

## You are a Member . . .

### You & Our Religious School

If you are a parent of a Religious School student, you should find that Jewish and non-Jewish parents are treated exactly the same. Please participate with your child and his/her Jewish parent. There are many opportunities for parental involvement in our Religious School, and you can be involved in anything that you wish.

Our faculty is sensitized to the fact that many of our Religious School students have a non-Jewish parent. A substantial majority of our student body has at least one non-Jewish grandparent. If we need to be more sensitive on any occasion, please contact our Director of Education.

### Your Child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah

We want your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah to be a joyous occasion for the entire family. Non-Jewish parents and grandparents typically do have significant roles on the pulpit during the service. In many cases, the non-Jewish parent is the primary adult involved in Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation. We honor your commitment and support.

While there are some differences between the roles of Jewish and non-Jewish parents, our clergy strive to make those distinctions invisible to the congregation, and to include non-Jewish parents, grandparents and other relatives to the full extent that you and they are comfortable.

### When A Loved One Dies

Temple Sinai, your congregation and clergy, are here for you in your hour of loss. Whether your loved one was a member or a non-Jewish relative, we will seek to provide comfort at your time of need. We call the names of non-Jewish relatives of members at all occasions when we read the names of deceased loved ones at our worship services.

### What Happens When I Die?

All Temple members, whether Jewish or not, may be buried in our Temple cemetery. Please consult with our clergy if you have specific questions.

### Considering Conversion?

Occasionally, a person who has participated as a member of our congregation for many years will decide to become a Jew. While non-Jews are welcome to continue their Temple affiliation and involvement for a lifetime, never becoming Jewish, we want to encourage and support conversion for those for whom that choice is appropriate. Please speak with one of our clergy if you are interested in learning more.

### Any Questions?

If you ever have any questions about your place in our community, or about a subject we don't cover in this brochure, please contact our clergy by calling (510) 451-3263.

*You are one of us, a member of Temple Sinai.*

*We are eager to be your synagogue home and your Temple family. Please let us know whenever we can do better, and of course, what we are doing well!*

## You are a Member . . .

### And you're not Jewish



### TEMPLE SINAI WELCOMES YOU!

Temple Sinai warmly opens our doors and our hearts to our non-Jewish members. Whether you are affiliated with another religious institution, or Temple Sinai is your only congregation, this synagogue is a place you can call "home."

*You are a part of our Temple family.*

Temple Sinai  
2808 Summit Street  
Oakland, California 94609  
(510) 451-3263

# Welcome . . .

## Who May Be A Member?

Spouses, partners and significant others of Jewish Temple members are invited to become Temple members. Those who are part of our Jewish family are important to us, and we hope you will wish, as we do, for your inclusion to be permanent. If a Jewish spouse dies, or if the couple is divorced, the membership rights of the non-Jewish partner continue. In addition, any custodial parent of a Jewish child may join our Temple, no matter what the circumstances.

## Membership Has Its Privileges!

- All members of Temple Sinai have voting rights at congregational meetings.
- While only Jewish members may serve on our Board of Trustees, non-Jewish members have often served on committees and have been involved in a wide array of congregational activities.
- The Women of Temple Sinai invites all women in the congregation to be active members.
- Our Temple Brotherhood similarly welcomes all men in the congregation to its activities.

*You are included!*

## Worship

Our Worship services are always open to the public, except on High Holydays, when non-members may attend only with the purchase of tickets. As a member, you will receive tickets for any services that you request.

Whenever you attend our worship services, you are invited to participate with the congregation in any way that you feel comfortable. Please pray along with us, whenever the spirit so moves you.

If you or a loved one, Jewish or not, is in need of prayers for healing, we will be glad to include any names on our Prayers for Healing list.

Please contact the Clergy Assistant at (510) 451-3263 x215 or [Maureen@oaklandsinai.org](mailto:Maureen@oaklandsinai.org).

## Study

All of our congregation's adult study opportunities are open to you. Of a particular note, our annual offering of "Introduction to Judaism" provides weekly opportunities for learning some of the central priorities of our faith.

Adult Hebrew offerings, whenever available, will facilitate your worship with us. And, if you have children who are learning Hebrew, you will be more able to help them with their homework!



## Your Marriage

We honor and recognize every marriage, whether between two Jews or between a Jew and a non-Jew, whether between a man and a woman or between two people of the same gender.

Our clergy would be delighted to discuss your nuptials. Please be in touch with us!

## Your Jewish Baby

The child of a Jewish parent and a non-Jewish parent, by birth or adoption, who is raised exclusively as a Jew, is considered to be Jewish here at Temple Sinai and in Reform Judaism. The fact that the child has a non-Jewish parent does not diminish the child's Jewishness, in any way.

Non-Jewish parents and grandparents may enjoy significant roles in raising a Jewish child, beginning with the Baby Naming or Circumcision.

When a private Baby Naming ritual is held, non-Jewish parents, grandparents, and other relatives who are comfortable participating fully will be assigned "speaking parts" that are a bit different from, but entirely equivalent to, those of Jewish family members.

Please contact a member of our clergy to discuss these rituals, as soon as you know that you are expecting.

We can be your guides.