



TEMPLE SINAI

From Rabbi Ross

There's something in the air at Temple Sinai, in an energy that rises when you walk up to the door. I'm thinking of Martin Buber's *I-Thou* relationship, the kind of warm, open and rich relationship that is the hallmark of Temple Sinai. I look forward to our relationship, as I get to know Rabbi Gershon, Cantor Shemesh, the staff and your Temple leaders. They are devoted and strong, and represent you so well through their warmth, caring and integrity.

I admire Temple Sinai's many achievements, such as the embrace of Temple Emanu-El, and the creation of the Temple Emanu-El Holocaust Center, which demonstrate a remarkable vision and capacity that any congregation would do well to learn from and emulate. Our time together begins as I meet B'nai Mitzvah and Confirmation families, as I become familiar with your ways of worship, and more. And as we lift up Temple Sinai's accomplishments, we will enter a spirituality that hides in very plain sight.

For instance, the Temple Sinai Sanctuary Window Etchings include a panel, "Love of God," highlighting the words of the *V'Ahavta* prayer, "You shall love the Eternal, your God." Martin Buber teaches that we love God when we love each other, as you do as Temple Sinai family, extended family and community by caring for kids in the pre-school and in the Confirmation and Bar and Bat Mitzvah programs, offering wholehearted attention to members in need, and in worship services, adult learning, and relations with the extended community. It's in the air when you are at home at Temple Sinai as *I and Thou*, in the excitement, curiosity, and hopeful spiritual feelings that fill this lovely synagogue building.

I am deeply touched by the trust that you place in me, and for the privilege to serve as your Intentional Interim Rabbi. I look forward to meeting you at Shabbat services, Temple events and when we sit down to talk, person-to-person, in the year ahead.