

## Frequently Asked Questions

### WHO WILL FEEL COMFORTABLE AT TEMPLE SINAI?



**Temple Sinai** offers a warm and inviting atmosphere in which you can expand and explore your Jewish life. Our members include Jewish singles and single parents, interfaith families, same sex couples and Jews of color. We welcome Jewish families in all their diversity from all walks of life, with different religious backgrounds and ethnicities.

### HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

There are many ways to get involved at **Temple Sinai** and become acquainted with other congregants. During your membership process, we hope to get to know you personally so we can connect you with programs, groups, classes and events that complement your interests.



### I DON'T READ HEBREW. HOW CAN I FOLLOW THE SHABBAT OR OTHER WORSHIP SERVICES?

Our prayer book is written in Hebrew, English transliteration, and English all on the same page. (See example to the right.) Throughout the service our Rabbi guides the congregation through the prayer book. We have weekly Friday night Shabbat Services with the first Friday of the month devoted to a Family Service.

בְּרוּךְ שֵׁם כְּבוֹד מַלְכוּתוֹ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד!  
*Baruch sheim k'vod malchuto l'olam va'ed!*  
*Blessed be the name of God's glory and sovereignty forever.*

### HOW DO I MEET THE PROFESSIONALS WHO SERVE TEMPLE SINAI?



Cantor Steve Hummel

We encourage you to....

- ☆ Get to know our Rabbi, Cantor and Educator
- ☆ Attend Shabbat services
- ☆ Get involved in our programs and activities



Rabbi Rick Schechter



Educator Carolyn Moore Mooso

### WHY SHOULD I JOIN TEMPLE SINAI?

**Temple Sinai** is a caring community, proud of our culture of inclusiveness. We have weekly worship and holiday services. We support an active Sisterhood and Brotherhood. We offer opportunities to be involved in many programs such as social action, adult education, K-7 religious school, youth groups and Sinai Seniors. Our programs offer great opportunities to meet and connect with other people in an environment of warmth that makes us not only a special congregation, but a true family.



## I'D LIKE TO JOIN, BUT I DON'T KNOW ANYONE AT TEMPLE SINAI.

Once you set foot in Temple Sinai, you will start to meet new people and have every opportunity to be included in the many programs and services we have to offer.

### WHY SHOULD I JOIN NOW? MY CHILD IS ONLY TWO YEARS OLD.

It is never too early to become a part of the Jewish community. While we often think synagogues are around to "teach Judaism" to our children, the synagogue's greatest purpose is to support and enrich us so that our own confidence as Jews can become the example from which our children will learn. **Temple Sinai** provides ongoing opportunities to study, experience, and enjoy being connected to a Jewish community. We offer...

- ✧ *Tot Shabbat*, a monthly Shabbat morning service for those with very young children
- ✧ *Mommy, Daddy, and Me* classes for families with young children
- ✧ Sunday religious school programs for students in kindergarten through 7th grade.



### MY KIDS ARE GROWN. WHAT DO I NEED A TEMPLE FOR?

Many of the programs at **Temple Sinai** focus on the adults in our community and are designed for lifelong Jewish learning. We seek to nurture a mature development of spirituality and Jewish connection for people at every stage of their lives through our Sisterhood, Brotherhood, Sinai Seniors, Adult Education, Social Action programs and worship services. We invite you to become an integral part of our community as you enhance your connection with other Jews and pursue your personal search for connection and meaning.



### MY SPOUSE/PARTNER IS JEWISH AND I AM NOT. IF WE JOIN WILL I BE WELCOME AT TEMPLE SINAI?

Of course. **Temple Sinai** welcomes the entire family to be part of our community. We encourage all members of a family to attend programs and services so they can draw closer together and enhance their understanding of Jewish history, traditions, culture and one another.



### DO YOU HAVE OTHER INTERFAITH FAMILIES AT TEMPLE SINAI?

**Temple Sinai** has many interfaith couples/families. We welcome and include all members regardless of their religious upbringing.



## **WILL MY NON-JEWISH SPOUSE BE CONSIDERED A MEMBER OF THE TEMPLE? WILL HE/SHE BE EXPECTED TO CONVERT?**

*All* members of the family are members of our Temple and are encouraged to participate in Temple life. Conversion is a deeply personal and private matter; it is not required that the non-Jewish spouse convert. If anyone chooses to convert we hope it will be after deep consideration of the decision to do so. If the choice is not to convert, that person is still a part of our community.



## **WHAT WILL BE THE STATUS OF MY CHILDREN IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IF I'M NOT JEWISH?**

Since 1983, the Reform Movement has recognized the children of either the Jewish mother or father as Jewish if the child is raised and educated as a Jew. There are many children in our Religious School with relatives who practice other religions. Our religious school teachers have been trained to be sensitive to this.



## **WE ARE CONSIDERING ENROLLING OUR CHILD IN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL. CAN NON-JEWISH PARENTS PARTICIPATE IN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL PROGRAMS?**

Yes. Jewish tradition places a high value on education and family life. We strongly encourage both parents to be involved in their child's Religious School experience and welcome your participation. Special educational programs just for parents (Jewish and non-Jewish) are taught by our clergy and teachers, designed to help parents discover and understand what their children are learning in Religious School.



## **WILL MY NON-JEWISH SPOUSE BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR CHILDREN'S BAR/BAT MITZVAH?**

At **Temple Sinai** we include the entire family. Both parents pass the Torah to their child during the Bnei Mitzvah (Children of the Commandment) service as a symbol of their support for their child's Jewish education and decision to enter into this life-cycle event.



## **WHAT ABOUT MY MEMBERSHIP FINANCIAL COMMITMENT?**

At **Temple Sinai** we have Membership Classifications that are used to determine monthly dues. These dues are necessary to cover the Temple's operating expense and staff compensation. Financial assistance is available for those who need it and our Finance Secretary can work with you on determining a mutually agreeable commitment. We hope you will choose to become part of the present and future of our congregation.



TEMPLE SINAI  
OF GLENDALE

### **HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER OF TEMPLE SINAI? WHAT IS THE PROCESS?**

Just e-mail us at [office@temple-sinai.net](mailto:office@temple-sinai.net) or call us at (818) 246-8101 for more information and to request a membership packet. We'd love to have you join us.