



## Rabbi's Message

### Celebrating Freedom on Chanukah

In 168 B.C.E., Antiochus IV, ruler of the Seleucid Empire, decided that he wanted his entire kingdom to worship the Greek gods. He outlawed Judaism, looted our ancient Temple, placed an altar to Zeus in the Temple, and massacred many Jews who refused to succumb to his wishes. As part of Antiochus' plan, Seleucid soldiers forced the Jews to an altar for Zeus in the town of Modiin. One of the leading Jews of the town approached the altar to worship Zeus when Mattathias, father of the Maccabees, took his sword and stabbed the man to death. Then many of the rest of the Jews rose up against the Seleucid soldiers to fight for their freedom. After many long and difficult years of battle, the tiny Jewish army was able to win a miraculous victory against the much larger Seleucid army. Against all odds, we were able to secure our political freedom and our freedom of worship. The Maccabees rededicated the Temple for our worship and decreed that we should celebrate this great victory for eight days.

When we light our Chanukah candles starting on the evening of December 18th, we are lighting candles that symbolize our fight for freedom. We are very fortunate to live in a country where we are allowed to worship in freedom and to participate in choosing who rules over us. While we are fortunate to experience such freedoms, not everybody has the same freedoms that we enjoy. Russia has a modern-day Antiochus as its leader. Like the Maccabees, the Ukrainians are outnumbered and do not have equivalent weaponry, but they continue to fight for their freedom. Hopefully like the Maccabees they will one day be able to celebrate a miraculous victory. In Iran, a young woman was murdered by police enforcing an oppressive law requiring women to dress modestly. Mass protests have arisen seeking an end to such oppressive tactics. These protestors are modern day Maccabees fighting for religious freedom. In China, the Chinese government has been committing human rights abuses against the Uygur people including detention in internment camps, forced labor, and forced sterilization. The Uygur people are the Maccabees suffering through years of abuse at the hands of more powerful tyrant.

As we celebrate this joyous holiday, let us not forget the sacrifices of the Maccabees and their fight for our freedom. The Chanukah story can inspire us to continue to fight for freedom in places where people are denied basic human rights. As we light our candles, let us think about the people of Ukraine, the people of Iran, the Uygur people, and all people throughout the world who are struggling for freedom.

Rabbi Jeremy Master

## Friday Services

7 p.m. unless otherwise noted

### November

4 - Service	7:00 p.m.
11 - Veterans Day Regular Service	7:00 p.m.
Guest speaker, Mark Zaid	
Children's Shabbat	5:30 p.m.
18 - Service	7:00 p.m.
25 - Service	7:00 p.m.

### December

2 - Children's Shabbat service	5:30 p.m.
Service	7:00 p.m.
9 - Service	7:00 p.m.
16 - Service	7:00 p.m.
23 - Latke dinner	6:00 p.m.
followed by Chanukah Service	7:00 p.m.
30 - Service	7:00 p.m.

### B'nai Mitzvahs in November

November 5 - David Goldberg

November 19 - Mathieu Schapiro

November 26 - Alana Tucker

Look for information and RSVPs for dinners  
in the weekly E-vents

## JUDAICA SHOP CORNER

And now we are heading towards Chanukah. Many families celebrate Thanksgiving together with Chanukah, before the "snowbirds" fly away.

We will be ready with menorahs, candles, toys and games and much, much more.

We'll have many extra open days and longer hours. Watch the E-vents for them.

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## President's Message - Rich Alpert

What has Sinai Temple accomplished in the last year, what are our strengths and what challenges do we still face? Well, there is good news and other news.

The good news is that Sinai enters the new year strong, vibrant, and creative. I want to highlight just a few examples.

B'Yachad, meaning "being together," our religious school opened September 11th. B'Yachad is the result of collaboration between Sinai Temple and Temple Beth El and replaces each of the Temples' separate schools. Molly Bajgot, who has provided outstanding leadership, creativity, and organization, is the director of the school. Most of the teachers are the same as those who have been teaching at the two separate schools. B'Yachad has its own Board of Directors with co-chairs from each temple and its own budget. The school covers pre-K through 12th grade, including an exciting teen program. Religious school classes will take place on Sundays at Sinai for the first semester and at Beth El in the Spring and will provide individualized Hebrew throughout the week. Not only will our students benefit from B'Yachad, the Temple will save money by sharing expenses with Beth El.

But, B'Yachad is more than a new school. It is the result of the collaboration, not merger, across denominational lines of two distinct institutions each with its own culture, practices, and modes of operation. It represents something innovative in the Jewish world, the willingness of different religious movements to cooperate to create something of mutual benefit. As a consequence, the school will offer the opportunity for students from different traditions to learn together, to become comfortable in different religious settings, and to form friendships with a wider range of students than would otherwise be the case. The school has surpassed its goal with an enrollment of 80 students and we look forward to an exciting and path breaking year of Jewish education.

This last year, Sinai celebrated eight B'nai Mitzvahs and we expect eight more this fiscal year. Each b'nai mitzvah is a representation of the passing down of our sacred tradition and a leap of faith that that tradition will endure. But, there is an old joke about a temple with a mouse problem. An exterminator was called and still the temple was overcome with mice. The Rabbi said not to worry. He would take care

of the problem. The next day all the mice were gone. When asked how he did it, the Rabbi replied that it was easy. I b'nai mitzvahed them all and you will never see them again. This is a result we want to avoid and B'Yachad will offer programs and activities to keep post-b'nai mitzvah students connected to the Temple and to Jewish life.

Sinai, under the leadership of Molly Bajgot and Nina Levson and the help of Matt Bertuzzi, has created a garden. This is not just an effort to grow plants, although if any of you have done gardening you know that that is a major challenge in itself. The garden is part of an educational effort to teach children the connections between Jewish observance and certain foods, to grow crops, learn about the cycle of the seasons, to work the land, and to participate in outdoor education.

Sinai is financially strong. Many thanks goes to Geoff Berman who for over 20 years has managed the congregation's investments with dedication, skill, and flexibility.

I am grateful to all of you for the contributions you have made that allows us to enter the year with a very strong balance sheet and a balanced operating budget. Your pledge commitments and donations to Campaign Today, Celebrate Tomorrow, as Sustaining Members, and on-going gifts to our various funds put us in an enviable financial situation and provides an anchor of stability for the future.

That was the good news. Now the other news.

Fewer and fewer Jews want what Judaism as a religion has to offer. Surveys continue to show a significant decline in the number of Jews for whom religious practice is an important part of their lives. People of "no religion" continue to grow as a proportion of the Jewish population and institutional affiliation is not attractive even for those for whom religion is important. Assimilation has been a blessing, but it has also taken away some of the incentives for Jews to come together in communities of their own. In a sense, religion, including Judaism, is a shrinking market and a declining industry. This is not simply a Sinai problem. If we look around, Catholic parishes are closing and Protestant pews are more and more empty. These institutions, and our own, are populated by a sacred remnant of older congregants. Sinai's congregation, like many others is aging with fewer and fewer young families replacing those who have aged out.

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The Sinai Temple Bulletin is published six times a year by Sinai Temple, Springfield, Massachusetts. This is Issue Number 2 for 2022-2023.

Jeremy Master ..... Rabbi  
Mark Dov Shapiro z"l ..... Rabbi Emeritus  
Molly Bajgot ..... Director of Education,  
B'Yachad Springfield  
Rich Alpert ..... President

Robin Fein-Krevolin ..... Vice President  
Sarah Shtrax ..... Vice President  
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Mandy Greene ..... Financial Secretary

Therefore, we face two challenges. The first is how to gain new members, primarily from the lower Pioneer Valley, whose Jewish population is growing very slowly compared to the upper valley. Nevertheless, our membership committee, chaired by Laurie Weinberg, along with Rabbi Master, have done a great job and in the last 12 months, we have gained 15 new household members and plans are in place to reach out to other potential congregants. Our tot Shabbat program as well as B'Yachad are strong components of the strategy to bring new, young families into the congregation.

The other challenge is equally difficult. We have to reexamine what we offer as a Reform temple to align more closely with what people want from religion. The traditional model for Reform temples is that people pay dues in exchange for the temple providing religious services and rituals for life cycle events: a bris, a baby naming, B'nai Mitzvah, marriage, and death. Temples seek to create a community through offering lectures, discussion, movies and establishing a Sisterhood and Brotherhood. Congregations focus on social action and involve congregants in tikun olam as we have done with such efforts as our sponsorship of the Timori family from Afghanistan, and our very successful Mitzvah Day.

However, except for a relatively few congregations, mainly in large cities, this model no longer works as it once did. Fewer and fewer congregants, except for the High Holidays, come to what we have to offer and those who do attend and on whom we can count for doing the work of the Temple are the same people over and over. Of course, COVID made the underlying problem worse and we hope that we will emerge from its grip and return to greater participation in the Temple. But, this will not be enough. The underlying issues and trends are not in favor of a robust return to engagement with Reform Judaism generally nor Sinai Temple in particular.

So, what is to be done? Some suggest that we adopt a relational model arguing that congregational life is all about fostering deep relationships rather than focusing on attendance at programs, that creating, enduring connections between congregants and the Temple is the path to success. Engagement is not attracting people to one program or another, but rather in developing deep connections that transcend any particular activity. There is definitely some truth in this argument and Sinai needs to ensure that it is open, welcoming, and capable of creating strong, enduring connections with each of its congregants.

Others advocate that we adopt a more Chabad like model, no dues and audacious hospitality. But, Chabad cannot be our future. Although we can certainly learn from its openness, its style of religious commitment and observance, its form of prayer and ritual, its interpretation of Torah, are incompatible with Reform Judaism.

Others look to small groups, to chaverot and to individual expressions of worship. However, Judaism and the Jewish people will not prosper based on such individualized, small group experiences. Institutions, such as our own, are essential to maintain the core of beliefs, culture, history, and ritual, needed to sustain the Jewish people for the long term.

We are strong. We are successful. So, this is the time to reexamine who we are as Sinai Temple. What is it that distinctively defines what we do that is relevant and meaningful in the changed environment in which we find ourselves? We need a clear vision that in practical ways addresses what current and prospective congregants want from Sinai Temple. Last High Holidays I spoke of making Sinai Temple your second Jewish home. Throughout the year, I will be asking you to help define what that home should look like, to become architects of our future.

Along with the Rabbi, I believe that this home should be about spirituality and values, about what Judaism teaches us about how to live our lives every day in a meaningful and moral way. This approach is already central to the curriculum of B'Yachad which focuses weekly on a Jewish value. Despite the lack of interest in religion and institutional affiliation, people still struggle with critical life decisions, with finding a right path when in doubt and facing conflicting pressures and life choices.

Judaism has thousands of years of thought and experience about living life well even under extreme adversity. It has much to offer in guiding our lives and up-lifting our spirits. When in doubt and despair, when in a moral quandary, when wanting to express joy and thanksgiving, we can ask what does Judaism say and we will find an answer.

Given our demography and the environment in which we exist in the lower Pioneer Valley, Sinai Temple will become smaller. But, as we become smaller can we also find a new vision of what we want to be so that we address the real needs and aspirations of those we want to serve? Defining this vision will be one of the great tasks of the coming year.

Many times during its long history, Judaism, and synagogues particularly, have had to reinvent themselves. Generations past have met those challenges with courage and innovation. This time has come again. Judaism has a three-thousand-year history of offering important ideas, ways of worship, and addressing the human condition. Our job is to look to this tradition and decide what of Judaism is most relevant to our times. This is an exciting prospect and I look forward to joining you in finding the best way to move Sinai Temple to a successful and sustainable future.

Rich Alpert, *President*

# Letter from Director of Education

Molly Bajgot - director@byachadspringfield.org



Dear Sinai Temple Community,

September and October brought many wonderful changes! We successfully kicked off our school year with our new collaborative religious school, *B'Yachad*, serving both the Sinai Temple and Temple Beth El community. We are now eighty-four students and forty-seven families strong, and we have a flourishing garden in which *B'Yachad* students have begun harvesting flowers for Sukkah decorations and herbs to dry for *b'samim* (havdallah spice bags)!

These past two months have also brought the growing pains of a new endeavor, as we all learn to listen to each other, navigate through educational choices and changes, and get our sea legs as a new community. I have been very grateful for our Religious School Education Committee who helped to triage and design a creative dismissal plan for our almost double-the-size school dismissal, and to all who continue to invest their time and effort in the future of this very worthwhile endeavor of being together as *B'Yachad*.

*B'Yachad* classes took place throughout the High Holiday season with students revisiting the yearly themes offered by Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur: gratitude, reflection, forgiveness, and t'shuvah (returning). In November we will begin our Creation Unit where younger students will focus on stories from *B'reishit* and older students will look at creation through different lenses - b'tzelem elohim (being created in the image of G-d), creation of the Jewish people, and creation in the garden.

At the end of October, all *B'Yachad* students will have the opportunity to participate in Sinai Temple's 90th anniversary

celebration, placing letters and objects in a time capsule that will be buried in the Mitzvah Garden and dug up in 2032! I look forward to celebrating this milestone in Sinai's history alongside students and families.

In December, our students will turn their learning to Hanukkah, the story of the Maccabees, and the stories of Jewish heroes, past and present. Our high school students, who will be studying Social Action through November and December, will be heading to the Religious Action Center (RAC) in DC with Rabbi Master. This trip has been a highlight for many students in the past and we don't expect anything different this year! After the program being on hiatus due to COVID, we have seven excited students (and a very excited Rabbi) heading down South.

With the turning of the leaves and the shortening of the days, I feel a natural invitation to go inward and notice the breadth of all these changes - what has changed for me in the last year, and what has changed for our school. Perhaps you, too, have felt some big changes in your life over this past year. As we all shift and turn and change together, let's keep cheering each other on.

A continued *shana tova*.

## B'Yachad Dates

**November 19th, 2022 - B'Yachad Shabbat morning service @ Temple Beth El**



B'Yachad's 4th grade class gathers in the Sinai Mitzvah garden to harvest herbs for b'samim bags

## Notes from the Garden Manager & Educator *By Nina Levison*

nina@sinai-temple.org

***Shana tova* everyone! Hope you've been having a sweet and spiritually enhancing New Year.**

This fall in the garden, we've been engaging our newly merged *B'yachad* Religious School in all kinds of ways—making marigold chains for our sukkah, harvesting herbs for *havdalah* spice bags, foraging local lulav and etrogs, and picking fruits and flowers for our families at home and at JGS.

As I type, we are preparing for our Harvest Festival on Saturday October 15th. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you there. And then before you know it, it will be time to put the garden to bed for the winter. Thank you for a great inaugural year.



The Mitzvah Garden and Temple with herbs picked, bundled and hung (in the foreground) by B'Yachad 4th graders.



B'Yachad 7th graders harvest and assemble local lulavs and etrogs



5783 Sukkah setup 2022

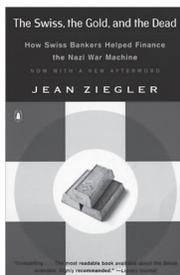
From left: Michael Gordon March Flanagan, Matt Bertuzzi, Mike Solon, Tanya Moyal, Benjamin Tansky, Richard Alpert and Steve Katz. – Michael S. Gordon photo. October 2, 2022

# Adult Opportunities

## Book Club

**November 16 at 7 p.m.** we are reading:  
*The Swiss, the Gold, and the Dead: How Swiss Bankers Helped Finance the Nazi War Machine* by Jean Ziegler

Responsible for an international firestorm of controversy, this European bestseller examines revelations of how Switzerland bankrolled Nazi Germany's war effort, and then refused to address Holocaust survivors' claims for reparations.



**Info for the first documentary:** *The Fourth Window- Amos Oz*

Behind the international success story of Amos Oz, a symbol of the Israeli conscience and a writer translated into 45 languages, lurked a double tragedy. When he was 12-years-old his mother committed suicide, and a few years before his death his daughter accused him of being physically and mentally violent, ending all communication with him. A series of conversations with his latest biographer presented in the film, weaves biographical passages, literature and conversations with the main people in his life, as Amos Oz tells his last story.



**December date TBD-** We are reading *Judas* by Amos Oz.

At once an exquisite love story and a coming-of-age novel, an allegory for the state of Israel and for the biblical tale from which it draws its title, *Judas* is one of Amos Oz's most powerful novels.

The discussion in December will be part of a series of documentary movies about Israeli authors. The discussions will be led by Israeli scholar Rachel Korazim.

## Movie Chavurah

**Tuesday, November 8 at 7 p.m.**

The November movie is *GI Jews*.

The film can be watched on the PBS web-site. This is the profound and remarkable story of the 550,000 Jewish Americans who served their country in World War II. These brave men and women fought for their nation and for Jewish people worldwide. Like all Americans, they fought against fascism, but they also waged a more personal fight – to save their brethren in Europe. Jewish servicemen were also among the first to assist the survivors of the Nazi concentration camps liberated by American troops. After years of struggle, these soldiers emerged transformed, more powerfully American and more deeply Jewish, determined to continue the fight for equality and tolerance at home. (from the PBS web-site)

**December 4** Sunday morning breakfast with speaker Abraham Rodstein at 11am. He is a Holocaust survivor who will be speaking about his experiences.

See E-vents for details.

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**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2022 @ 6:00-8:00 PM**

Join speakers, Reverend Ute Schmidt, Hartford Hospital Chaplain and Dr. Rachel Rubenstein, Dean of the Springfield College, School of Arts and Sciences.

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2022 @ 6:00-8:00 PM**

Discussion of Dara Horn's book: "*People Love Dead Jews*"  
Facilitated by: Linda Cardillo Platzer and Rev. Ute Schmidt.  
(You don't need to have read the book to participate)



**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2022 @ 6:00-8:00 PM**

An Interfaith Community Discussion Facilitated by Rev. Ute Schmidt.

Scan the QR code to view a video interview with Dara Horn!

<https://youtu.be/E9CvCs5F7Cg>



# *Happy Birthday to our congregants including children born in November and December*

## **November Birthdays**

Elliet Aronson  
 Judith August  
 Daniel Bashein  
 Andrew Bernstein  
 Betsy Bertuzzi  
 Henry Blake  
 Rebecca Blake  
 Paula Braverman  
 Laura Broad  
 Madeline Brunette  
 Emma Brunette  
 Megan Burns  
 Jessie Carleton  
 Avery Cartun  
 Rebecca Cohen-Lindfors  
 Claire Cohen-Stelzer  
 Mark Cutler  
 Cary Dash  
 Sheri DelGallo  
 Elizabeth Dolman  
 Avery Dunaisky  
 Daniel Engelman  
 Daniel Engelman  
 Bonnie Engelman  
 Donna Fisher  
 Amelia Flanberg  
 Samuel Freedman  
 David Goldberg  
 Mark Goldman  
 Lawrence Goodman  
 Sydney Greenberg  
 Matthew Grodd  
 Amy Halpern  
 Beatrice Hano  
 Karen Haskin  
 Roberta Hillenberg-Gang  
 Joshua Hurwitz  
 Benjamin Jacobs  
 Miranda Jennings  
 Lisa Katz  
 Ruth Katz  
 Linda Kay  
 Margie Klein  
 Adam Krevolin  
 Estelle Leavitt  
 Rebecca Lesser  
 Daniel Mikesh  
 Bonnie Mikesh

Susan Mirkin  
 David Morse  
 David Morse  
 Ronald Nadel  
 Belle Rita Novak  
 Julie Ochs  
 Rebecca Ochs  
 Adria Patterson  
 Sarah Paysnick  
 Brent Perlmutter  
 Irwin Pers  
 Lucas Pers  
 Audrey Rome  
 Heather Rowles  
 Ross Sadowsky  
 Harriet Samol  
 Richard Segool  
 Marla Shelasky  
 Jacob Shore-Suslowitz  
 Michelle Shrair  
 Peter Smith  
 Aidric Snow  
 Emily Steingart  
 Roberta Steingart  
 Mark Stone  
 Bonnie Thomas  
 Carol Tivoli  
 Aidan Tucker  
 Ian Tucker  
 Alana Tucker  
 Melanie Vogel  
 Shari Vogel  
 Hannah Wald  
 Wendy Webber  
 Allison Webber  
 Emma Weber  
 Joseph Whalen

## **December Birthdays**

Richard Alpert  
 Joseph Amster  
 Jon Aronson  
 Sharon Band  
 Randy Barr  
 Jared Bertuzzi  
 Daniel Blanchard  
 Maureen Burns  
 Jeffrey Cartun  
 David Cohen

Eileen Cooley  
 Benjamin Cooper  
 Sherry Dickerman  
 Jennifer Ehrlich  
 Thais Fischel  
 Mark Flanagan  
 Rachel Freedman  
 Patricia Freedman  
 Michael Freedman  
 Marla Geha  
 Candy Glazer  
 Dana Goldman  
 Arielle Goldman  
 Heather Goldstein  
 Arlene Goodman  
 Taylor Gordenstein  
 Lee Grayboff  
 Kevin Greenberg  
 Kevin Greenberg  
 Allen Grosnick  
 Owen Halpern  
 Ethan Halpern  
 Sherry Himmelstein  
 Michael Hirshberg  
 Miguel Hollander  
 David Katz  
 Ethan Klotz  
 Lucille Leavitt  
 Gary Levine  
 Amy Lotterman  
 Buff Maniscalco  
 Shayla McDonagh  
 Richard Merrill  
 Robert Mikesh  
 Ben Mikesh  
 Nadine Minor

Sarah Monge  
 Stephen Monge  
 Elizabeth Morgan  
 Aaron Neiman  
 Bredine Pennington  
 Jerry Plumb  
 Linda Radding  
 Amy Rediker  
 David Reiner  
 Bryan Richton  
 Daniel Richton  
 A. Seth Roberts  
 Kathleen Roberts  
 David Rosenberg  
 Marsha Rothschild  
 George Sachs  
 Jeffrey Schneider  
 Judith Seldow  
 Simon Sherman  
 Rebecca Shore-Suslowitz  
 Sara Skolnick  
 Alisha Snow  
 Deborah Solah  
 Jeffrey Solomon  
 Lisa Starr  
 Amy Lynn Stelzer  
 Melissa Stern  
 Marlene Stone  
 Tracy Weagle  
 Jamie Webber  
 Jacob Webber  
 Lauren Webber  
 David Weinberg  
 Leslie Weisenberg  
 Mitchell Weisenberg



# SAVE THE DATES

**Friday, November 11**

Veteran's Day service including zoom with Mark Zaid, grandson of our first rabbi, an Army chaplain instrumental in post-Holocaust

**Saturday, November 19**

B'Yachad Shabbat morning service at Temple Beth El

**Friday, December 23**

Chanukah service with latke dinner starting at 6 p.m.

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# Mark Zaid, Special Holocaust Speaker at Sinai



**November 11**, we are having a special speaker, Mark Zaid, grandson of Sinai Temple's first Rabbi, David Max Eichorn. He is going to speak about Rabbi Eichorn's experiences in World War II. He appeared in PBS' *The Perilous Fight: America's World War II in Color* (2003) and *GI JEWS:*

*Jewish Americans in World War II* (2018). His grandfather is most recently featured in Episode 3 of Ken Burns' latest documentary on PBS *The US and the Holocaust* (2022).

Mark S. Zaid is a Washington, D.C. based attorney who specializes in crisis management and innovatively handling simple and complex administrative and litigation matters primarily relating to national security, international law, foreign sovereign and diplomatic immunity, and the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts.

Through his practice Mr. Zaid often represents former/current federal employees, particularly intelligence and military officers, defense contractors, Whistleblowers and others who have grievances, have been wronged or are being investigated by agencies of the United States Government or foreign governments, as well as members of the media. Mr. Zaid teaches the D.C. Bar Continuing Legal Education classes on "The Basics of Filing and Litigating Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Requests" (since 2003), "Defending Security Clearances" (since 2006) and "Handling Whistleblower Cases: More Than the Basics" (since 2016).

Mark S. Zaid is a Washington, D.C. based attorney who specializes in crisis management and innovatively handling simple and complex administrative and litigation matters primarily relating to national security, international law, foreign sovereign and diplomatic immunity, and the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts.

Since 2009, he has been named a Washington, D.C. Super Lawyer every year (including being profiled) and he is repeatedly named a "Best Lawyer" in Washingtonian

Magazine's bi-annual designation for his national security or whistleblower work. The Magazine also named him one of D.C.'s 250 and 500 Most Influential People in 2021 and 2022, respectively, for national security.

In 2020, the Washington Metropolitan Employment Lawyer's Association named him "Attorney of the Year" for his work on the Intelligence Community Whistleblower's case. As the National Law Journal once wrote, "if Agent Mulder ever needed a lawyer, Zaid would be his man."

Mr. Zaid is also the Executive Director and founder of the James Madison Project, a Washington, D.C.-based organization with the primary purpose of educating the public on issues relating to intelligence gathering and operations, secrecy policies, national security and government wrongdoing. Additionally, Mr. Zaid is an adjunct professor at Johns Hopkins University in the Global Security Studies program where he teaches on national security issues. In 2017, Mr. Zaid co-founded Whistleblower Aid, a non-profit law firm that provides pro bono legal representation to whistleblowers, particularly in the national security arena.

In connection with his legal practice, Mr. Zaid has testified before, or provided testimony to, a variety of governmental bodies including the Senate Judiciary Committee, the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, the House Judiciary Committee, the House Government Operations Committee, the Department of Energy, the Public Interest Declassification Board and the Assassination Records Review Board. From 2014-2016, he served as an appointed Member by the Archivist of the United States to the Freedom of Information Act Advisory Committee. "Curiously for this town," once wrote the American Bar Association Journal, "Zaid is an equal opportunity thorn out to pierce the sides of suit jackets bearing both elephants and donkeys on the lapels."

A 1992 graduate and Associate Editor of the Law Review of Albany Law School of Union University in New York, he completed his undergraduate education (cum laude) in 1989 at the University of Rochester, New York with honors in Political Science and high honors in History. Mr. Zaid is a member of the Bars of New York State, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Maryland and numerous federal courts.