Jewish Federation.

Siona Benjamin – Why Borders? with Dan Haumschild, Ph.D., Director of Education at Jewish Museum Milwaukee Wednesday, January 10, 2024

1:00 - 2:00 PM via Zoom - Zoom link emailed prior to class

Explore the artwork of Siona Benjamin in a manner that calls critical attention to the zeal with which we create and monitor our frontiers, both politically and internally. In so doing, learn more about tapping into areas of oneself that remain under-explored.



Siona Benjamin, Finding Home #62 "Asnat"

Cost: Members — free, Non—members \$10.00
To register: https://sageswhyborders.eventbrite.com



Dan Haumschild earned his Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University at Buffalo, focusing his research on the relationship between public history, education and political agency in communities recovering from mass atrocity. Dan has dedicated himself to creating meaningful educational experiences that invite people into a stronger relationship with the past, with one another, and with themselves. He has the honor of performing this work as the Director of Education at

Jewish Museum Milwaukee and as a Senior Fellow and Professor at the Fish Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Yeshiva University.



Made possible by a generous grant from Milwaukee Jewish Federation.

# **Adult Learning Series - S.A.G.E.S**

A Brain Health and Wellness Workshop Series with Dana Rubin Winkelman, MSW, CAPSW



Tuesday Evenings, 2024 7:00- 8:15 PM, via Zoom Zoom linked emailed prior to class

Cost: Members — free, Non—members \$18.00. Register by February 13 To register: https://sagesbrainhealth2024.eventbrite.com

#### February 20 and February 27

#### **Ever Wonder Why Puzzles are Good for Your Brain?**

Dana will lead us in two interactive workshops- featuring lively discussions and a collection of amusing brain ticklers! Experience the delight first-hand, and learn more about the surprising brain health benefits. Receive complimentary handouts.

#### March 5 and March 12

Explore the Benefits of Journaling: Spark Positive Change, Insights, and Joy In this two-part, creative workshop series, Dana will share how journaling can enhance your brain health and improve your mood. Learn and practice easy journaling techniques to cultivate happiness and inspiration. Receive complimentary handouts.

#### March 19

# When is the Last Time you Laughed so Hard you Cried?- A Light-hearted Workshop on Humor

Join us for this fun workshop! Joke together and learn about the amazing health benefits of humor and laughter. Receive complimentary handouts.

#### March 26

#### The Power of Gratitude and Positive Thinking

Social science research confirms how giving thanks and practicing gratitude has the ability to make us happier and healthier. Learn how to increase your positive thoughts and optimism while enjoying a positive brain health and wellness workout. Gain an increased sense of balance and calm. Receive complimentary handouts.



Dana Rubin-Winkelman, MSW, CAPSW, is the Social Worker for Ovation Community Services and Outreach. She works closely with families to understand their unique needs, assists them in what lies ahead, and helps create a compassionate plan of care. Her thorough understanding of aging, memory loss and community resources enables her to artfully guide families as their situation changes. She is a consummate advocate and leads two support groups. Dana also presents an array of interactive, educational workshops related to proactive brain health and emotional wellbeing for Ovation Communities, the Milwaukee community, as well as state and nationwide conferences. In addition, she has created a monthly e-newsletter, "Touch Points:

A Spark of Light with Dana," which offers connection and support-while easing stress, spreading light, and boosting positivity.

# **Ongoing Classes**

Please look to your Enews for up-to-date information and Zoom links.

#### The Schmooze:

Current Events Through A Jewish Lens with Rabbi David Cohen Mondays (new session begins October 9) 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM via Zoom

Look to your Enews for Zoom link

Join a group who meet weekly to discuss current events and issues of the day with an eye to the Jewish angle. Local and regional issues, national and international events, political and cultural concerns – topics will be timely, varied and wide ranging.

No matter your political leanings – conservative, liberal or Independent – there is a place for you at the table.

Respectful dialogue is the goal. Rabbi Cohen is the moderator.

Cost: Members - free, Non-members \$72

Register at https://sinaischmoozecurrentevents2023.eventbrite.com

#### Pirkei Avot with Rabbi Abby Phelps Thursdays 7:00 PM via Zoom

Look to your Enews for Zoom link

In *Pirkei Avot* — literally, *The Chapters of the Ancestors* — the rabbis of the Mishnaic period (1st—3rd centuries CE) grapple with many of the same ethical and spiritual dilemmas that still challenge us today.



In this class, we study the text in English (Hebrew is also provided), consult ancient and contemporary commentaries to help us to unpack the text, and discuss how we can apply the lessons of *Pirkei Avot* to enrich our own lives and help us build a more just and compassionate world.

This is an ongoing class and can be joined at any time. No prior experience with rabbinic text expected; just bring yourself and a desire to learn!

# **Ongoing Classes**

Through the Eyes of Women with Dr. Sherry Blumberg Fridays (Open Enrollment September 8 - 29) 10:00 AM at Congregation Sinai

Using the Torah: A Woman's Commentary as a text, we are discussing the Torah, verse by verse using critical questions, feminist readings, modern midrash, traditional commentaries and women's poetry.

Cost: Members - free, Non-members - \$72

To register: https://thrutheeyesofwomen2023.eventbrite.com



#### Bible Study Wednesdays 9:00 AM via Zoom

Spend some time weekly with friends discussing the bible in an intimate setting. This group is lay led and welcomes all to join.

Look to your Enews for Zoom link.



# Scholar in Residence Rabbi Andrea Weiss SAVE THE DATES: <u>September 20-22, 2024</u>

Rabbi Andrea L. Weiss, Ph.D., is Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Provost and Associate Professor of Bible at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. She received a B.A. in English from the University of California at Berkeley in 1987 and was ordained by HUC-JIR in New York in 1993. She



earned her doctoral degree in 2004 from the University of Pennsylvania, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. She is the founder of the American Values, Religious Voices campaign, co-editor of American Values, Religious Voices: 100 Days, 100 Letters (University of Cincinnati Press, 2019, with the second volume entitled, American Values, Religious Voices: Letters of Hope from People of Faith, forthcoming in Fall 2022). She was associate editor of The Torah: A Women's Commentary (CCAR Press, 2008), which won the Jewish Book Council's 2009 Everett Family Foundation Jewish Book of the Year Award. Her other writings include Figurative Language in Biblical Prose Narrative: Metaphor in the Book of Samuel (Brill, 2006) and articles on metaphor, biblical poetry, and biblical conceptions of God. Her current research focuses on an in-depth study of biblical metaphors for God entitled "God in the Biblical Imagination: The Mechanics and Theology of Metaphor."

#### **Events**

Sinai Family Retreat
Olin Sang Ruby Union Institute Camp (OSRUI)
December 1- 3, 2023

Join us at OSRUI for a Multi-Congregational Family Camp weekend! Open to all families with pre-religious and religious school-aged children. Meet new families and strengthen bonds within your community. Look to your Enews for cost and registration. Scholarships available! For more information contact Natalie at nblack@congregationsinai.org



Art for a Cause! We need your art! December 8 - 17, 2023 (Accepting Art donations October 9 - 31)



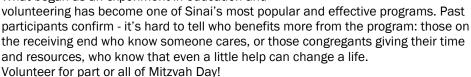
Art is in the eye of the beholder! Over the years Sinai has been the recipient of gifts and donations of beautiful art, sculptures, and Judaica. With only so much space, Sinai will be hosting an affordable art auction with proceeds to benefit Sinai programming.

Do you have secular or Jewish art that you believe someone might love and adore? Sinai will be accepting art donations from October 9 - 31. Donor tax forms will be available requesting estimated value, description etc. All donations will be final and unsold art will be donated. Please look to your Enews for further details and bring us something someone else will love!

For more information contact Jen at jfriedma@congregationsinai.org

Mitzvah Day! Sunday, December 17, 2023 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

What began as an experiment in education and





Past mitzvot have included: painting bowls to feed the hungry; preparing meals for Pathfinders' adolescents and young adults; preparing backpacks for impoverished/sexually exploited youth and creating fleece blankets Street Angels; planting our pantry garden; and collecting food, books, toys, hygiene and cleaning supplies in partnership with Tikkun Ha'ir to benefit those in need. We have even adopted a river with Milwaukee Riverkeepers!

Look to your Enews for details. We are looking for project leaders! To get involved or to donate for materials please contact Julie at 414-899-5128 or julietretsky@gmail.com

#### **Events**

Rabbi Jay Brickman z"l Memorial Service and Study Session Saturday, January 13, 2024

9:00 AM via Zoom Look to your Enews for Zoom link

"Judaism teaches that a deceased person can still benefit from the merit of mitzvot (commandments) performed in their memory, it is considered a special privilege to bring merit to the departed by learning Torah in their name."

Given Rabbi Brickman's passion for Torah and learning, nothing could be more appropriate than prayer and a study session in his honor.

# L'Dor Va Dor -From Generation to Generation! Saturday, May 4, 2024 at Congregation Sinai

Mark your calendars to join us for a beautiful evening of music and celebration. You won't want to miss this event!





Sinaifest - Israel Style! Sunday, May 19, 2024 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM at Congregation Sinai

Great for all ages! Together we will celebrate Israel through art, food, learning and experiential activities!

Look to your Enews for details!



Sinai Annual Meeting Monday, May 20, 2024 7:00 PM at Congregation Sinai

Join us for State of the Congregation, Financial Report/Budget Approval, Board Installation & Volunteer/s of the Year Recognition.



Sinai Concert Series: Mixtape! Sunday, August 11, 2024 5:00 - 8:00 PM at Congregation Sinai

Save the date for another terrific outdoor summer concert this time featuring the sensational band, Mixtape!

A Milwaukee sensation, Mixtape provides a set list of UK & Euro-pop, New Wave, and classic American hit songs from the height of the MTV era. You will be up and dancing at this fun summer party!



# **Women of Sinai**

# **WOMEN OF SINAI - Connecting with Purpose 2023 - 2024!**

Over 300 women choose to make Congregation Sinai their spiritual home. Our sisterhood, Women of Sinai (WOS) is a membership based organization. As a fundraising entity, we contribute to the vitality of our Sinai Community, supporting existing programs and services as well as sponsoring new endeavors. Additionally, WOS strives to enhance each woman's experience by offering a variety of social and educational programs. See grid below for membership details.



#### WHERE DO YOUR MEMBERSHIP DOLLARS GO?

#### **Annually sponsored programs:**

- High Holy Days fresh floral arrangements
- Break the Fast dinner
- Siddurim (prayer books) for the 3rd Grade Religious School students
- Kiddush cups and candlesticks for the B'nei Mitzvah students
- Mitzvah Day projects
- Purim Baskets

#### Programs supported last year:

- Shalom Bollywood screening and talkback
- · Performance: Children of Willesden Lane
- Make your own Candlesticks with Rena Porat
- Book Club led by Michelle Lewis and Robyn Eiseman
- Annual Membership event with speaker, WUWM's Ma'ayan Silver

#### WE RELY ON YOUR ANNUAL SUPPORT!

New Membership Tiers	Pay by check: Return in enclosed envelope	Online payment with Credit Card: https://congregationsinai.org/womenofsinai/
General Member	\$36.00	\$37.50
Supporting Member	\$54.00	\$56.25
Woman of Valor	\$72.00	\$75.00

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THIS YEAR'S EVENTS!

- → DYING TO KNOW: A program on Jewish Death and Dying, with Rabbi Abby Phelps, Chaplain Randee Zitelman and Chevra Kadisha member Kate Mann, 10/29/23, 10 am - noon
- ➡ LEARN TO WEAVE A BASKET with Rena Porat and Mary Wurzburg, Winter 2024
- → BOOKCLUB: 8/24/23, 10/26/23, 1/18/24, 3/21/24, 6/20/24
- → COMPLIMENTARY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP EVENT: 4/7/24

We appreciate the contributions from our Leadership Committee: Toby Colton, Robyn Eiseman, Reva Fox, Michelle Lewis and Carmel Sweet. Together we will enhance WOS programming and outreach to our members. If you have any requests, or would like to join the committee, please contact us. And, be sure to 'Like' us on Facebook!

Nancy Stillman WOS co-chair nstillman963@amail.com Bobbi Rector

WOS co-chair

<u>burector@gmail.com</u>

# Women of Sinai - Book Club

Open to all Women of Sinai members, we meet approximately every other month to discuss our selected book—usually with cocktails and light appetizers! We are a diverse group and would love for you to join us! Here are this year's selections! Look to your Enews for meeting details. Contact: Robyn Eiseman at robyneise@gmail.com or Michelle Lewis at mlewis6@wi.rr.com



October 26 - The Color of Love: A Love Story of a Mixed Race Jewish Girl by Marra Gad

In 1970, three-day-old Marra B. Gad was adopted by a white Jewish family in Chicago. For her parents, it was love at first sight—but they quickly realized the world wasn't ready for a family like theirs. Marra's biological mother was unwed, white, and Jewish, and her biological father was black. While still a child, Marra came to realize that she was "a mixed-race, Jewish unicorn." In black spaces, she was not "black enough" or told that it was OK to be Christian or Muslim, but not Jewish. In Jewish spaces, she was mistaken for the help, asked to leave, or worse. Even in her own extended family, racism bubbled to the surface. Marra's family cut out those relatives who could not tolerate the color of her skin—including her once beloved, glamorous, worldly Great-Aunt Nette. After they had been estranged for fifteen years,



Marra discovers that Nette has Alzheimer's, and that only she is in a position to get Nette back to the only family she has left. Instead of revenge, Marra chooses love, and watches as the disease erases her aunt's racism, making space for a relationship that was never possible before. The Color of Love explores the idea of yerusha, which means "inheritance" in Yiddish. At turns heart-wrenching and heartwarming, this is a story about what you inherit from your family—identity, disease, melanin, hate, and most powerful of all, love. With honesty, insight, and warmth, Marra B. Gad has written an inspirational, moving chronicle proving that when all else is stripped away, love is where we return, and love is always our greatest inheritance.

# January 18 - The Light of Days: The Untold Story of Women Resistance Fighters in Hitler's Ghettos by Judy Batalion

Witnesses to the brutal murder of their families and neighbors and the violent destruction of their communities, a cadre of Jewish women in Poland—some still in their teens—helped transform the Jewish youth groups into resistance cells to fight the Nazis. With courage, guile, and nerves of steel, these "ghetto girls" paid off Gestapo guards, hid revolvers in loaves of bread and jars of marmalade, and helped build systems of underground bunkers. They flirted with German soldiers, bribed them with wine, whiskey, and home cooking, used their Aryan looks to seduce them, and shot and killed them. They



bombed German train lines and blew up a town's water supply. They also nursed the sick, taught children, and hid families. Yet the exploits of these courageous resistance fighters have remained virtually unknown. As propulsive and thrilling as Hidden Figures, In the Garden of Beasts, and Band of Brothers, The Light of Days at last tells the true story of these incredible women whose courageous yet little-known feats have been eclipsed by time. Judy Batalion—the granddaughter of Polish Holocaust survivors—takes us back to 1939 and introduces us to Renia Kukielka, a weapons smuggler and messenger who risked death traveling across occupied Poland on foot and by train. Joining Renia are other women who served as couriers, armed fighters, intelligence agents, and saboteurs, all who put their lives in mortal danger to carry out their missions. Batalion follows these women through the savage destruction of the ghettos, arrest and internment in Gestapo prisons and concentration camps, and for a lucky few—like Renia, who orchestrated her own audacious escape from a brutal Nazi jail—into the late 20th century and beyond. Powerful and inspiring, featuring twenty black-and-white photographs, The Light of Days is an unforgettable true tale of war, the fight for freedom, exceptional bravery, female friendship, and survival in the face of staggering odds.

#### March 21 - Signal Fires by Dani Shapiro

An ancient majestic oak stands beneath the stars on Division Street. And under the tree sits Ben Wilf, a retired doctor, and ten-year-old Waldo Shenkman, a brilliant, lonely boy who is pointing out his favorite constellations. Waldo doesn't realize it but he and Ben have met before. And they will again, and again. Across time and space, and shared destiny. Division Street is full of secrets. An impulsive lie begets a secret—one which will forever haunt the Wilf family. And the Shenkmans, who move into the neighborhood many years later, bring secrets of their own.. Spanning fifty kaleidoscopic years, on a street—and in a galaxy—where stars collapse and stories collide, these two families become bound in

ways they never could have imagined. Urgent and compassionate, Signal Fires is a magical story for our times, a literary tour de force by a masterful storyteller at the height of her powers. A luminous meditation on family, memory, and the healing power of interconnectedness.

#### June 20 - We All Want Impossible Things by Catherine Newman

Edith and Ashley have been best friends for over forty-two years. They've shared the mundane and the momentous together: trick or treating and binge drinking; Gilligan's Island reruns and REM concerts; hickeys and heartbreak; surprise Scottish wakes; marriages, infertility, and children. As Ash says, "Edi's memory is like the back-up hard drive for mine." But now the unthinkable has happened. Edi is dying of ovarian cancer and spending her last days at a hospice near Ash, who stumbles into heartbreak surrounded by her daughters, ex(ish) husband, dear friends, a poorly chosen lover (or two), and a rotating cast of beautifully, fleetingly human hospice characters. As The Fiddler on the Roof soundtrack blasts all day long from the room next door, Edi and Ash reminisce, hold on, and try to let go.

WE ALL
WANT
IMPOSSIBLE
THINGS
CATHERINE
NEWMAN

· SIGNAL

Meanwhile, Ash struggles with being an imperfect friend, wife, and parent—with life, in other words, distilled to its heartbreaking, joyful, and comedic essence. For anyone who's ever lost a friend or had one. Get ready to laugh through your tears.

## **Brotherhood**

#### Sinai Brotherhood 2023-2024!

We hope you find Brotherhood activities engaging, fun, and meaningful. If you're not currently a Brotherhood member, we hope you'll consider joining, and participating in some of our many activities.

Sinai Brotherhood works hard to provide service, entertainment, interesting gatherings, and financial



support to synagogue life. We are active, engaged and fun-loving members of our Congregation. Most importantly, the Sinai Brotherhood promotes fellowship for each man in our congregation and encourages participation in Brotherhood and Sinai events.

The Sinai Brotherhood supports and/or provides:

- Speakers for the entire congregation
- Building Sinai's Sukkah and hosting the Sukkot BBQ
- Fun activities like: Chinooks baseball game, Poker Tournament, How to play Curling
- Look forward to Pickleball lessons and tournaments.
- Gifts of Mishkan Hanefesh (High Holy Day prayer book) for B'nei Mitzvah
- Gifts of the "Tanach" for Sinai's Affirmation students
- Chanukah packages for college students
- Prizes for the Purim carnival
- Partnerships with Sinai Circles
- Financial support to congregational events like "Sinai Concert Series"
- The Sinai School "Pancake Breakfast"
- Sunday morning Men's Spirituality Group Acheinu
- The Sinai Softball Team and hosts the Softball Shabbat BBO



Affordable levels of annual membership: Supporter-\$36, Sustainer-\$72, Leader-\$180 Lifetime--\$720

Check: payable to CONGREGATION SINAI (indicate

Brotherhood in the memo line)

Credit Card: http://congregationsinai.org/brotherhood/

follow the prompts for payment.

Thanks again to those of you who have supported the Brotherhood and help make Sinai a vibrant and inviting congregation. We look forward to meeting many new Brotherhood members soon!

Mike Weinshel Steve Stall

Brotherhood President Brotherhood Treasurer/Secretary

SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20TH FOR ANOTHER POKER TOURNAMENT OR THE LIKE!

Look to your Enews for details!

Please look to your Enews for up-to-date information regarding location, links and further details.

There are many entry points to engage in the Sinai community. We strive to offer something for everyone. Please visit pages 35-38 for a full listing of all our Sinai Circles!



Don't see what you're looking for? Let's create it together! Do you have an interesting idea for a program or speaker?

Contact Jen Friedman at jfriedman@congregationsinai.org

## **Tabletop Games!**

Saturday November 11, (RSVP by November 8) Saturday February 10, (RSVP by February 7) 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM at Congregation Sinai

Join us for Havdallah, Pizza, and Game Night! Everyone welcome! We have an assortment of games for adults and families, or bring your favorite to share! Learn new games and socialize in a relaxed setting.

Cost is \$5.00 per person (\$20 max for a family of 4) - cash/check only at the door RSVP Josh Parkes at jopa7609@gmail.com

# **Mah Jongg!**

Come play at Sinai on Wednesdays or Thursdays! 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM at Congregation Sinai

If you have a group of 3 or 4 and would like to play Mah Jongg - please come on over! We currently have a group playing and group learning. We are always looking for

players and we are happy to provide the coffee and space for you to play. Please call ahead to ensure play at 414-352-2970. Questions?

Contact Jen at ifriedman@congregationsinai.org.



# <u> Acheinu (Men's Spirituality Group)</u>

Sundays - monthly 8:30 AM at Congregation Sinai



October 1, November 5, December 3, January 7, February 4, March 3, April 97 May 5, June 2

Join us as we discuss spiritual and practical matters concerning God, work, family and more. This is a casual and comfortable space to share and get to know other men at Congregation Sinai. Acheinu is sponsored by Sinai's Brotherhood.

For more information contact Mitch at mcc25@mcctech.net

#### **SINAI BREWING!**

If you are interested in craft beers, food science, cooking, or just the culture of brewing our seventh year of Sinai Brewing is for you! All are welcome to join our group of beer lovers! We routinely meet to taste and discuss beers at local breweries, make beer for synagogue events, and promote educational events about brewing. Our Sinai Resi-



dent Master Brewers: Alan Silverman and Gordy Goldbaum have been brewing for over 30 years. This year we will again brew and serve beers to be served at Sinai events and celebrations.



#### **Tap Room Beer Chat**

Come join us from 7 PM to 9 PM for brewing chat and tastings on the following dates at some of our favorite local brewing establishments!

October 12- Indeed Brewing Company, 530 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee

January 18 - 3rd Space Brewing Company, 1505 W. St Paul., Milwaukee

April 11 - Sahale Ale Works, 1505 Wisconsin Ave., Grafton

Sinai Summer Patio Specials at 8223 N. Port Washington, Fox Point

#### Sinai Brewing Schedule

We will be brewing throughout the year for seasonal special events - Watch the Sinai Enews for details.

If you have any questions please email the Sinai Brewmasters, Alan and Gordy at: sinaibrewing@gmail.com, alan.silverman@hotmail.com, gordan jay@hotmail.com

Looking forward to another year of satisfying suds!!

## **Savor Sinai**

We are a group that enjoys gathering in the kitchen for cooking, conversation, and uncorking a bottle or two! We will create for dinners, holidays, and for fun! Look to your Enews and emails from me for cooking dates and times. This is a great way to connect!



To get involved with Savor Sinai contact Jill Weinshel at jillgw2@gmail.com



#### Sinai Outside!

Saturday, October 21 Retzer Nature Center 10:00 AM (meet in Sinai's parking lot)

All levels welcome and families encouraged to hike the Retzer Nature Center in Waukesha—S14 W28167 Madison St, Waukesha, WI. No dogs please.

We will hike 2 - 3 miles (shorter trails optional) and make a stop at the Cozy Nook Farm (Hayrides available), S11 W30780 Summit Ave, Waukesha.

Sinai Outside was founded by a group of congregants who value the spiritual and social connections to be found in nature. Adventures include hikes, mazes, camping...anything you can think of! Look to your Enews for details as the date approaches and more dates to come!

For more information contact Bobbi Rector at burector@gmail.com

## **Culture Connection!**

Get connected with the Milwaukee Art and Culture scene AND with fellow Sinai Congregants. Adventure out to dinner, films, theater, Jazz in the Park...this is a perfect way to get to know other Sinai members in an intimate and fun setting. Watch your Enews!



We are looking for helpers to plan an event for others to enjoy! Contact: Jen at jfriedman@congregationsinai.org

# **My Sinai Family**

Are you a Sinai family without a Milwaukee family? Or you'd like to gather with other young families for Shabbat and holidays? Let us help you find a "framily!" We will create opportunities through the year to gather. Contact Gabe at glzisk@gmail.com.



# **Engagement Through Giving**

#### Help support all of these programs and events!

- Visit www.congregationsinai.org/donate and donate online to a Sinai fund of your choice in honor or memory of someone. A full listing is available on pages 38-39.
- "Create a Jewish Legacy" by establishing an end of life gift. Thank you to our current Legacy Circle donors.
- Sponsor an Oneg for \$125 or Bima flowers for \$80
- Inquire if there is anything on the Sinai wish list or projects where you can help!
- Shop through Sinai's gift shop or online at ajudaica http://congregationsinai.org/marketplace. Sinai receives 10% of your purchase!

# B'rit Nashim Become a member in 5784!

Are you interested in getting to know other women members of our congregation, while learning, sharing, praying, growing, laughing, cooking and more? Then come to one of our meetings and get to know us, as we get to know you! Whether you are a new member of Congregation Sinai or have been a member for a while, consider a new way of being involved with other women.



Second Mondays of the month, usually at 7:00 PM Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec.11, Jan. 15, Feb. 12, Mar. 11, Apr.8, May 13, June 10 Shabbaton Retreat at Sinai: Weekend of May 31st, 2024

B'rit Nashim is excited for our new year of gatherings. All women who are members of Congregation Sinai are welcome to join us. B'rit Nashim (Covenant of Women) is a group of Sinai women who meet each month for programs of personal interest and Jewish content. Through a commitment to our group, our main purpose is to build a community of women within the larger community of Congregation Sinai.

Some highlights from last year included:

- Rabbi David Cohen helped us prepare for the High Holy Days, using selections from the book: This Is Real and You Are Completely Unprepared: The Days of Awe as a Journey of Transformation by Rabbi Alan Lew, z"I.
- A visit to Jewish Museum Milwaukee, with a docent tour of special exhibit "Jews in Space"
- We shared things we can each do to take care of ourselves, as we so often are taking care of others.
- Debbie Califf, OTR, Pelvic Floor Therapist, explained her work with people who have bowel and bladder problems and pelvic pain. She taught us techniques to help quiet our racing bodies and minds.
- Jan Singer, psychotherapist, LCSW, answered our questions related to the Continuum of Genders: Transgender, LGBTQI+, non-binary, Cis.
- We explored Judaism's beliefs regarding the End of Days with Rabbi David Cohen
- Rabbi Abby Phelps shared her journey as a woman to, and now in, the rabbinate.
- Our member Rhonda Lindner discussed her work with 2 Milwaukee Agencies: Tikkun Ha-Ir as Educator and Wisconsin Interfaith Voter Engagement Campaign (WIVEC) as Interfaith Organizer. She shared ways we can stay engaged and involved in what is happening in Wisconsin and beyond.
- Discussed selections from the book: Braiding Sweetgrass, by Dr. Robin Kimmerer. We had a special guest who is a member of the Potawatami Tribe. We discovered connections between Judaism and Potawatami practices.
- Delicious potluck dinners.
- We shared a moving and fun Shabbaton Retreat at Sinai.
- Most importantly, we have had opportunities to develop meaningful connections with each other.

B'rit Nashim welcomes new members. This brings wonderful new energy and input to our "covenant". We invite you to join us for any meeting. We send email meeting reminders to those who wish to be on our distribution list. You can also look to the Sinai Enews for updates.

For additional information, and/or to be added to our email list, please contact: Toby Colton at 414-351-5205 or tjcooks@mcctech.net or Joanne Roberts at 414-351-6486 or jtrjtr@hotmail.com

# YAAS - Young Adults at Sinai

Are you a Jewish adult in your 20's and 30's? Are you looking for a point of entry into metropolitan Jewry? Are you looking to meet other young Jewish professionals or Grad students? Come check out YAAS! If you have a child, or know someone – affiliated or unaffiliated? Please let us know so we can reach out and invite them!

Contact Sam Pollock at smnthpllck@gmail.com

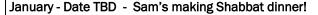
# YOUNG ADULTS AT SINAI

#### **Upcoming Events:**

# Wednesday, October 4, 6:30 PM "We'd Lulav to see you again in our Sukkah"

Come shake the Lulav and Etrog and reintroduce yourself to YAAS with a game night in the sukkah.

Saturday, December 9, Time TBD - It's a deep Fried Festival Join us for havdallah and Hanukkah lights while we fry up your favorites at Eddie & Kaleigh's place!



Stay up to date with YAAS! Look to your Enews, Facebook and Instagram.

Did you know that Sinai offers a Young Adult membership for \$150.00 thru age 30?

For more information contact Jen at jfriedman@congregationsinai.org



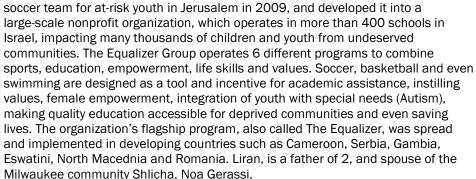


# **Israel Connection**

#### Liran Gerassi

# Founder & Executive Director The Equalizer Group Sunday, January 28, 10:00 AM at Congregation Sinai

Liran Gerassi will speak on his large-scale nonprofit organization, The Equalizer - Education on Top which started an "educational"



# **Israel Connection & Sinai Brotherhood present:**





# SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024, 10 am - 12 PM

Congregation Sinai Worship and Learning Space
Coffee and Bagels will be served



RSVP to Bobbi at burector@gmail.com



Major Tom Rotem served in the Israeli Air Force (IAF) as an operational fighter pilot, flying both the F16 Viper and F15 Eagle from 1998 - 2012. He was a flight academy instructor and performed on the Israeli aerobatic team, later earning a B.Sc. from Hebrew University and an MBA from Harvard Business School. Tom will speak on his experiences serving in the IAF; recruitment of personnel, IAF code of ethics, strategic importance to Israel's security, and its inherent influence on the development of Israel's Start-Up Nation.

Please come and welcome Tom to our community!

## **Social Justice**

Healing the world, "Tikkun Olam" feels more urgent each year. As we begin this New Year, the Social Justice Committee has reorganized into issue-based teams in order to make the most of our human energies while having the greatest impact.

These are:

Education Equity Climate & Environmental Justice Prison & Criminal Justice Reform Civic Engagement / Voting Rights Food Justice Protecting Women and Families

Housing & Neighborhood Justice

Nather Top Jan

We will strive to:

- Meet the imperatives set out by the URJ's Religious Action Center.
- Engage the Sinai Community in enacting our Jewish values by providing educational programming and service opportunities that address these issue areas while deepening our advocacy efforts through partnerships with Milwaukee Inner-city Congregations Allied for Hope (MICAH), Tikkun Ha-Ir, Cross Lutheran Church, Bay Bridge, Voces de la Frontera, and Wisconsin Faith Voices

Please mark your calendars:

Join us for monthly meetings at 5:00 PM on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. October 17, November 21, December 19, January 16, February 20, March 19, April 16, May 21, June 18

Look to your Enews for up-to-date information regarding meeting and programming location, links and further details.

Together we can contribute to building a "beloved community." We have so much to do to repair the world.

Interested in helping change the world for the better? Whether it be a one-time project or something ongoing, we'd love your involvement.

Please reach out to Rabbi Cohen at dcohen@congregationsinai.org.

#### **Social Justice**

#### VOLUNTEER! Pathfinders Meals & Collection Barrel



Pathfinders Inc. is a non-profit organization that provides safety and empowerment to youth confronted by homelessness, crisis or trauma as they develop paths towards self-sufficiency.

Congregation Sinai serves a meal at Pathfinders on the second Wednesday of every month. Volunteers are needed to buy ingredients and prepare food (entrees, side dishes and desserts) in advance (at home or at Sinai, individually or with a group) and to set up, serve, eat dinner with the youth, who then help with clean up. This is a great opportunity to serve as an individual/family and meet other congregants. Volunteers younger than high-school age must be accompanied by an adult.

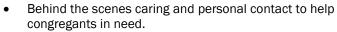
To participate contact Julie Turetsky at 414-899-5128 or julieturetsky@gmail.com

The Pathfinders Barrel is in the Sinai coat room. Please donate: Full size hygiene products, gently used and new clothing, coats and shoes. Nothing will go to waste! Thank you!





# **Chesed: Our Caring Community**





Delivers soup, arranges meal trains to those in need and provides funeral home watch.

We are always looking for volunteers for our Chesed Committee. Interested? Contact Karen at kberk@congregationsinai.org

#### Make Some Soup!

outside.

Everyone loves a good, hot, homemade soup and no one needs it more than our friends who might be sick or caring for a loved one. Please consider making your favorite soup to donate to the Sinai freezer for our Chesed Committee. Less acidic soups are preferred. No pork or shellfish please. Soup containers and food labels are available for pick up at Sinai during building hours or on the cart



#### Save Your Grocery Bags!

Congregation Sinai supports the Jewish Community and Cross Lutheran Food Pantries. Bags for both are in short supply and desperately needed on an ongoing basis. Please save your brown bags with handles and red Sendik's bags and bring them to Sinai!



Please be the rabbi and cantor's eyes and ears and help us keep informed and connected!

Contact us at 414-352-2970 or email to rabbi@congregationsinai.org

Shalom Sinai Families.

Our Youth Education Program focuses on Jewish traditions and ethics through instruction in Hebrew, Judaica and history. We help our children to embrace a strong respect for Torah (our sacred text), avodah (prayer and our relationship with God) and gemilut hasadim (acts of loving kindness that repair our world).

Jewish values such as Kavod, Kehillah (community), and Chesed (kindness) can help us navigate through the everchanging world. I look forward to exploring these and more with all of the religious school families during the upcoming 5784 school year!



In the next few pages, you will find enriching programming for Sinai Youth for the entire year. From our Itsy Bitsy Sinai friends, to our Shabbat Family Services, we hope you will find something the engages you and your family!

Please also look out for the Sunday Morning Coffee and Schmooze, where you can meet other parents in your child's class, and enjoy some coffee and breakfast!

If you are interested in volunteering for the Religious School, please reach out to Beth Stavros, Office and School administrator. We are always excited to welcome new people to our parent task force.

Looking forward to a wonderful 5784! B'Shalom, Natalie Black, Youth Educator

For information regarding Youth Education contact Natalie Black at nblack@congregationsinai.org or 414-352-2970

Back to School Cereal Breakfast Sunday, October 1 9:30 AM at Congregation Sinai

Welcome back for the first day of school! Bring your favorite cereal to share and we'll supply the milk and bananas! Unopened boxes will be donated to the Jewish Community Pantry.



#### Parent Coffee Talk! Sundays: October 1, January 21, April 24 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Join us for coffee and bagels and a chance to discuss our religious school and meet other parents! Learn about the many ways to get involved and how you can assist your child in their Jewish journey!



Interested in helping throughout the year?

Contact Natalie at nblack@congregationsinai.org

#### Religious School (K4 - 7th Grade) 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Students in grades K4-7 meet on Sunday mornings beginning with a family service at 9:30 AM. Students go to classrooms at 10:00 AM to learn Torah stories, prayer, tikkun olam, music, art while also



examining their own Jewish beliefs and formulating their personal Jewish identity.

#### Mitkadem (Hebrew) (3rd - 6th Grade)

Students in grades 3-6 will study Hebrew in 1-on-1 or 2-on-1 online sessions with our Hebrew teachers. Our Hebrew program allows students to learn, to read, and to understand our liturgy at a pace that works for each student. Once students have mastered the Aleph Bet, they work on packets designed specifically to help them read the prayer, understand the general meaning of the prayer, and be able to translate a few key words in the prayer. This program helps them prepare to lead the service at their B'nei Mitzvah.

#### B'nei Mitzvah

B'nei Mitzvah preparation begins with a family orientation in the spring of the child's 5th grade year. The child and family will participate in B'nei Mitzvah Family Education 3 -imes a year during the 6th grade year. B'nei Mitzvah tutoring begins 11 months prior to the child's B'nei Mitzvah.

# Madrichim (8th - 12th Grade) Sundays, 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Our Madrichim program is open to all 8th-12th graders to work as teacher's assistants helping in the classrooms and bringing fun and innovative ideas for our students. Madrichim will also



meet periodically with Natalie Black, Youth Educator, for supervision and mentoring.

Kesher - High School Teen Program (8th - 12th Grade) Sundays (monthly), 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM October 15, November 5, December 10, January 28, February 25, March 10, April 21, May 5



Our post B'nei Mitzvah students are a key part of our school and we are excited to welcome all of our 8th-12th graders to continue to be part of the school. Students in eighth through twelfth grades meet monthly in a class using Moving Traditions Kulam curriculum. Our new Kulam program equips Jewish teens to engage in dynamic and authentic relationships in order to think reflectively, act courageously, and develop healthy and caring communities.

Family Shabbat at Sinai

Fridays: November 17, February 9, March 8,

April 12 (Teacher Appreciation & Shabbat Shapizza see page 9)

5:15 PM Potluck Dinner

6:00 PM Service

Families will have the opportunity to connect outside of the school setting. We will gather together for a potluck dinner, followed by Shabbat Family Services. Bring your favorite dish and enrich your weekend with the Spirit of Shabbat.



# **Important School Dates:**

Sunday, October 1 Back to school cereal breakfast

and first day of school

Friday, October 6 Simchat Torah Celebration with

Student Consecration

Friday, December 1 - Sunday, December 3

Family Retreat at Camp OSRUI

Friday, December 8 Channukah Celebration

Sunday, December 17 Mitzvah Day

Sunday, January 7 Back-to-school Pancake Breakfast sponsored by

the Sinai Brotherhood

Sunday, March 17 School Purim Spiel and Carnival

Friday, April 12 Teacher Appreciation Shabbat Shabbat Shapizza Sunday, May 19 SinaiFest—Israeli Style and Last day of school

# Club Sinai (Grades 3 - 5)

Club Sinai is our youth group for 3rd-5th grade students to build a sense of community and have purely social activities with their peers. Club Sinai will meet a few Sunday afternoons during the year. Each session we will be joined by a special guest in our community who will lead us in fun, digital activities that we can all participate in from our own homes. Club Sinai is open to all students.



Sundays, 12:00 - 1:30 PM October 15, January 7, March 3

We are always looking for 'guests with special talents' who are willing to come spend an hour with our students and share their talents. Past talents have included: drama, board games, cooking, and viral videos. Everyone has a special talent. Will you share yours?

For more information or to be a parent volunteer, contact Natalie at nblack@congregationsinai.org or 414-352-2970

# Itsy Bitsy Sinai! (Birth — 4)

We value every member at Congregation Sinai – even our youngest! Our preschool-age program (birth-4) is called "Itsy Bitsy Sinai". It includes Shabbat, Holiday, and Sunday morning fun. We want to make coming to synagogue something that our youngest children look forward to – a place of joy, laughter, and fun. Activities will include: Songs,



Stories, Instruments, Craft & Holiday projects. We strive to help parents connect to others with similar aged children, to develop bonds that will enable them to share their Jewish journeys together.

For more information contact Natalie at nblack@congregationsinai.org

ITSY BITSY SINAI SCHEDULE Sundays at 10:15 AM October 1, November 12, December 10, January 21, February 11, March 10, April 14, May 5



There are many opportunities for families with little ones to join!



Family Shabbat at Sinai Fridays: November 17, February 9, March 8, April 12 (Shabbat Shapizza - see page 9) 5:15 Pm Potluck Dinner 6:00 PM Service

Chanukah Celebration! Friday, December 8

Purim - for Kids and Families! Sunday, March 17, 2024 9:30 AM "Bluey Paw-rim Spiel" 10:00 AM Purim Carnival

We are in the process of designing a new Itsy Bitsy Sinai Room on the mid-level! With easy access to restrooms and the library, the Itsy Bitsy Room will be open anytime for play!

Make Sinai your next space for a playdate!

We've got coffee too!

.Just call Sinai at 414-352-2970 and let us know you are coming!

# **Library Corner**

#### Come check out the Sinai Library!

It's time to catch up on all the reading, researching and enjoying Jewish books and topics that you have been missing. Each week I will feature a book in the Library Corner of the Enews.



A little reminder because access has been limited over the past two years.

- When you enter the library, on your left are some new novels. As you come farther in, on your right are our reference books.
- The far back wall has the rest of the fiction books. When you follow that wall, the non-fiction section begins. Hopefully there are enough signs along the shelves to help you locate items that you might want.
- When you select your item(s), please fill out the card in the back of the book and put the card in the box (appropriately marked book cards) on top of the reference section. Read, enjoy and return your items into the book return box.
- Books for older children (third grade and up) are marked T.
- Board books are up on the stairs (small ones) in baskets.
- Books for younger children are along the left side of the library and down the middle rows.
- School age children often take books out of our library, read them and create a book report for their regular school. It's quite neat. They learn something about our heritage, and get credit in their school.
- We also have a section of Hebrew children's books in memory of Judith Ross at the top of the stairs.

Welcome Back! Jayne Butlein, Sinai Librarian

# **Community**

#### **KOACH**

Sinai hosts: May 16, 2024, 12:00 - 2:00 PM Sinai volunteers needed 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

The word KOACH means strength in Hebrew. The widely popular adult program brings together everyone from Milwaukon area powerpers, to semi retired and re-



from Milwaukee area newcomers, to semi-retired and retirees, to members of synagogues, and the Harry & Rose Samson Family Jewish Community Center.

Strength is an appropriate word because KOACH reflects the vigor of this region's Jewish community by representing the J and Milwaukee synagogues including: Congregation Beth Israel Ner Tamid, Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun, Congregation Shalom and Congregation Sinai. In this unique partnership, programs rotate monthly between the J and the synagogues. The program provides a delicious lunch and a stimulating and entertaining program designed for this special audience.



To volunteer contact Jen at jfriedman@congregationsinai.org or call (414) 352-2970

Acheinu - Men's Spirituality Group Contact: Mitch Colton <a href="mailto:mcc25@mcctech.net">mcc25@mcctech.net</a>
The issues of God, family, relationship, and connection come together with bagels, coffee, and men. Sponsored by the Brotherhood, come spend some time with fellow guys thinking, talking, and listening.

Adult Learning Contact: Gillian Rodger gmrodger@hotmail.com

Help initiate, plan, and carry out a variety of adult programs that will attract people and encourage personal growth and knowledge.

B'rit Nashim Contacts: Joanne Roberts <u>jtrjtr@hotmail.com</u>
Toby Colton <u>TJCooks@gmail.com</u>

B'rit Nashim (Covenant of Women) is a group of Sinai women who meet once a month for programs of personal interest and Jewish content. Through a commitment to our group, our purposes are: to build a community of women within the larger community of Congregation Sinai, to share interests, and to strengthen our connections to each other and to Judaism.

Brotherhood Contacts: Mike Weinshel <u>mikegku@gmail.com</u>

Steve Stall stevestallexp@gmail.com

The Congregation Sinai Brotherhood is comprised of active, engaged, and fun-loving members of our Congregation. Of the more than 100 men who belong to our dedicated group, many offer a few hours of their time each year to participate in one of the numerous Brotherhood activities. Some volunteer to help run programs, while others demonstrate their support through becoming Sustaining Members

Buildings & Grounds Contact: Mike Weinshel mikegku@gmail.com

Reviews budget, expenses, assists in coordinating capital repairs.

Chesed: Our Caring Community Contact: Karen Berk <a href="kberk@congregationsinai.org">kberk@congregationsinai.org</a>
Provides support during times of crisis. Behind the scenes caring and personal contact to help congregants in need. Delivers soup to those in need and funeral home watch.

Culture Connection Contact: Jen Friedman <u>ifriedman@congregationsinai.org</u>
Get connected with the Milwaukee Art and Culture scene AND with fellow Sinai
Congregants. Adventure out to dinner, films, theater, Jazz in the Park...this is a
perfect way to get to know other Sinai members in an intimate and fun setting.

Events and Development Contact: Reva Fox revaderci@me.com
Coordinate congregational observance of synagogue holiday festivities such as

Congregational Dinners, Social events and Fundraising events.

#### Israel Connection

Contacts: Avner Poratavnerporat@gmail.com Bobbi Rector Burector@gmail.com

The Israel Connection was established in recognition of Congregation Sinai's values to support Israel as the Jewish Homeland and feel connected to our history, religion, culture, and Jewish identity. The Israel Connection continuously explores ways to educate, support projects and events for Israel holidays and other community celebrations.

Itsy Bitsy Sinai (Birth - 4) Contact: Natalie Black <a href="nblack@congregationsinai.org">nblack@congregationsinai.org</a> We value every member at Congregation Sinai – even our youngest! Itsy Bitsy Sinai (birth - 4) meets Sunday mornings or on Friday Shabbat to discover holiday and Jewish value programming filled with songs, stories, and crafts. We want our youngest children to look forward to seeing synagogue as a place of joy and laughter and fun. We strive to help parents connect to others with similar aged children, to develop bonds that will enable them to share their Jewish journeys together.

Mah Jongg!

Contact: Jen Friedman jfriedman@congregationsinai.org

For anyone who wants to play Mah Jongg or learn how to play. We have beginner and experienced tables. All players welcome. We meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month at 7 pm. Join us!

#### Marketing & Media

Contact: Julie Lookatch juliloo@sbcglobal.net

Develop/monitor a publicity and public relations plan for the congregation. Help with advertising, and any congregational communication.

#### Mensch Squad

Contact: Michael Hool mhool.shr@gmail.com

Mensch Squad is a group of folks who have offered to be "on call" (or on a calling list) when Sinai needs help with parking lot traffic control, ushering for large funerals, outdoor service set ups and tear downs and other Sinai events. You will receive a call, text or email inquiring if you are available to help with a specific event. Some may be during workdays, others not. The outreach will occur as soon as possible. We understand that you may not always be available to help and if it's not this time, maybe next time.

#### My Sinai "Family"!

Contact: Gabe Ziskin glzisk@gmail.com

Are you a Sinai family without Milwaukee family? Let us connect you with other families to gather at homes for holiday and Shabbat celebrations and a chance to connect with other families with children of the same age and common interests. We want to help you find a "Family!"

#### S.A.G.E.S Contact: Jen Friedman <u>ifriedman@congregationsinai.org</u>

Seniors Aging Gracefully and Engaged at Sinai. The Torah reminds us to value those who have come before us, and our duty to recognize, learn from, and respect age and life experience. S.A.G.E.S honors and engages our older adults with spiritual opportunities, programming, and classes (in-person and virtual) for older adults, their caregivers and family.

#### Sinai Ambassadors

Contacts: Josh Parkes <u>Jopa7609@gmail.com</u> Michelle Silverman <u>michellesilverman@hotmail.com</u>

Assist in Sinai's outreach and engagement of and for new and current members. Integrate new members in congregational programs and committees through a "buddy system" and other mentoring. Help strengthen current members' connections to Sinai through involvement and affinity groups. Encourage participation in congregational events.

#### Sinai Brewing!

Contacts: Gordy Goldbaum gordon\_jay@hotmail.com Alan Silverman alan.silverman@hotmail.com

Brewing Beer for Sinai Events! Are you interested in the brewing process? Join a group of beer lovers, chemistry lovers and those who enjoy cooking to learn how to brew from our Sinai Resident Master Brewers: Gordy Goldbaum and Alan Silverman. We will brew a couple batches of beer for Chanukah and the Summer Concert in the Sinai kitchen, bottle the beer, and create the name and designer label.

#### Sinai Outside

Contact: Bobbi Rector burector@gmail.com

Sinai Outside was founded by a group of congregants who value the spiritual and social connections to be found in nature. Adventures include hikes, mazes, camping...anything you can think of!

#### Social Justice Contact: Rabbi David Cohen dcohen@congregationsinai.org

Committed to Tikkun Olam, repair of the world, the committee sees its mission as providing an opportunity for all congregants to recognize their Jewish responsibility to help others in the community. Plan and carry out programs and projects of social concern.

#### **Tabletop Games!**

Contact: Josh Parkes jopa7609@gmail.com

Do you love tabletop games? Join us for game nights at Sinai - open to all! Adults and families welcome. We will have traditional games to the latest craze. Attendees can choose among game offerings, learn new games, and socialize in a relaxed setting.

#### Women of Sinai

Contacts: Bobbi Rector <u>burector@gmail.com</u> Nancy Stillman <u>nstillman963@gmail.com</u>

The Women of Sinai is an organization of vibrant women of all ages who enjoy working together to enhance and enrich the lives of its members, the temple and the community-at-large. Our programming is designed for women who work both inside and outside the home. We offer diverse programming, study, religious enrichment, fundraising, and fellowship.

YAAS! (Young Adults at Sinai!) Contact: Samantha Pollock <a href="mailto:smnthplick@gmail.com">smnthplick@gmail.com</a> What does it mean to be a young, professional Jewish adult in Milwaukee? Are you looking for a point of entry into metropolitan Jewry? Do you have a child or know someone – affiliated or unaffiliated - that is looking to meet other young Jewish professionals or Grad students? YASS! is for you.

Youth Education Contacts: Natalie Black <a href="mailto:nblack@congregationsinai.org">nblack@congregationsinai.org</a>
Determine policy and philosophy of our Judaica and Hebrew School activities, programming, and curriculum evaluation. Help plan and implement programs for families with young children, as well as coordinate Youth and Family Holy Day and Purim celebrations.

## Remember Your Loved Ones with a Contribution

Remembering a loved one through an act of "Tzedakah" is a recognized Jewish custom. Please consider honoring your loved one on a Yahrzeit by making a donation in their memory, or consider a contribution in honor of a lifecycle celebration. A list of Congregation Sinai's charitable funds are available here. Contributions may be made by check mailed to Congregation Sinai or by visiting www.congregationsinai.org/donate

#### Andy Brickman Museum & Ritual Fund

Supports the purchase of museum pieces on display in our building.

#### Barbara Eiseman Memorial Fund

Allows adult congregants to attend programs for personal and spiritual growth.

#### **Builders and Founders Campaign**

Sinai's annual fundraising campaign.

#### **Building Fund**

Supports the maintenance and upkeep of the synagogue's building and grounds.

#### Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Supports a variety of local, national and international tzedakah projects, including assistance to individuals in need.

#### Congregation Sinai Endowment at Jewish Community Foundation

Supports future plans and needs of Congregation Sinai.

#### **Congregation Sinai Operating Fund**

Supports all operations of the congregation.

## **Remember Your Loved Ones with a Contribution**

#### Dick Kaeppel Family Education Scholarship & Program Fund

Provides family educational programs for Congregation Sinai members. Examples of use includes, but not limited to: family education programming, family weekend retreats, family education camp or kallot, family trips to Israel.

# Helen Z. and Erwin E. Grossmann Adult Learning Endowment Fund at the Jewish Community Foundation

Underwrites the cost of major adult learning programs.

#### Ilene Wasserman Memorial Chesed (Caring Community) Fund

Supports the efforts of the Chesed (Caring Community) Committee caring for congregants in times of joy and hardship.

#### Jacob Fine and Family Library and Technology Fund

Donations buy books and other library materials for Congregation Sinai's library.

#### Ketten/Miringoff Simcha (Celebrations) Fund

Provides funds to maintain the congregation's kitchen.

#### L'Dor Va Dor Fund (From Generation to Generation)

The Fund will be used exclusively to recognize, encourage and develop congregants in future leadership roles within Sinai and the Jewish Community at large.

#### Landscape Fund

Donations are used towards the maintenance of the grounds of the temple.

#### Lieberman Memorial Arts Fund

Funds are used exclusively to purchase and maintain art and visually pleasing architectural details for Congregation Sinai.

#### Michael J. and Suzanne M. Shapiro Chesed Fund at Jewish Community Foundation

Provides support to honor the memory of a loved one, the purchase of soup making supplies for the sick and needy, and supplies for Mishloach Manot during Purim and other celebrations or programs.

#### **Music Fund**

Donations go towards the purchase of music for Congregation Sinai's use.

#### Passport to Israel Fund

Contributions support educational youth trips to Israel.

#### Praver Book Fund

Donations go towards the purchase of prayer books, Torah Commentaries and Haggodot.

#### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Supports a variety of local, national and international tzedakah projects, including assistance to individuals in need.

#### Rabbi Jav Brickman Adult Education Fund

Supports Adult Education programs.

#### Robert Grant Marks Youth Fund

Provides scholarships for teens to attend Israel programs, Jewish camps, NFTY and other youth conclaves and Affirmation trips.

#### B & A Roth Family Youth Judaic Enrichment Fund

Provides Judaic enrichment for the youth of Congregation Sinai - ages 0 - 21. Examples include, but are not limited to, assistance with religious school fees, camp fees, youth group kallot, trips to Israel, etc.

#### Tzedakah and Social Justice Fund

Contributions help fund local projects for the Milwaukee community.

#### Sponsor Bima Flowers and/or a Shabbat Oneg

Provides floral arrangements for the Bimah for Shabbat and Holiday Services and supplies and food.



Congregation Sinai is an **INTIMATE** community where the relationship between congregants, and our clergy Rabbi David Cohen and Cantor Richard Newman, is a sacred partnership based upon mutual respect, shared Jewish commitment, and ongoing Jewish growth.

Sinai is **INCLUSIVE** – welcoming interfaith, multi-cultural, multi-racial, multi-ethnic, and LBGTQ+ individuals, couples and families.

Sinai is **INNOVATIVE** in Judaism's most cherished values finding a foothold in today's world and adding a sense of meaning and a purpose to our lives.

Congregation Sinai is **INTENTIONAL** serving as a warm and welcoming gathering place, a place to worship, to be inspired through music, to be challenged by life's essential questions and to seek answers through learning and a commitment to a just and better world.

