

TEMPLE SINAI

5505 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15217

The bronze Menorah and Eternal Light pictured on the cover were fashioned for our Sanctuary by world-renowned sculptor, Chaim Gross.

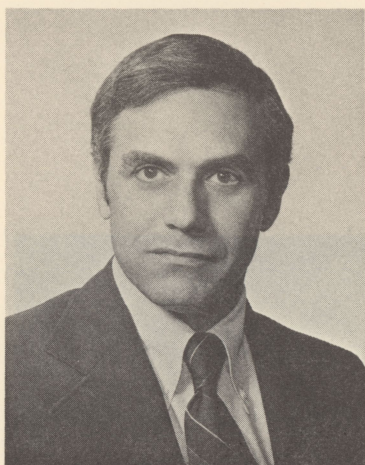


OUR PRIDE

Temple Sinai is not just a building . . . it is a sanctuary . . . for our beliefs, our hopes and our inspiration.

After more than thirty years, the members of Temple Sinai realize that it is the heart and center of many important facets in the lives of their families. It is the place where children learn of their Jewish religious and cultural heritage; it is the place where neighbors become friends and where friends have opportunities for greater happiness and greater commitment.

If these pages help you to become an active, enthusiastic member of our congregation, then this booklet will have achieved its purpose. Share with us our pride in our Temple.



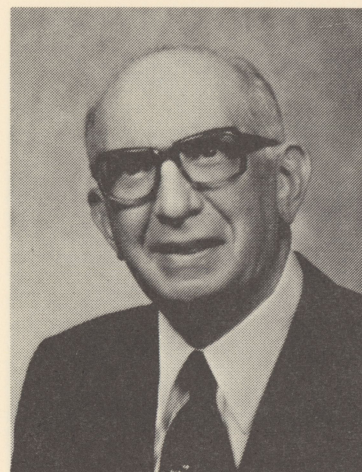
OUR RABBI

Our spiritual leader, Rabbi Alan D. Fuchs, is young, inspired and eager to share in all aspects of activity at Temple Sinai.

He was ordained at Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion, in Cincinnati in 1963. He served as a chaplain at Ft. Knox and in Verdun, France. Following his return, he served as rabbi in Somerville, N.J. and in Elkins Park, Pa. He came to Temple Sinai in 1977.

Our rabbi is especially interested in youth activities and community relations, and has served as rabbi-in-residence at Camp Harlam, UAHC Summer Youth Camp, as well as a lecturer on college campuses under the sponsorship of the Jewish Chautauqua Society.

Rabbi Fuchs takes a great interest in all Temple activities, with special attention to our Religious School where he has placed emphasis on personal instruction of our Confirmation classes. He is always ready to serve the needs of the congregation.



RABBI EMERITUS

Rabbi Aaron B. Ilson, who became Rabbi Emeritus upon his retirement in 1977, served Temple Sinai for twenty-two years. Under his personal planning, our facilities grew from a converted mansion to include new wings for the Religious School classrooms, our beautiful Falk Auditorium, and ultimately our magnificent Sanctuary.

For many years he led us in study and worship. With his guidance, Temple Sinai sponsored annual workshops with Christian clergy and laymen. These meetings created a better understanding of Judaism and promoted closer ties with all faiths.

Because of his great concern for Israel, he introduced the first Israel Bond Drive sponsored by a Reform Congregation in the Pittsburgh area. The Israel Bond Dinner is now an annual event on our busy calendar.

Rabbi Ilson inspired us to make our Temple a vital force in the community and we are grateful for his outstanding leadership.



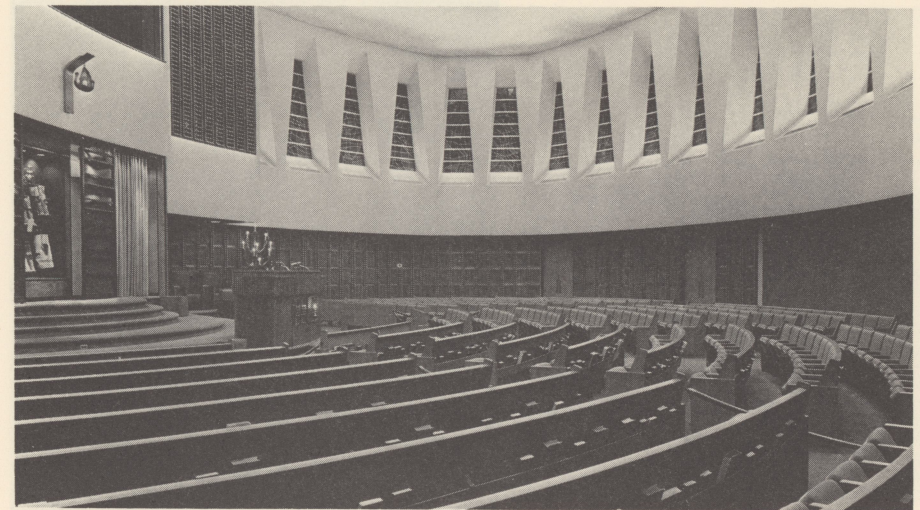
IN THE BEGINNING . . .

Temple Sinai came into being when forty families were represented at an organizational meeting on September 8, 1946. We grew out of the need for a second Reform Congregation in Pittsburgh. Ours was the first Liberal Congregation in the country to be organized and nurtured by a sister congregation, Rodef Shalom, which lent its strength, expertise and substantial financial support during our formative years.

Two neighboring churches, in a splendid display of true brotherhood, opened their doors and their hearts to us with a generous offer of their facilities for worship and Religious School.

In 1947 we purchased the former Worthington Mansion and transformed it into a magnificent house of worship and learning by converting a banquet hall into a Chapel, a swimming pool into a Vestry, and the bedrooms into schoolrooms.

After holding High Holy Day services at the Y.M. & W.H.A. for three years, we needed larger quarters and moved to Carnegie Music Hall where for a number of years we held these special Holy Day Services.



OUR PLANS . . .

OUR DREAMS . . .

OUR WORK . . .

Increased membership caused us to quickly outgrow our original facilities. By 1965 a new building adjacent to our original home was built and dedicated. In addition to the new Religious School, it housed the beautiful Falk Auditorium.

The building of a Sanctuary became another dream which saw fruition in 1969. Our Sanctuary stands as a symbol of Living Judaism and of our years of dedicated commitment to Temple Sinai. We now hold our High Holy Day Services in the combined facilities of the Sanctuary and the Falk Auditorium.

Our primary concern is your involvement in the work of the Temple, your participation in its programs, your attendance at our worship services, and your dedication to the principles on which Temple Sinai was born—to perpetuate our faith according to the concepts of Reform Judaism.

WE PRAY TOGETHER . . .



Temple Sinai is affiliated with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. It is dedicated to the sacred task of bringing to its people the message of Judaism that has grown out of the historical, religious experience of the Jewish people through more than 5,000 years of its existence.

As a Reform congregation, we are committed to the idea that Judaism has been and must continue to be an evolving and dynamic religion, harmonized with the spirit of our Torah. We affirm our conviction that we share a common heritage and a common destiny with our fellow Jews in all lands.

Our beautiful, inspiring Sanctuary is used for Sabbath Eve and Holiday Services, and Saturday morning Bar/Bat Mitzvahs throughout the year. During the summer months Sabbath Eve Services are held in the Barnett Chapel. Active participation by congregants at summer services gives us the opportunity to try innovative methods of prayer.

WE TEACH OUR CHILDREN . . .



The objective of religious training at Temple Sinai is to help our children to appreciate their great Jewish heritage and to apply this to their daily lives. We offer them knowledge of Jewish history, worship and ceremonies, the Hebrew language, the Bible, ethics and theology.

A qualified staff, under the supervision of the Rabbi, Religious School Principal, and the Director of Hebrew Studies, follows a carefully designed program utilizing innovative techniques such as team teaching and open class room settings. There is emphasis on music and art in all grades.

Our curriculum is designed for children from kindergarten through 10th grade, with a high school program offered after Confirmation. Hebrew students meet weekly after school, and Bar/Bat Mitzvah candidates and advanced students attend an additional day. Parent involvement in the affairs of the school is welcomed and encouraged.

In all that we teach, we seek to awaken in our children an identification with our people, a commitment to Jewish values, faith in our religion and our covenant with God.

AND WE LEARN TOO . . .

Reform Judaism is a faith that speaks directly to the American Jews of today. It enables the entire family to participate in our cultural heritage. Its inspiring ethical teachings are the older roots of those liberties we hold precious in our free, democratic land.

Children and adults are all given an opportunity to learn. Our activities in Adult Education afford a planned variety in the learning experience to our membership. Under the direction of our rabbi, varied courses in Judaism are presented each year. Sunday morning and evening sessions give everyone ample time for participation. Additional educational programs are offered by our auxiliaries. On occasion, guest lecturers are invited to participate at Friday night services and at sit-down Onegs afterwards.

As an adjunct to group education, our ever-expanding Falk Library provides for our members an opportunity to explore at their leisure the Jewish world of books. Many of these books are available for home loan. Our Children's Library Fund has made possible the acquisition of varied types of learning machines, such as visual aid equipment for the Religious School.

Temple Sinai truly fulfills its function as a House of Study (Bet Hamidrash), constantly informing its membership of better ways to live as proud Reform Jews.



OUR YOUTH PARTICIPATES . . .

Young people from the ninth through twelfth grades are given an opportunity in our Temple Sinai Youth Group to come together socially and also to learn about Judaism through its activities and programs.

These youth activities range from campstudies and conclaves to "shul-ins" and gatherings of all kinds including dances and fund-raisers for community service projects. Frequently these events are held in conjunction with youth groups from other temples.

Our Youth Group is self-governing, but aid and advice are always available from leaders of the Young Adults and a member of the Temple Board of Trustees. Its program is vital and significant. Through it, our young people have an opportunity to enjoy fellowship, enlightenment and participation in community social services.



SISTERHOOD

"The purpose of Sisterhood is to foster and encourage the highest ideals of Judaism, to promote closer fellowship among its members, and in cooperation with the Congregation, to be a mentor of religious, social and educational activities."

Sisterhood's widely varied activities range from study groups and educational programs to fund-raising for the Temple through various Donor projects and on-going Funds. Monthly meetings are held with carefully planned presentations.

The Sisterhood fosters and sponsors the Temple Library and the Judaica Shop. Its Service to the Blind Committee and support of Oneg Shabbat and festival celebrations are part of Sisterhood's accepted responsibility. Every female adult in every Temple family can find great satisfaction in Sisterhood's varied cultural and social activities, both within our Temple and in the Jewish community.

As a member of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, affiliated with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Sinai Sisterhood participates in the strengthening of Liberal Judaism throughout the country.



BROTHERHOOD

The purpose of our Brotherhood can be simply stated—fostering the high ideals of Judaism, assisting our Temple in its projects and activities, encouraging the appreciation of Jewish culture, and developing a strong fraternal link among members.

At monthly brunch meetings on Sunday morning, Brotherhood provides programs which include speakers on timely subjects from every walk of life. Social events such as steak cook-outs, a New Year's Eve party, and other entertainment are held throughout the year.

Our Brotherhood provides the Usher Corps for all religious services. This dedicated group of men works closely with the rabbi and Worship Committee to see that all religious services proceed smoothly.

Of special importance is Brotherhood's sponsorship of the Jewish Chautauqua Society program, which organizes visits of Rabbis to Christian camps and college campuses and provides college libraries with books on Judaica.

All men who join Brotherhood, which is affiliated with the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods, will enjoy the opportunity to strengthen the bonds of Judaism through good fellowship.



YOUNG ADULTS

Temple Sinai has a Young Adult Congregation which we hope will provide the future leadership of our Temple. Comprised of young people aged twenty through thirty-three, married and single, they strive to be active and responsible members of our Congregation. Their representation on the Board of Trustees keeps us cognizant of younger viewpoints and interests.

Membership dues in this auxiliary are scaled to accommodate them until they are financially able to assume the responsibilities of senior membership. Yet they are eager to do what they can to help, and as an organization, voluntarily make a commitment each year.

This group holds regular monthly meetings, and in addition schedules a social or educational program each month. Its members also participate in the Congregation's special events.

Committed to those principles for which Temple Sinai stands, they provide enthusiasm and involvement in Temple's accomplishments.

COMMUNITY SERVICE . . .

We are proud to make our facilities available for programs serving community agencies.

Each week, young mothers and their small children from all areas of the city spend the greater part of a day in our Temple under the auspices of the Mother's Day Out program. While the children play and nap under strict supervision, their mothers enjoy the educational and cultural activities offered through the program.

Our kitchen is utilized daily for volunteer workers (including many of our members) to prepare, package and deliver meals to local shut-ins through the Meals on Wheels program.

Recently we hosted a Brunch Service for a group of Jewish retarded and emotionally disturbed patients of all ages from state mental institutions who had been tutored by Rabbi Leib Heber, an area rabbi who devotes his time to their welfare. The experience was a moving one for us all and it was decided to make it an annual event.

Over a period of years our Sisterhood has devotedly prepared tape recordings for the Blind as one of its favorite projects. Our women consider it a 'labor-of-love'. Their efforts have been cited repeatedly by the Carnegie Library Association as well as the Association for the Blind.

Brotherhood has its Mitzvah Corps which substitutes for non-Jewish employees in local hospitals on Christmas Day so they can enjoy the holiday with their families. Not only do the men enjoy helping those who are ill, but they find it does much to create inter-faith harmony.

**A
TEMPLE
IS
PEOPLE . . .**

No booklet such as this can list all the names or enumerate the hours spent, the efforts and the sacrifices of the many, many men and women who have devoted themselves to the building of Temple Sinai and its congregation from its infancy to the efficient, large institution it is today.

In our Temple lobby, you will see a Past Presidents' Plaque, signifying the honor in which we hold the men listed thereon. But the plaque truly represents our unwritten tribute to the many wonderful members who have constantly worked with these leaders.

Without dedicated, ambitious, hard-working people, there would be no Temple Sinai . . .

You can achieve more happiness, more understanding and greater satisfaction by participating in the community-wide good works of Temple Sinai through any of the dozens of committees whose work is never done! The Temple Office (421-9715) can give you complete information on all committees and their jobs. Won't you help? You are needed! A Temple is People!

Temple Sinai
extends its gratitude
to Burton L. Hirsch
for assisting in
the publication
of this booklet.