

YK 2026/5787

Announcements: Capital Area Food Bank

Our annual Yom Kippur Food Drive is today, sponsored by our TSWRJ and benefiting the Capital Area Food Bank. Perhaps you think: “Here we are again. Nice to help.”

This year, as we mark the 75th anniversary of Temple Sinai, I want to share with you a part of our congregation’s unique relationship with the Capital Area Food Bank. My predecessor at Temple Sinai, Rabbi Eugene Lipman, was one of 3 cofounders of the Food Bank in 1980. He had brought the idea of a city-wide food bank from his first rabbinic post in Fort Worth, Texas, in the 1940s. There the churches and synagogue got together to provide food relief for the city. Here in Washington Rabbi Lipman invited two clergy colleagues, and together they began the Capital Area Food Bank.

On his day off each week, Rabbi Lipman was a gardener; and when he retired in 1985, he gardened an acre tract in Montgomery County. He loved raising the vegetables, which he donated each week to the Food Bank, and the people would say, “Here comes the vegetable man” as he drove up.

When the Food Bank dedicated their new distribution center, in 2012, after Rabbi Lipman's death, the Food Bank wanted to honor their founders, so they invited Esther Lipman and me to represent Rabbi Lipman's role. It is a huge building, 123,000 square feet, larger than two football fields, and built to address a massive need.

Today well over 1 million people in greater Washington are food insecure, a 5-year high. Why? Poverty increases. Thousands of people lost their jobs as a result of DOGE last year, many now in jobs that pay less. Benefits such as SNAP are in jeopardy, as you know. And with fear of ICE deportations, many may be afraid to go to the grocery! They are our neighbors.

Today the Food Bank has over 400 partner agencies, including So Others Might Eat and Food For All, where our members volunteer every month; together these partners serve 60 million meals every year.

We read in the Haftarah this morning the powerful words of Isaiah, "Is not this the fast I desire? To break the bonds of injustice and remove the heavy yoke; To share your bread with the hungry?

Rabbi Goldstein will tell you how: