Sinai in Song

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF
CANTOR ILENE KEYS
AND HER SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

TRIBUTE BOOK

עבדו את " בשמחה, בואו לפניו ברננה
SERVE GOD IN GLADNESS, COME INTO GOD’S PRESENCE WITH SINGING
PSALM 100:2
Many Thanks to our Generous Sponsors

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This is the final list at the time of printing. We apologize for any omissions.
Todah Rabah to our Amazing Staff & Volunteers

SPECIAL THANKS
Thank you to all the Temple Sinai volunteers who have made this celebration possible, including the Sinai in Song

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Terrie Goren
Ilene Keys
Deena Levine-Lipsett
Robin Reiner
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— Photography
Saul Bromberger
Stewart Florsheim
Stewart Sweetow

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CITY OF OAKLAND

Mayor's Proclamation

IN RECOGNITION OF

CANTOR ILENE KEYS, MSM, DSM

WHEREAS, Cantor Keys has served Temple Sinai and the Jewish Community of Oakland with dedication since 1995; and

WHEREAS, her work has touched the lives of so many in the East Bay and beyond, with her musical scholarship, teaching gifts, and compassion; and

WHEREAS, Cantor Keys is the historic Temple Sinai’s longest-serving Cantor, and one of their longest serving clergy; and

WHEREAS, Cantor Keys has now reached a landmark in entering her 25th year in the Cantorate; and now

THEREFORE, be it Proclaimed, I, Libby Schaaf, Mayor of the City of Oakland, hereby honor and recognize Cantor Ilene Keys, for her dedicated and devoted service to Oakland’s community.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Oakland to be affixed.

LIBBY SCHAFF, MAYOR, CITY OF OAKLAND
Dear Ilene,

It is with great pleasure and admiration that I offer a hearty mazal tov to you as you celebrate twenty-five years at Temple Sinai on behalf of myself and the American Conference of Cantors. Personally, it seems like only yesterday that we were at Hebrew Union College together. Back then, you were a smiling face and welcoming friend to my class as we returned to New York after our year in Israel. You were always ready and willing to help anyone who needed it. You haven’t changed much. You have continued to be a sincerely gracious and supportive colleague to all—always willing to answer the call of your organization or fellow colleagues. And you always do so with the same sunny smile and grace that you showed us years ago.

Famed opera singer Cecilia Bartoli said, “The voice is certainly important and you can hear if it’s beautiful or not, it's the gods who decide; it's more a question of what you do with the voice, which is the mysterious element. It's the personality behind the voice which makes the artist.” One can argue that this statement is true for Cantors as well. It is the “mysterious element” of the divine and the personality that make the Cantor an artist.

Ilene, you are an artist’s artist and a Cantor’s Cantor. You share openly and lovingly the gifts of your voice, your heart and your spirit. How blessed is your beloved Temple Sinai community for having you in their lives for twenty-five years.

Mazal Tov to all of you,

Cantor Claire Franco
President
Hebrew Union College proclamation

Office of the President

February 21, 2020
26 Sh’vat 5780

Cantor Ilene Keys
Temple Sinai
2808 Summit Street
Oakland, CA 94609

Dear Ilene,

It brings me great joy to wish you mazel tov on the occasion of your Doctor of Music honoris causa after 25 years of outstanding service and leadership for the Jewish people. As the longest serving cantor of Temple Sinai, your commitment to Jewish life and your impact on your community, the Reform Movement, and indeed the larger Jewish world are unparalleled. All the festivities and honors are well deserved. You have devoted yourself as a leader, teacher, colleague and friend. Indeed, you are an example to all who aspire to professional Jewish life.

You have worked with your lay leadership and clergy partners to build your community into a vibrant and substantial one, and your energy and leadership have shaped the special character of Temple Sinai. One at a time and in large groups, you have led members of your community to a deeper Jewish life and have had an immeasurable impact in your congregational community, the region, and nationally among your colleagues.

The impact of your commitment to the ACC and to strengthening and supporting your colleagues speaks to your passion for music and Jewish life. Your devotion to Jewish and communal life is reflected in the many leadership positions you held with the ACC and in your Northern California community.

Congratulations on reaching this milestone celebration of service to our people. All of the more than 4,000 alumni of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion celebrate with you and Temple Sinai.

I applaud you on all that you have achieved, and wish you continued success, good health and fulfillment in all that you do.

With all best wishes from our house to yours...

In friendship,

Andrew Rehfeld, Ph.D.
President

Brookdale Center | One West Fourth Street, New York, NY 10012-1186 | 212.824.2201 | presoff@huc.edu | huc.edu
CINCINNATI JERUSALEM LOS ANGELES NEW YORK
Dear Cantor Keys,
Thank you for the many ways in which you have enriched our lives and our community over the years.

Your voice and presence have magnified our joy during times of simcha and celebration, comforted us in times of sorrow, and broadened our appreciation for the power of liturgical music to lift up our souls through prayerful song!

With deepest affection and appreciation,

Past Presidents of Temple Sinai:

Marilyn Teplow
Sue Bachman
Stephen Whitgob
Barbara Morrison
Jack Olshansky
Mark Snyder
Mary Triest
Lynn Simon
Arnie Brown
Barry Dubin
Mike Baker
Sam Schuchat
Sara Klein
Diamond Sponsors

Sing to God a new song

שירו ל’׳ שיר חדש שיר חדש
Congratulations to Cantor Keys; best wishes to her and the rest of our Sinai family.

Cantor Keys brings peace with her music and strength with her teaching, especially with the Bar/Bat Mitzvah kids. May many more of our children receive the benefit of her gifts.

Anonymous

♫
“The Hazaan is a person in whom a spiritual equation takes place, the equation of song and soul, of word and mind. The self and prayer are one.”

—Abraham Joshua Heschel

With deep gratitude for 25 years of outstanding service to our community

KOL HAKAVOD

May you go from Strength to Strength

DEBRA SCHOENBERG & FAMILY
Rabbi Yochanan the sandal maker says:
“Every assembly which is for the sake of Heaven will ultimately endure...”
Pirkei Avot, Ch. 4:14

Ilene, you add such beauty to the many assemblies of our family and our congregation--from weddings to holy days, funerals and more.

We are most grateful!

Robin Reiner and Fred Isaac
Maimonides Eight Degrees of Tzedakah

The Jewish ideals of Tzedakah were summarized and taught by Moses Maimonides (Rambam) a great teacher who lived in Spain and the Egypt. Maimonides believed that Tzedakah is like a ladder. It has eight rungs, from top to bottom. Each step you climb brings you closer to heaven.

1. The person who gives reluctantly and with regret.
2. The person who gives graciously, but less than one should.
3. The person who gives what one should, but only after being asked.
4. The person who gives before being asked.
5. The person who gives without knowing to whom he or she gives, although the recipient knows the identity of the donor.

6. The person who gives without making his or her identity known.

7. The person who gives without knowing to whom he or she gives. The recipient does not know from whom he or she receives.
8. The person who helps another to become self-supporting by a gift or a loan or by finding employment for the recipient.

This Diamond Donor chooses to give anonymously.
Mazel tov, Cantor Keys!
Thank you for sharing your gift of music with our community and our family.

Love,
The Friedman Family
Gold Sponsors

We sing before God a new song. Halleluyah.
Thank you for your friendship, your guidance, and the beauty of your spirit. We are so lucky to have you in our lives.

Mazel tov on 25 years!

With love, the Mates-Muchins
Silver Sponsors

הבה נשירה, שיר הلالויה

Let us all sing together. Sing Halleluyah.
To Cantor Ilene Keys

Mazel tov on 25 years in the Cantorate and at Temple Sinai.

May you continue to enrich the lives of all with the sound of your voice as you give inspirational meaning through prayer and song.

You give so much joy to the congregants of Temple Sinai and the community at large.

You make us proud!

We love you!

Stan and Dorothy Keys
Steve, Pam, Andrew and Sarah Keys
A True Sh’lichat Tzibur

For 25 years you have lifted the words of the prayers off the page and into our hearts.

The gematria of 25 equals the number of letters in the Shema so we listen as you go from strength to strength.

The Bobrowsky Family
Cantor...ר' העבר

Mazel tov!
Thank you for enriching our lives with your
love of Judaism,
your voice,
your enthusiasm
and your smile.

Rabbis Emeritus
Sam z”l and Judith z”l Broude
Steven and Leona Chester
Mazel tov and tremendous gratitude to 

**Cantor Ilene Keys**

for 25 years of service to Temple Sinai. 

Your dedication, your beautiful voice and spirit, 
and your remarkable professionalism 
are daily gifts to our community.

With thanks and love, 
The 2019-2020 Temple Sinai Board of Trustees

Jon Braslaw  
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Phil Witte  
Erik Zwerling
Ilene,
it has been a joy
to be together with you and Sam (z”l)
for nearly a decade,
speaking a language that has
connected us to each other and
to a culture we treasure.
In appreciation of
Monday afternoon Hebrew and with all our love!
Deena and Zvia

And ... with thanks for the exquisite language of your voice,
and for your part in creating Temple Sinai’s beautiful culture!
Deena and Michael
Cantor Ilene,

You have brought joy, music and spirituality to all of us for 25 years. May you continue to share your talents with your Sinai family for many more.

With appreciation,
Sue and Ron Bachman
Ilene,
Your voice is the silken thread weaving through our families’ lives and the life of our temple community.

Our simchas and celebrations, our times of sadness and our times of prayer and contemplation have all been made richer and more meaningful by you.

Congratulations on 25 years of your Cantorate. We love you and we thank you!

Lynn Simon & Larry Ginsburg
“Music gives a soul to the universe, 
wings to the mind, 
flight to the imagination, 
and life to everything.”

– Plato

Mazel tov on 25 years of service
to Temple Sinai!

Terrie and Len Goren
Dear Ilene,
Your voice lifts us up.
Thank you for helping me find my voice.
You changed my life.

May blessings and joy surround you
on your special anniversary.

With gratitude and love,
Valerie Sopher
Dear Ilene,

I have had the privilege of singing with you in choir since you came to Temple Sinai. I have watched you mature into a beautiful, caring, compassionate, and spiritual woman. You have instilled a spirituality in me through your music and loving character. I will forever be grateful for having you in my life as a leader and a friend.

Sandy Goldberg
We’re deeply grateful for your exquisite musicianship, your infectious ruach, and your personal kindness.

You are a gem.

Thank you!

Lisa Braver Moss & Mark Moss
Congratulations Cantor Keys for reaching this milestone!

You have supported our family during happy moments as well as moments of sadness and grief.

Through your amazing gift of song you have similarly lifted the spirits of our congregation in every type of service and life event.

We feel blessed and grateful to have you in our lives.

Mazel tov!

The Bar-Din/Levin family
MAZEL TOV!

Lora Thielbar
&
Robert Unger
Congratulations
from two of your
greatest fans!

Laurie Lieber
and
Phil Rubin
Dearest Ilene,
You continue to infused us with ruach and joy.
You continue to teach us and grow with us.
You continue to inspired us to always do and be better.

You have generously shared the bimah with us and
invited us to blend with you in elevating beautiful music.
You encouraged us to personalize our B’not Mitzvah.
You continue to honor us and treat us like family.
You have sat shiva with us and cried tears of joy with us.

It has been our privilege to watch your growth since day one.
We have been honored to participate in your
Bat Mitzvah Anniversary Celebration and now your
25th Anniversary as our Chazanit. We hope to sing at your 36th!
We feel very lucky to have you in our lives.

With love and gratitude,
Gordon, Sarah
& Mimi Fox and
Lynne Belmont

2004
“Music can name the unnameable and communicate the unknowable.”
—Leonard Bernstein

Thank you, Cantor Keys, for helping us reach those difficult-to-name places within ourselves and our world.

Sam Schuchat
Ilana DeBare
and Becca Schuchat
Cantor Keys,
Thank you for a quarter century
of gorgeous music,
treasured learning,
strong leadership
and warm friendship.

We are grateful
for all of the contributions
you have made
to our special congregation.

Eileen Ruby
Congratulations
and
best wishes
always

Carol and Jerry (z”l) Muchin
Dear Cantor Keys,

Mazel tov

on

25 Years!

Temple Sinai Staff
A TRUE STORY

Nearly a quarter century ago, President Barbara Morrison assigned Mike to prepare Cantor Key’s first multi-year contract. Sounded simple.

When they met, sort of trading roles, the Cantor presented Mike with the book, “Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In.”

Maybe not so simple. Still, driving home alone in his car, Mike sang, “This Could Be the Start of Something Big.” It was.

And we’ve all been happily saying, “Yes”! ever since.

Mazel tov to our wonderful cantor,

Linda and Mike Baker
Warmest congratulations...
appreciation...
admiration...
and love,
from

Your Temple Sinai Choir

---

Mazel Tov on 25 Years!

Our family has been educated and uplifted by your beautiful voice.
We join with the residents of the Lake Merritt Independent Senior Living in appreciation and gratitude for the many years you and your family have brought the light and blessings of Shabbat into our community.

Cheryl & Randall Berger, Owners

1800 Madison Street Oakland | 510.903.3600 | TheLakeMerritt.com
Mazel tov, Ilene, on your 25 years in the Cantorate. The whole Bobrowsky mishpucha is so proud of you and delighted to celebrate this milestone of your service to the Jewish community and Temple Sinai.

Love,
Joshua and Daniel, Rachel and Molly
Kevin and Riva, Anna, Jacob, and Ezra

So happy to participate in the celebration of Cantor Keys and your 25 years in the Cantorate. It was my honor to be on your search committee! Thank you for enriching the lives of all the congregants of Temple Sinai with your beautiful voice.

You are a real gift.

With love,
Nadyne Epstein
Dear Ilene,
Mazel tov on your 25 years. 
So proud to serve the Bay Area Jewish Community with you in song.

Cantor David Margules

Best wishes to Cantor Ilene Keys on the 25th anniversary of her cantorial leadership. 
Mazel tov on your special services and celebrations.

Robin and Rich Edwards
Mazel Tov to Cantor Keys on 25 years of musical inspiration, lifting our hearts and spirits in song!

With much appreciation from the Women of Temple Sinai (WTS)

Four generations of Peters Family Temple Sinai members honor Cantor Keys. We love that Cantor Keys prepared our grandson, Logan, for his Bar Mitzvah this year.”

Ronny and Caroline Peters
Thank you for bringing so much joy and meaning to our lives.

The Ewins, Pratt and Zusman Family

Mazel tov, Ilene on a wonderful 25 years!

Sandie Margulies & Bart Schenone
Cantor Keys

Todah Rabah for your soulful voice which enriches and transports our prayers, and adds enormous beauty to our Services.

Todah Rabah for being present and caring in times of simchas - and sadness.

Temple Sinai and the Morrison family are so fortunate that you have been our Cantor for the past 25 years. We look forward to continuing this relationship.

Barbara and Bob Morrison and family

CANTOR KEYS

Congratulations on 25 years at Temple Sinai

We feel fortunate to have enjoyed your glorious voice for so many years.

Paramount Theatre Board & Management
How good and pleasant it is to dwell together in unity.

Congratulations Cantor Keys on 25 years!

St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Berkeley
Blake Sawicky, Rector
George Emblom, Director of Music

Honoring the joyous and inspirational gift of Jewish music.

Joan Waranoff
In appreciation of Cantor’s 25 years of beautiful music! Here is hope for many more years.

Denise and Neil Jacobson

Cantor Keys,
Thank you for guiding us with your voice, your spirit, and your eternal positivity.

We are so grateful for all you do for our community!

With love from The Daoust family
Mazel tov
Cantor Keys.

The Brotherhood of Temple Sinai

In appreciation for your absolutely beautiful music, voice, warmth, humor and dedication you share within our community.

Mazel tov!
Amy Jo, Aaron, Max and Ben Goldfarb

You brought such joy into Avigdor’s life and mine.

Thank you for all the years.

Marion Bar-Din

Dear Cantor Keys,
Thank you very much for all you have contributed to the Temple Sinai community during your 25 years.

Thank you, especially, for all that you have done for us and meant to us personally over the years.
We are looking forward to all the years to come.

With heartfelt appreciation,
Anne and Alexis Brandon
Mazel tov to a very special person.

Marty Aufhauser

Happy 25th!!
In appreciation of 25 beautiful years —
Mazel tov!!!
The Broude and Stein families

With appreciation for your 25 years!
Terry Pink Alexander and Family

To the very best Cantor of all time —
All our love,
Marty (z”l) and Stan Ross
Women Of The Wall
We supported pluralism in Israel, celebrated 25 years of women’s struggle to pray, sing, wear Talitot, and read from Torah at the Kotel; and had a terrific time traveling with Cantor Ilene and Rabbi Jacqueline: they knew the best shops, jewelers and restaurants!

Stephanie Reif, Sherri Richards, Molly Rosen, Rabbi, Cantor, Laurie Leiber, Trish Elliott, Dawn Kepler, Matti Fromson, Karen Tiedemann, Lisa Braver Moss

Cantor Keys, Mazel tov on 25 years!
Thank you for allowing us to bring the joy of Shabbat through music with you on Mizmor Shir! Fridays and other occasions.

Gratefully, the Mizmor Shir! Band

Mazel tov Cantor Keys!

Thank you for all you do.
You have been an inspiration to our family and a role model and leader along my own personal Jewish journey to the Cantorate.

Todah Rabah
Cantor Fran Burgess & the Zirulnik Family

Brava. Encore.

With appreciation,
Jacob and Louise Epstein
Wishing Cantor Ilene a Mazel tov on her 25th year musical milestone at Temple Sinai, and yasher koach. With love and appreciation from The Chavurahniks, 28 years together!

Seated: Myra Feiger, Marvis Brodke, Bootie Charon, Tom Flynn z”l.
Remembering: J.B. Bresler, Robert Meghnagi, Stan Schonberger Monique Schonberger, Tom Flynn

In celebration of Cantor Keys

Barry & Dori Dubin

Dear Ilene ~
Go on singing a new song to God

With much love,
Yoni, Lara, and
Noah Regev

Ilene —
From your first day, you contributed to the quality of life at Temple Sinai.

Mazel tov for the first 25 years.
More to come.

Jack Olshansky
Cantor Ilene,
You are the reason I'm a Cantor.
Thank you for your lifelong mentoring,
your humility, and your caring.
I am forever appreciative of you!

Love, Cantor Elaya Jenkins-Adelberg

Blessings and love always and for another 25 years!!! We are deeply appreciative and grateful to you, Ilene! You have enriched our lives and our family, touched our neshamas beyond words. Todah rabah for your friendship, gift of Chazanut and sharing your love of Broadway musicals! What about that Hamilton in NYC!

Love,
Jody and Luanne Jenkins-Adelberg

Flora and Bob Feldman thank you for your leadership, your warmth, your enthusiasm for the adult choir, and, of course, your lovely voice.

Mazel tov, Cantor Keys, for this milestone anniversary at Temple Sinai.
Thank you for enriching Jewish prayer through music, song, and your voice.

Dina Wolkoff
Mazel tov to Cantor Ilene Keys for 25 years at Temple Sinai!

We are privileged to have you as a Bay Area cantorial colleague!

With love, your neighborhood Congregation Emanu-El Cantors.

Cantor Arik Luck
Cantor Marsha Attie
Cantor Roz Barak

Mazel tov to Cantor Ilene Keys on 25 years with Temple Sinai!

All four generations of our family have been touched, inspired, and enriched by your voice, your caring, your dedication, your ruach!

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Todah rabah from our hearts to yours,
Marilyn Levinson
Ilene Levinson and Rem van Tijen
Michelle van Tijen and Josh Gould
Reuben and Zeb Gould

Congratulations and thank you for all the joy and pleasure you’ve brought us.

Audrey Adler

We love your music! It magnifies the spirituality at Temple Sinai.

With love and wishes for many more years of song,

Anita, Howard, Becca, and Lily Backer
Rachel Backer-Klein, Sasha, and Marshall Klein

We are blessed to have you in our lives. Thank you for the beautiful music, the dedicated teaching and the support you have brought to our family. Here’s to another 25.

Lovingly,
Jon, Jenny, Celia and Laurel Ettinger

With Appreciation
The Stephen Block Family
Mazel tov, Cantor Keys! May you continue to go from strength to strength, inspiring your congregation with your music and beautiful heart!

Sending love from the East Coast, Cantor Chanin Becker & Josh Rosen

Cantor Keys — “Thank you for the music, the songs we’re singing, Thanks for all the joy they’re bringing....”

Elaine Bachrach - Hebrew Lessons for Individuals or Classes, 510-530-7616

Congratulations Cantor Keys on 25 years of singing from the heart.

Thank you,
The Freed Family

Thank you for all the years of inspiring music, support, and guidance.

With love and gratitude,
Susan and Gary Forman

TO MY COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND -

MAZEL TOV ON 25 YEARS AS A SWEET SINGER OF ISRAEL

WITH LOVE,
CANTOR JENNIFER FROST

Mazel tov on your 25 years of service —
We love your music!

Hannah Goody

We love you!

Hulda, Alex
Fifi, Laine
&
Rocco

With gratitude,
Kurt, Nagisa, Lena, Toby and Ella Fleischer
Mazel tov Cantor Keys
Linda Lavelle

Dear Cantor,
Thank you for sharing your beautiful voice and music. It’s meant so much.
Jeremy W. Potash

With love to Cantor Keys, whose beautiful voice brings joy to our hearts.
Jack and Lila (z”l) Wahrhaftig

Mazel tov to my dear friend and wonderful colleague, Cantor Ilene Keys and her beautiful family, on this amazing milestone! I remember when!
Much love,
Cantor Rebecca Garfein and Family

L’dor V’dor 
לדור ודור
From generation to generation
Gail Zwerdling Nelson (z”l)
Linda Zwerdling & Joel Berger
Rita Zwerdling
Thank you Cantor Keys for your tutoring when I prepared for my Bat Mitzvah. Thank you for your years of leadership in service and song!

Joan Steber

To Ilene
Beautiful inside and out — all of Temple Sinai’s love, peace and spirituality are in your voice.

Joanne Rocklin and Gerry Nelson

Thank you Cantor Keys for your tutoring when I prepared for my Bat Mitzvah. Thank you for your years of leadership in service and song!

Joan Steber
I am so very proud of Ilene on this her 25th anniversary at Temple Sinai. I was with her on the day of her installation and reflected then on what we had predicted she would be when she was a little girl. Ilene always strives for excellence in everything she does and she is devoted to always doing her best. She possesses an angelic voice that brings us closer to God in a spiritual way and uplifts our neshamot, souls. Ilene is an outstanding example in the cantorate of loving our tradition, Jewish music, the Jewish people and Israel. Her love for her family, friends and congregation are testimony to her menchlachkite, humanity and goodness. She inspires me and blesses me with her success. May the Almighty give her a long, healthy and productive life with love surrounding her. To my colleague and friend, Mazel tov and from strength to strength. Your proud colleague and mentor,
- Cantor Nathan Lam

I am so blessed to do this holy work each day. From the time of my Bat Mitzvah, I knew that I wanted to pursue the cantorate. My childhood cantor, Nathan Lam, guided me, inspired me, and instilled in me the love of Jewish music and Judaism. I will be forever grateful to him for leading me to this sacred calling. I am appreciative to all those who have graciously supported and embraced me throughout my 25 years at Temple Sinai: the rabbis; George Emblom, our organist and choir director; the executive directors, educators and preschool and youth directors; administrative and custodial staff; musicians and choirs; board of trustees, committee members, and congregants. Thank you for enabling me to make the most of my leadership and serve this holy community. For your loving guidance, I am infinitely grateful.

There is a saying that if you love what you do, you will never work a day in your life. My experience at Temple Sinai has never felt like a job, but always a labor of love. Temple Sinai is my home, a place where I am profoundly connected and have formed deep roots. Indeed, my 25 years of leading Temple Sinai in prayer has been both a rewarding responsibility as well as a service of blessing and gratitude.

I pray that I may continue to do my part in the holy work of sustaining tradition, which for me, began with seeing my own Cantor Nathan Lam bring spiritual fulfillment and meaning to thousands of Jews. God, give me the strength to do the same for those with whom I pray, celebrate, and comfort. The enduring presence of the Temple Sinai community in my life has filled me with holiness and enriched my connections to Judaism and its rich traditions. Thank you for allowing me to do this sacred task with people I cherish and to see the spark of God in others and in myself.
- Cantor Ilene Keys