



Temple **Sinai** INTERFAITH OUTREACH  
MAKE MY SINAI YOUR SINAI

*Welcoming Interfaith Families to Temple Sinai*

# Our Mission

*“The Stranger who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love the stranger as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Eternal your God.” Leviticus 19:33-34*

A house of inclusion, Temple Sinai invites your family under our tent as we foster our spiritual fulfillment and commitment to God. A Reform Congregation, we embrace diversity within our temple family and community and welcome and encourage dialogue between and within interfaith families, including grandparents and those embarking on interfaith relationships.

Temple Sinai is a place where children and adults in interfaith families are engaged in all levels of temple activities including nursery school, religious school, confirmation class, adult B’nei Mitzvah classes and committee work.

Our clergy and members of our congregation are available to couples contemplating interfaith marriages and those already married who would like to explore and discuss family matters.

## About the Interfaith Outreach Committee:

We welcome people in interfaith relationships and families by:

- Providing opportunities for Jews and non-Jews in the congregation to learn about Jewish traditions and the traditions of other religions;
- Ensuring the continuing sensitivity of our school faculties and administrative staff;
- Creating opportunities to explore sensitive, decision making issues; and
- Raising awareness in our congregation to the unique challenges and circumstances faced by interfaith families and their children.

# At Temple Sinai

Temple Sinai and the Interfaith Outreach Committee invite you to participate in all aspects of worship services as you feel comfortable. From sanctuary and ritual observances to life cycle events, we strive to be your “home away from home” and welcome your participation in all aspects of synagogue life.

## Our Sinai is Your Sinai

- Our Rabbis are eager to meet with interfaith couples to discuss the range of issues they face, including the wedding ceremony itself, the religious identity of future children, navigating among extended family and how Temple Sinai can become their spiritual home;
- Non-Jewish family members have meaningful roles in life cycle events;
- We offer a Shabbat Service Guide for those not familiar with Jewish prayer or other worship rituals;
- Shabbat and High Holy Day Services are spoken mostly in English with Hebrew in transliteration;
- Family friendly and Tot Shabbat Services are held once a month;
- Holiday services offer worship for both the congregation’s and greater community’s younger congregant learners;
- Our library resource center has a section dedicated to interfaith families;
- Interfaith Outreach Committee meets regularly to discuss and enhance the temple life for our interfaith families;
- Quarterly Interfaith Articles are included in our Temple Scribe publication;
- Temple Sinai hosts with the Interfaith Outreach Committee an annual Interfaith Shabbat Service honoring our Interfaith Families;
- Temple Sinai’s Adult Education Committee hosts ongoing programming supporting diversity and intercultural understanding; and
- Classes on “Judaism for the Beginner” are offered annually.

# Interfaith Outreach Committee

Cindy Brahms, Co-Chair  
Doreen Cohen, Director of Adult Learning  
Barbara and Jeff Colton  
Karen Flyer, Co-Chair  
Bea and Harry Friedman  
Beverly Hochman  
Mary Miller  
Leslie Lewit Milner  
Marion W. Lowenthal  
Wendy and Jim Love  
Cathy Samuels, Co-Chair  
Lara Weinstock, Temple Vice President  
Erika and Allen Weisberg  
  
Advisor: Rabbi Andrew Gordon

## Celebrating Interfaith Relationships & Diversity With the Greater Community at Temple Sinai



Working with the Sid Jacobson JCC, our Interfaith Outreach Committee hosted Dr. Marion Usher's Love and Religion. "In an interfaith marriage, deciding how to shape a religious life for themselves and their future children is a complicated process. Whatever the couple decides, they will always be dealing with two families who have different religions. Respect for the other is a main theme in creating their new lives together", stated Dr. Usher.



Temple Sinai pays tribute to the victims and heroes of September 11, 2001 with members of our interfaith community. Standing left to right: Kiki Byas, Islamic Center of LI; Rabbi Michael White, Temple Sinai; Imam Ahmed Ullah Kamal, Long Island Muslim Society of East Meadow; Wayne Wink, Nassau County Legislator; Habeeb Ahmed, Executive Director, Islamic Center of LI; Charlie Berman, Temple Sinai congregant and Town of North Hempstead Receiver of Taxes.

# Recommended Links and Resources



For over thirty years, the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) has been committed to welcoming interfaith couples into our communities. As a resource, URJ invites you as a member of an interfaith couple or family, to find a spiritual connection in a Reform congregation.

Reform congregations warmly welcome interfaith families!

<http://urj.org//life/interfaith/>



InterfaithFamily.com is the premiere resource supporting interfaith couples exploring Jewish life. It delivers helpful, non-judgmental information and a warm welcome that can be accessed privately, at any time. Interfaithfamily.com is organized by topics of interest to people in interfaith relationships, with more than 2,000 articles.

[interfaithfamily.com](http://interfaithfamily.com)

## RECOMMENDED READING

Friedland, Ronnie, and Edmund Case, eds. [The Guide to Jewish Interfaith Family Life: An Interfaithfamily.com Handbook](#), Woodstock, VT: Jewish Lights Publishing, 2001.

Keen, Jim. [Inside Inter marriage: A Christian Partner's Perspective on Raising a Jewish Family](#). New York: URJ Press, 2006.

King, Andrea. [If I'm Jewish and You're Christian, What are the Kids?](#) New York: URJ Press 1993.

Levin, Sunie. [Mingled Roots: A Guide for Grandparents of Interfaith Children](#), New York: URJ Press, 2003

*Our Committee extends our hand to you and yours during all milestones in your life! As Interfaith families, we are especially delighted to speak with you should you have any questions, comments or suggestions. Just email the Temple office at [templeoffice@mysinai.org](mailto:templeoffice@mysinai.org) attention Interfaith Outreach Committee. We look forward to seeing you at Temple Sinai!*

**Visit us at [mysinai.org](http://mysinai.org) or find us on**



**Interfaith Outreach Committee**

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