

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

I think each of us has a special connection to Temple Sinai. How each of us experiences Temple Sinai is different and that is one of the great things about our sacred community: We each can connect with Temple Sinai in our own special way.

You may be “all in” with Brotherhood or Sisterhood. Maybe one of our social action programs is your main focus, such as sandwich making or making dinner for Inspirica House. Many of you connect musically and are involved in programs such as Ruach, Kolot Sinai or RuJu, our children’s musical ensemble. Some of you with young children may connect in Temple Sinai’s vibrant religious school.

If I were asked: “What is your special way of connecting with Temple Sinai?” I would answer, “Friday night services.” Services on Friday night seem to have a rhythm. There are the Ruach services about once a month, when beautiful music is created. I find this service particularly uplifting for my spirit. On other evenings, we enjoy the music of Cantor Micah and Alex Ruvinstein. During these services, we also learn about the week’s Torah portion and Rabbi Jay’s thought-provoking interpretations. We also have our regular onegs and, once a month, we enjoy a pre-neg, followed by a 6:00pm service, which often features the wonderful voices of our RuJu children’s choir. Then there are Friday night services that have a special focus and meaning such as the Sisterhood Shabbat, the recent Board Shabbat, and the SoSTY Shabbat. I have also attended Friday night services where there has been a baby naming, an Aufruf to celebrate an upcoming marriage or members receiving a blessing before they travel.

While I am involved in many aspects of Temple Sinai life, my regular attendance at Friday night services is what provides me with both the strongest connection with the Kehillah Kedoshah that is our Temple Sinai family and an opportunity to find some peace after an often-challenging week. For me, there is no guarantee that attending services on Friday night will always provide me with the level of peace that I am looking for, but I cannot recall a time in the six years that I have been going regularly to Friday night services that I didn’t leave services with a strong connection to our Temple Sinai community.

However you are connected to Temple Sinai, I hope those connections provide you with both meaning and an opportunity to grow. I encourage you to explore all that Temple Sinai has to offer. Recently, I have joined the Saturday morning Mussar group. While we have met only two times so far, I can tell that Mussar will provide me with one more meaningful connection to Temple Sinai. We have a lot to offer you (and each other) here at Temple Sinai and I encourage you to explore and strengthen your connections to our growing community.

Alan Cohen
President