



temple israel



## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

May 17, 2015 ~ 28 Iyar, 5775

2015 Annual Meeting

[www.templeisraelnc.org](http://www.templeisraelnc.org)

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**Temple Israel Annual Meeting**  
Sunday, May 17, 2015 10:45 AM  
Mindy Ellen Levine Chapel, Temple Israel, Charlotte, NC

**Agenda**

Call to Order	Lynne Sheffer
1) D'var Torah	Rabbi Murray Ezring
2) Reading of the minutes from the previous Annual Meeting	Marcie Williams
3) Treasurer's Report	David Rosenthal
4) President's Report	Lynne Sheffer
5) Old Business	
6) New Business	
7) Nomination and Election of Officers and Board of Trustees	Barry Bobrow
8) Adjournment	Lynne Sheffer

# President's Report



Good Morning!

I am so happy to be with you this morning as we take time to celebrate our accomplishments and take care of important business. Please let me begin by sharing highlights of our past year.

We've had two (2) major areas of focus: Relational Judaism and Improved Business Operations. Let's begin with relationships because you know that's where I have passion and it's what our community is all about.

## **A Relational Framework**

Your Board of Trustees, Clergy and Staff believe the way to grow and strengthen a synagogue community is through building relationships with each other. Relationships mean we have a deep connection with each other, we demonstrate care for each other and we share meaningful and purposeful times together. Being a relational community is a goal that requires a change in how we interact and how we spend our time. In many ways, it is a culture shift--something that requires us to be aware of what we consider as day to day priorities and how we align our time against our priorities. I hope you agree when I say the most precious resource all of us have is "time." Giving and making "time" for each other is the most significant step toward demonstrating we are a relational community. The goal of the clergy, staff and board is to have a connection to every individual in our synagogue community and that requires a change in how we interact with you. Becoming a Relational community has an impact on how our services, programs, offerings and communications are presented—being relational impacts our business decisions. Everything we do should create an opportunity to connect with each other. Every person who enters our synagogue should feel welcomed, included and engaged.

Our new Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan are equally influenced by a relational focus in combination with God, Torah and the core beliefs and principals of Judaism.

*Our Vision:* Temple Israel is a sacred community that strives to inspire all, to enjoy meaningful relationships with each other, the broader community, Torah and God through traditional and non- traditional expressions of Judaism.

*Our Mission:* Our mission statement supports the importance of Temple Israel being a welcoming and progressive conservative community fostering personal growth and a meaningful engaged life through the pillars of our faith.

*Strategic Plan:* Relational Judaism is all about connections. We have six (6) Strategic Goals with our first (1<sup>st</sup>) goal focusing on building meaningful relationships. These goals were the output and culmination of a daylong board, clergy and staff strategic planning retreat last June.

We were fortunate to have the tremendous skills and talent of the Lee Institute to guide us through this critical conversation.

*Strategic Goals:*

**#1 Relationships: Develop meaningful personal relationships among our congregational leaders and our congregational community.** This is all about visible and ongoing engagement.

**#2 Spirituality: Increase Jewish observance and spirituality across our congregational community.** Preserving all that our Judaism is grounded in and founded on.

**#3 Learning: Create and offer traditional and non-traditional learning opportunities related to Jewish life for all ages.** Preparing our youth to become good stewards of the Jewish faith.

**#4 Collaboration: To connect clergy, staff and board in the spirit of collaboration for greater effectiveness and powerful results.** This is all about communicating, listening, collaborating, and being clear on the specific roles we play.

**#5 Sustainability: Through good stewardship of financial resources, we achieve financial predictability and stability.** We're in our annual commitment phase right now and we know all of you have a vested interest to ensure we achieve and exceed our financial fund raising goals.

**#6 Leadership: Strengthening board governance and nurturing future leaders of our congregation.** The future of our synagogue rests with our young families---they are the future of the synagogue.

We have identified tactics, accountabilities and timelines for our strategic priorities, and the board is monitoring their own progress as well as the progress of the clergy and staff.

I want to share examples of our collaborative and relational work from the past year. We are making solid progress towards achieving our six strategic goals, and this progress is demonstrated through:

**The planning we are doing for our 120-year anniversary celebration.** We are engaging all our members via survey and a general interest meeting. We'll be organizing into teams that are charged with making our celebration the best ever! We have embraced the tag line of *Rooted in Community, Defining Our Future*. I hope you agree, this speaks loudly of our past (our founders and their families) while looking clearly to the future (our young professionals, young families and their children.)

**Many of our members are enjoying and sharing in Alternative Services.** We've been told that these services are creative and engaging. Our expanded offerings include monthly family Shabbat, Torah Tots, Kavanah with Yoga, Java Jews, and Rock HaShabbat. I hope you will

join us in worship and fellowship by taking advantage of the Services that interest you and best meet your needs.

**We're also now hosting monthly Friday evening themed-onegs prior to services.** Our onegs provide a wonderful opportunity to relax, socialize and catch up with each other following a busy and long week.

**We continue to have great success engaging our youth and young professionals.** We have a proven model for designing meaningful programs—we involve the participants in the design of their programs! Our youth tell us what they want to learn and our young professionals tell us how they want to engage. It's a sure way to guarantee engagement and ongoing participation.

**We had a fully relational weekend when Dr. Ron Wolfson came to Charlotte in mid-March.** Many of you heard him speak during our Saturday Shabbat or Saturday afternoon workshop at the LJCC. Dr. Wolfson shared his thoughts around becoming an effective relational congregation and he left us with many proven 'best practices' and tips. We invited Temple Beth El's professional and lay leadership to join us for a social and educational evening with Dr. Wolfson Saturday evening, where his remarks focused on relational issues within the greater Charlotte Jewish community. I've put several of his ideas to work already!

**We have expanded our social action work to include a day of service--Yom G'milut Hasadim.** In February, we had more than 300 volunteers working on more than 15 simultaneous community service projects around southeast Charlotte. It was unbelievable to see so many of you coming together to perform loving acts of kindness and good deeds.

**Our clergy course offerings have also been expanded.** Late last year, we began offering another college level program from the 'Walking with' series from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies. *Tuesdays with Torah* continued, and *Torah Sparks* on Wednesday's continued to grow. On Sunday mornings Temple Israel hosted a series of classes from meditation to Jewish short stories, and two (2) offerings that teach the structure and meaning of Jewish prayers. On Sunday mornings we also presented a yearlong *Intro to Judaism* class. We are looking forward to more exciting and new offerings for the upcoming year.

And lastly, **we're doing our absolute best to communicate with you in timely and efficient ways.** We listened to your feedback. You said we send too many emails and our email gets lost in your busy day. We are now strategic in our approach to how we communicate, what we communicate, and when we communicate our news and information.

As we enter year two (2) of our strategic plan, we'll be making some minor adjustments to the plan. We'll bring the new board along on our journey and we'll move forward with the same amount of enthusiasm as when we adopted the plan last year.

## **Operational Excellence**

Now I'd like to turn my attention to the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of our equation, Operational Priorities and Progress. Temple Israel's continued success is not only dependent on our relational model it is also dependent on what we do to improve our operations. Our operations must have proven leadership, strong management, well trained staff, up to date technology, reliable processes and repeatable business routines.

Please let me share a few proof points that describe the progress we've made when we focus our attention internally. This past year's efforts and accomplishments within operations has been significant.

In November we brought in an Interim Executive Director with proven business and management skills. Her role was to evaluate our business operations and make recommendations for how to improve processes, procedures, meeting routines, roles, responsibilities and reporting structures. She has not only made the recommendations but also played a critical role in executing the change that was needed. During the past 6 months, the operations of the temple have been improved through:

Hiring a proven caterer to run the kosher kitchen and respond to the day-to-day catering needs of the temple. He is working to keep our costs down by managing on an event-by-event basis.

Hiring a new Program- Event Director, who has hit the ground running, and has made the B'nai Mitzvah program her top priority. She is also designing a sponsorship program for Kiddush and brings many other new and fresh ideas to the table.

As you have recently learned, we have made changes at the Religious School. Specifically, we have a new Director and assistant to the Director that will bring new and fresh ideas to the education of our most important asset---our children.

We've also done a thorough job of evaluating and planning for temple technology needs. We have developed a comprehensive technology roadmap that includes an asset replacement plan and upgrades to our current system.

A critical priority for our Interim Executive Director was to look at the roles played by our clergy, board and staff. What we learned was that the clergy was often performing duties and making decisions that should have been managed by the staff and likewise, the board was involved with planning and execution of business matters that are purely operational in nature. Good examples of where we have clarified roles is the work we do to market our programs and events, and the efforts needed around our B'nai Mitzvah program.

Once we are all clear on our roles, it becomes much easier to prescribe and adhere to processes that make our work more efficient and more productive. The staff is especially proud of the newly created Program Framework that is already driving efficiencies and eliminating waste.

This framework takes our events and projects from “idea” all the way through to resource allocation, capacity management, marketing and execution. The framework has eliminated single thread decision making and rework---making everyone far more efficient in their day-to-day work.

A side benefit to bringing role clarity to the board, staff and clergy can be seen through significant improvements in how we conduct and use our time in board and staff meetings. We approach every meeting with a well thought out agenda, pre-mailed meeting packages, a start and end time. I will tell you without a doubt, the right amount of planning and preparation for each meeting translates to important information sharing, debate and sound business decisions.

And lastly, we are so excited to announce Glenda Bernhardt as Temple Israel’s new Executive Director. Glenda has worked in senior positions with high profile non-profits for more than 12 years. She brings a wealth of leadership, management and fund development experience. Glenda will take the post as Executive Director June 1 and I know you will join me in making her feel very welcomed in her new role.

Now, all of the progress, forward movement and momentum I have described comes with a cost. Hiring a talented and proven leader, experienced program and event planner, applying fresh and new talent to our Religious School program, upgrading and modernizing our technology, planning for our 120 year anniversary celebration is essential to remaining relevant and sustainable. All of this requires funding, and all of us are accountable for ensuring the funding is available to take us through the next 120 years.

I want to thank our dedicated clergy, staff, executive committee and board for all their efforts this past year to embrace change and try new ways of operating. Your hard work is so appreciated. I also want to thank all of you, all our volunteers who give of their time and talent to make Temple Israel the best we can be.

Because of you and our wonderful temple family -  
Temple Israel has a strong legacy and a promising future.  
We are in fact,

- Rooted in community
- Defining our future

And, Positioning Temple Israel for the next 120 years!  
Thank you so much!!

*Lynne Sheffer*



## Rabbi Murray Ezring's Report



Another good year! 5775 has been enjoyed here at Temple Israel. Once again we have had a full year of adult education courses ranging from the yearlong *Intro to Judaism* class on Sunday morning, to the shorter Sunday morning classes dealing with meditation, short story, and the structure of the service, to our Tuesday and Wednesday daytime Torah classes, *Tuesdays with Torah* and Wednesday's *Torah Sparks*. Our adult education programs are continuing to grow. In addition to our evening classes, Sunday classes, and weekday morning classes, we had the pleasure of bringing in Dr. Ron Wolfson from the American Jewish University to speak to us about Relational Judaism. It is amazing how often we drift away from our roots only to have an outsider like Dr. Wolfson pull us back. Our emphasis on building relationships within the synagogue includes what has been a successful year for *Guess Who's Coming to Shabbat Dinner*, the continued success of our Cooperative Temple Israel Community Seder, our *Java Jews*, our alternative services, and all of the other opportunities we offer Temple Israel members to come together as a growing synagogue family.

Our offerings in the form of social justice activities, through our Social Action committee, have grown not only in number and participation, but with impact in the community as well. We are proud of all that Jon Berger and his community have been able to accomplish at this point. The highlight of the year, for me, was our Yom Gemilut Hasadim, where over 300 members of Temple Israel participated in cooking and providing dinners to our community shelters, packed backpacks for school children, went out and helped improve the facility at Huntingtowne Farms Elementary School, and all of the nearly two dozen projects that our membership participated in.

We have shifted around our Temple Clergy in order to improve the success of everything that we do. We welcome our new Executive Director, Glenda Bernhardt, our new Events and Program Director, Jessie Brinsfield, and we thank our extremely loyal and helpful office staff, kitchen staff, and our facilities staff. Betsy Grant-Kaperonis and Silverstream have helped us improve our image and our messaging. Temple Israel's young professional programming touches over 350 individuals throughout the year. As we complete 5775, we can sense the bright future which lays before us. May the coming year be one of celebration as we welcome our 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary as well as a year in which we continue to reach out successfully to a broader Jewish Community and a higher impact in our outreach to the Charlotte Community as well.

Shalom,

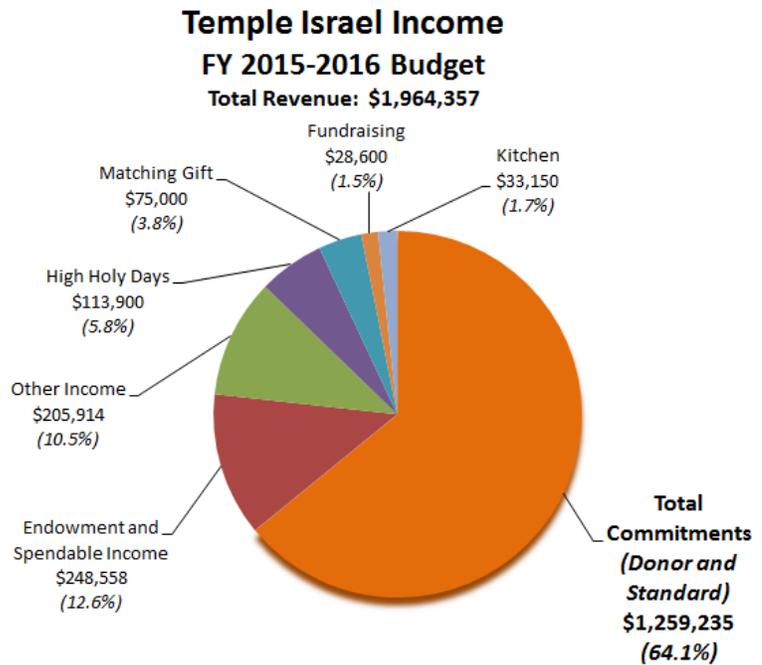
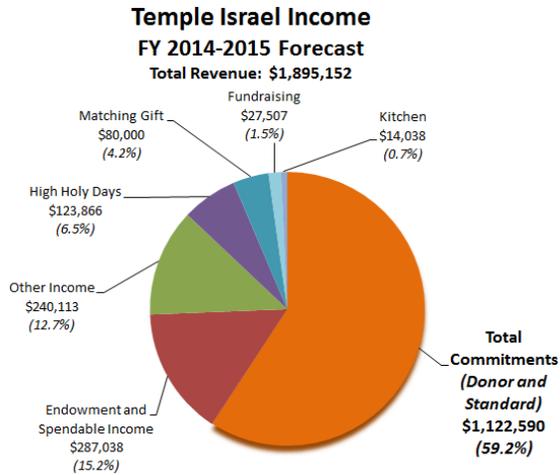
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rabbi Murray Ezring".

# Treasurer's Report

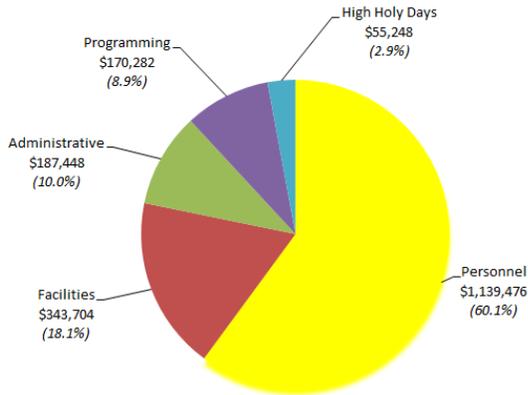
## Temple Israel Income and Expense Comparison

### Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Forecast

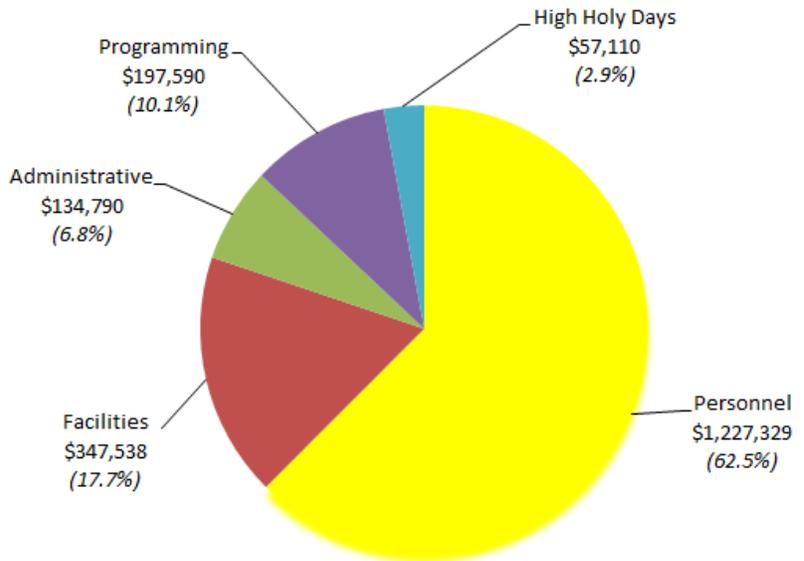
### Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget



**Temple Israel Expense  
FY 2014-2015 Forecast  
Total Expense: \$1,896,158**



**Temple Israel Expense  
FY 2015-2016 Budget  
Total Expense: \$1,964,357**





## Temple Israel Income and Expense Comparison

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Actual	Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Actual	Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget	Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Forecast	Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget	FY 2015-2016 Budget v. FY 2014-2015 Forecast	% Change
<b>Income</b>							
1 Commitment (Donor and Standard)	\$1,178.2	\$1,182.8	\$1,190.3	\$1,202.6	\$1,334.2	\$131.6	10.9%
2 Endowment and Supplemental Income	\$153.9	\$217.1	\$233.8	\$287.0	\$248.6	(\$38.5)	-13.4%
3 High Holy Days	\$108.8	\$108.2	\$129.2	\$123.9	\$113.9	(\$10.0)	-8.0%
4 Temple Israel Religious School	\$107.9	\$110.5	\$119.2	\$105.7	\$104.2	(\$1.5)	-1.4%
5 General and Other Income	\$45.2	\$50.6	\$114.9	\$65.3	\$71.0	\$5.6	8.6%
6 Kitchen Income	\$41.9	\$35.7	\$29.2	\$14.0	\$33.2	\$19.1	136.1%
7 Clergy Income	\$30.8	\$26.6	\$14.2	\$34.9	\$22.1	(\$12.7)	-36.6%
8 Consolidated High School of Jewish Studies of Charlotte	\$23.7	\$22.7	\$25.0	\$18.9	\$20.5	\$1.6	8.3%
9 Commitment (Other)	\$13.8	\$6.0	\$5.7	\$4.8	\$4.7	(\$0.1)	-2.7%
10 Program Income	\$12.0	\$29.8	\$36.1	\$25.2	\$1.8	(\$23.4)	-92.9%
11 Youth and Young Professionals Programs	\$5.5	\$4.5	\$8.7	\$8.3	\$6.1	(\$2.2)	-26.4%
12 Marketing Income	\$3.3	\$2.6	\$4.2	\$4.4	\$4.1	(\$0.3)	-6.1%
13 Total Income	\$1,724.9	\$1,797.1	\$1,910.4	\$1,895.2	\$1,964.4	\$69.2	3.7%
<b>Expense</b>							
14 Salaries	\$1,002.1	\$972.2	\$1,031.4	\$1,042.9	\$1,083.2	\$40.3	3.9%
15 Benefits	\$96.7	\$105.4	\$125.3	\$96.6	\$144.2	\$47.6	49.3%
16 Total Personnel	\$1,098.8	\$1,077.6	\$1,156.7	\$1,139.5	\$1,227.3	\$87.9	7.7%
17 Temple Israel Religious School	N/A	N/A	\$17.0	\$12.0	\$13.7	\$1.7	14.1%
18 Facilities	\$348.0	\$336.9	\$374.6	\$344.2	\$348.1	\$3.9	1.1%
Administrative	\$156.2	\$162.1	\$158.8	\$186.9	\$134.2	(\$52.7)	-28.2%
19 Programs	\$88.1	\$136.2	\$150.0	\$158.3	\$183.9	\$25.6	16.2%
20 High Holy Days	\$47.1	\$56.8	\$53.4	\$55.2	\$57.1	\$1.9	3.4%
21 Total Expense	\$1,738.1	\$1,769.6	\$1,910.4	\$1,896.2	\$1,964.4	\$68.2	3.6%
<b>22 Net Income</b>	<b>(\$13.2)</b>	<b>\$27.5</b>	<b>\$0.0</b>	<b>(\$1.0)</b>	<b>\$0.0</b>	<b>\$1.0</b>	<b>-100.0%</b>

# Cantor's Report



- On a rotating basis, I shared bringing Shabbat to the Pre-School with the rabbis.
- I worked with individual TIRS classes to rehearse their Shabbat services and am a regular participant in the Sunday morning Ruach sessions. We continue to train many new Torah readers.
- Shiva services, daily minyanim, weddings, funerals, bris ceremonies, and baby namings were shared with the rabbis, in addition to Shabbat and Festival services.
- To make a personal contact with members, I call each congregant on their birthday.
- As part of Life Long Learning, I taught a course entitled The User's Guide to the Prayer Book, a class for members to learn more about the siddur and why we do what we do in a service.
- I attended the Yom HaZikaron and Yom Ha'Atzma'ut observances.
- I taught almost every one of our b'nai mitzvah students.
- I performed for CHAI and Celebrating Life, met with church and school groups to teach about Judaism, led services and gave Shabbat and musical programs at local retirement and nursing homes.
- I planned and executed a second series of monthly musical programs, *Cantor & Friends*, with accompaniment by Monty Bennett, which regularly filled the chapel. We plan to do another series next year.
- I planned and led services for Special Needs on the 2<sup>nd</sup> night of Rosh Hashanah.
- The Adult Choir continues to improve and we always welcome new singers to join with us!
- Along with Scott Allen Jarrett, conductor of the Charlotte Oratorio Society, I co-led a public seminar on the Psalms, focusing on Leonard Bernstein's Chichester Psalms in particular. With Monty, I did a concert of Jewish music in Sumter, SC to help raise money for UJC (formerly the UJA).

- I brought the members of the Temple Israel Children's Choir to Sunrise and Carriage Club in January and again in April to entertain and schmooze with the residents.

*Submitted By Cantor Roochvarg*

## Celebrating Life

This year was my first year to guide this program at Temple Israel. I appreciate all the work that went into forming and managing this program before I came on board. The program is designed to attract the over 55-year-old population of Temple Israel, and the larger Charlotte community. With that in mind, we reached a number of non-Jewish participants, some of whom were residents of local retirement facilities who attended on a regular basis. Temple Israel mailed invitations monthly to regular attendees and residents of local retirement facilities. Each month, I made personal phone calls to get a headcount so we could adequately prepare for each luncheon.

On the third Thursday of each month, from November 2014 through May 2015, the program attracted about 50 attendees. Each program started at 10:30am with a 30-minute program, followed by a family style lunch prepared by Izzy's Catering, which was served by our faithful volunteers.

Celebrating Life started the 2014-year in November with a Women's Barbershop Quartet, who entertained a very enthusiastic audience. In addition, the performers so enjoyed themselves that they stood up and performed an impromptu song for the pure joy of performing. It was a really great start to the year.

In December, the Annual Hanukkah Party was held at Lerner Hall at the JCC. It was an affair sponsored so graciously by Norman Steinberger and attended by nearly 150 people. The program resumed at Temple Israel in January with Ted Patterson, who entertained by singing Show Tunes, warmly received by an enthusiastic audience.

In March, Cantor Roochvarg entertained the group with a preview of one of his very popular Soirees: Folk Music from around the World. It brought back many memories of childhood and was very well received.

One of our regular attendees, Laverne Vinegar, played the piano in an engaging game of "Name That Tune" for our April program. The singing and dancing in their seats was a reflection of how enthusiastic the audience was responding. Great fun was had by all!

In May, the final program will be by Temple Israel's own, Monty Bennett, who will present a lively program of piano selections designed to please the audience.

I want to especially thank Terri Cathcart, whose guidance helped create a very successful year of delicious meals that were enjoyed by all. Each month, the Temple Israel staff and our caterer, Jered Mond, make the luncheon a pleasure. Thanks to our wonderful volunteers: Robert

Friedman, Joan Kramer, and Jenny Rosenthal who so generously gave of their time and energy to be at the events and make Celebrating Life a lovely and easy experience for the attendees.

*Submitted by Marcia Solomon*

## Sunday Minyan



The Sunday Morning Minyan has thrived for another year thanks to the dedication of a core group of Temple Israel members. Shai Richardson, and a few other men, began the Sunday Morning Minyan tradition many years ago. To this day the service has been uninterrupted and available to each and every member of the congregation. Your participation will help us grow and continue to provide a service for all members who have Yahrzeit or who just need a spiritual lift to begin the work week. Prayer, discussions and a breakfast are all part of the Sunday Morning Minyan. I would encourage all members (and guests) to join us

any Sunday morning that you can, even if it is not each and every Sunday. The Sunday Morning Minyan is for every member of Temple Israel.

*Submitted by Alan Raznick, Chair*

## Chevra Kadisha- Men

It takes devotion and dedication to serve on this committee and a lot of teamwork. My sincerest thanks to all who have been there when called upon. We will continue to respond to the need.

*Submitted by Abe Bober, Chair*

## Chevra Kadisha- Women

Our community is very fortunate in having a group of such dedicated women serving on this committee. While our committee does not enjoy being called to perform the task we do, as always, we are there giving love and respect to the deceased. Performing Mitzvot draws us nearer to God. Some commandments like eating matzah on Pesach are easy to perform, while others are more difficult to perform. One of the most difficult Mitzvot is that of sitting with the body of a deceased member of our congregation. It exhibits the love that we hold for each other. If you are willing to perform the Mitzvah of Shomer Hamet, watching over the deceased, please call Brian Meltsner, Chair 704-442-2143 and 704-200-7896.

*Submitted by Deborah Hirsch, Chair*

# Membership

Since July 1, 2014, we have welcomed 51 new families into Temple Israel and have had 19 births. This totals 179 new family members! Surveys say that temple membership is on the decline, but we defy those results. We touch our members by showing that we care, engaging them in exciting activities, and reaching out to new and prospective members by inviting them to Shabbat services, Youth activities, TIRS programs, and community events. New members are paired up with a “temple buddy.” The buddy system enables the new member to assimilate into congregational life by meeting people, learning about upcoming programs, and helping them feel that they are not alone in a large congregation. Buddies are paired up with people of similar interests, family demographics, location, schools and other factors that would help stimulate natural friendships. From the first day of membership, you have a friend...and we hope that those friendships are long lasting.

This year, we have participated in several open houses at the Charlotte Jewish Preschool and also hosted a Charlotte Jewish Day School Shabbat service and dinner. These outreach programs strengthened our ties between the institutions and our synagogue family. Because of our strong relationships, new families have joined our temple and have also enrolled in TIRS. This year we sponsored a Shabbat dinner for Torah Tots families, and a Saturday morning “kid”dush following their service.

New members were welcomed to events throughout the year, and were recognized at a Shabbat service. Several hundred members of the congregation, and larger Jewish community, were thanked for the countless hours of hard work they do to make the world a better place at our Volunteer Shabbat. Friendships are made and strengthened at our new third Friday evening onegs. Each month, we have a theme—come and join us at 5:30 before our services.

We touch our congregation in many ways, but we pull together when one of our family is in need. The Shiva Tray Committee, Food Committee and Caring Committee are all active and meet the needs of those going through difficult times.

## ***Shiva Trays***

The funeral is over. What happens next? The family returns home from the cemetery. The temple has, by then, delivered a token tray of food to the home. The tray consists of hard boiled eggs, tuna salad, and an assortment of sliced vegetables. These Trays are prepared by a committee of volunteers each time. There is a list of committee members and no one person is called every time a tray is needed so this does not become a burden to anyone.

Thanks this year to our volunteers: Judy Kahn, Judy Miller, Judy Kaufmann, Leigh Jacobson, Terri Cathcart, Fern Sanderson, and Bunny Bramson. There is always room for more volunteers, and if you are willing to serve, please let me know.

-Audrey Madans, Shiva Tray Chair

## ***Food Committee***

As chairman and sole member of the food committee of Temple Israel, I am dedicated to providing a meal to anyone in our congregation recuperating from a hospitalization or illness. I rely on Monty to let me know when a meal is required. I then reach out to the family and

arrange a time to bring over the meal. Rabbi Ezring has approved our kitchen to meet Temple Israel's standard of kashrut and he has given me permission to do the cooking from our home. I shop for the ingredients, cook the meal, including a homemade challah, and then deliver the meal in time for dinner. I include a get well card wishing a speedy recovery from "your Temple Israel family" on TI stationary.

I have received the most beautiful thank you notes from our congregants, expressing their gratitude and appreciation. I find this committee extremely important to continue, however I would love to have some help, especially with the delivery of the meal. If you are interested in getting involved please contact me at 919-491-9693 or 704-910-1031 or by email at [jzacks@carolina.rr.com](mailto:jzacks@carolina.rr.com).

Janice Zacks, Food Committee Chair

### ***Caring Committee***

As chairman of the Temple Israel Caring Committee, I rely on the clergy, Monty Bennett, and members of the congregation to inform me of any congregants that may be in need of a simple, caring gesture. When such a need is brought to my attention, I mail a card with a personal note letting them know that they are being thought of by their Temple Israel "family." I include my phone number and encourage them to contact me if they have any further needs. Often times, I make phone calls as well, but also receive phone calls from card recipients expressing their thanks for our attention. I feel that it is a worthwhile committee and that it has been very much appreciated.

-Cindy McManus, Caring Committee Chair

### ***Submitted by:***

***Monty Bennett, Membership/Outreach Director***

***Dedee Gould Cygler, Membership/Outreach Chair***

## Temple Israel Religious School

As we experimented with a new school model this year, we retained our most successful programs, making modifications as needed, while adding new opportunities for student and family engagement. Some of our most successful programs and events this past year were:

**Sukkot-a-Palooza** - on Oct. 12, TIRS paired with the Social Action Committee to create an engaging, fun and memorable Sukkot experience for our students. This was our second Sukkot-a-Palooza, and unlike last year, we held it during Religious School to ensure all our students could benefit. TIRS students were able to experience shaking the lulav and etrog, building a model sukkah, making sandwiches for the homeless, and creating gigantic figures representing the biblical Ushpizin, or guests, who traditionally visit on Sukkot. Thanks to the efforts of the clergy, staff, and volunteers who planned and/or ran stations, the students were clearly engaged and having a great time.

**Shabbat HaMishpacha** – Now in its second year, we expanded the popular *Shabbat HaMishpacha*, or Family Shabbat, from 5 to 7 programs. Each program had its own theme,

complete with costumes, games and plenty of prizes tied to the theme. This year's special themes were Tutti-Frutti Shabbat, Shabbat Hodu, Maccabee/Greek Showdown, Sportastic Shabbat, Tree-mendous Shabbat, Mishkan Madness and Kosher Kwest.

**Grade-Level Shabbat Services and Dinners** – This year we combined two grades for each school Shabbat, with great results. We filled the sanctuary on the Friday nights when students helped lead services. By dividing leadership responsibilities between two classes teachers had more time to ensure their students were fully prepared. The children received rave reviews from the parents and the rest of the congregation, and their families enjoyed the delicious Shabbat dinners catered by Jered Mond.

**Children's Choir** – A Children's Choir has been formed under the direction of Cantor Roochvarg. The students rehearse every other Friday afternoon, then attend services. So far they have performed for the Religious School, for the Cantor's special anniversary weekend, and for the very appreciative residents of the Carriage Club and Sunrise Assisted Living. They always do a great job, are very well received!



**Volunteer Tutors** – When the TIRS teachers asked for help catching up a number of students who weren't reading Hebrew at grade level, Rabbi Ezring got on the phone and recruited more than a dozen teen and adult volunteers, who worked with students one-on-one or in small groups for short periods during TIRS on Sunday mornings. The students have been making great progress, and the tutors feel a tremendous sense of satisfaction. We are most grateful to all our wonderful tutors.

**Evaluation** - We are taking evaluation very seriously, surveying the parents, students and teachers to gain timely and relevant input. An evaluation committee made up of Rabbi Ezring, TIRS Advisory Committee chairperson Stacey Schuler, myself and several TIRS parents and professional educators carefully analyzed the resulting data. The data will be used to inform our recommendations for next year, as we continue to innovate and be responsive to the needs of our students, teachers and TIRS families.

*Submitted by Rabbi Tracy Klirs*

# The Consolidated High School of Jewish Studies of Charlotte

The Consolidated High School of Jewish Studies of Charlotte serves 140 Jewish teens in eighth through twelfth grades. Students meet each Wednesday evening for two hours. We have created a special, comfortable environment that encourages free thought and focuses on informal discussion (often with a little nosh thrown in). Whether learning about Jewish history or increasing their awareness of *mitzvot*, students strengthen their Jewish identity. Some of our most popular classes this year have included Jewish Values in Sports), Jewish Cooking, Torah in The Twilight Zone, Jewtopia (creating the perfect Jewish community from scratch, and Art with Heart (creating mitzvot through art projects).



“Hebrew for Credit”, for which we received an Impact Fund Grant from the Federation of Greater Charlotte, is in its third year and thriving. Five students will receive credit at their CMS School for taking the class for two years. These eager students meet for an extra hour each week and are learning to speak Hebrew like natives!

This year’s eighth and ninth grade retreats focused on community building as Hebrew High became “Camp CHS”. Groups wrote songs or cheers, made banners and chose names to reflect their Jewish selves. Fun ensued, as the teams competed in challenge after challenge. A favorite challenge was the task of making a map of Israel out of ice cream. Obviously, this took some quick thinking since the medium at hand does not last for very long! Please visit our Facebook page to see a great example of one of the teams’ songs.

The tenth graders met each week for Confirmation Class. They studied and discussed many fascinating subjects, including, Comparative Judaism, Comparative Religion and Ethics. In addition, they chose elective classes in areas of special interest to them. The class was taught by Rabbi Raucher and Rabbi Ezring. What a winning combination! The year will culminate in their Confirmation Service which is held during the Shavuot holiday.

A core of dedicated eleventh and twelfth graders also met weekly on Wednesday evenings. These older students trained to be leaders of our Jewish community. The facilitators for this oldest class at Hebrew High are specially selected to understand the needs of older teens, who are preparing to become Jewish leaders on their college campuses.

An important part of our curriculum is exposing our students and families to exciting Jewish programs. A few of the highlights this year included; Our third annual Teen Shabbat featuring Benji Lovett (an Israeli comedian and educator), a viewing of “Beneath The Helmet” (as part of the Charlotte Jewish Film Festival, and a Purim Palooza Party! We also participated in J Serve (the national Jewish day of teen service. This year we helped clean and organize the Friendship Tray Gardens, located at Garinger High School. We worked alongside students from Bahailu Academy.

Hebrew High is a proud member of the teen coalition, with whom we have shared many of our special programs. Together we work to foster a feeling of community, a love of Israel, and a place to develop leadership skills within the Jewish teen population in Charlotte. This year the coalition (under our direction) received an Impact Grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater



Charlotte, to hold three events designed to help our students build a strong connection with Israel.

Our CHS Student Council has worked very hard this year, leading the school in Tzedaka projects and ruach (school spirit)! The students, led by Temple Israel ninth grader, Talia Weinstein, coordinated all of the volunteers at the community Purim Carnival, ran a very successful booth at the carnival, did a Tzedaka project, collected Passover food for JFS, and sponsored a Chanukah drive that benefited

families from the Charlotte Jewish Preschool. CHS students were seen painting faces and making balloon animals at many community wide celebrations, In addition, the Student Council organizes our annual “Honor the Teachers Event”.

The CHS faculty consists of a group of men and women who gather together each week, not only to teach our teenagers; but also to listen to their problems and successes, to help them deal with difficult situations, and to serve as Jewish role models. Working with teenagers is a tremendous challenge, but it is one that our teachers have met with determination, courage and love. Our staff and volunteer advisory board have worked hard to make 2014-2015 (5775), a successful year for the Consolidated High School of Jewish Studies. Thanks to all of them!

*Submitted By Roz Cooper*

## Temple Israel Youth Activities



We have seen tremendous growth, excitement and innovation this year in the Temple Israel Youth Department. The primary goal for the Youth Department has been to establish a welcoming culture for all youth in every aspect of Temple life; to build community and leadership amongst youth who participate in monthly gatherings; and to create a friendly space for new participants who might choose to be a part of the group. We have strived to create a loving environment where all the youth feel accepted, wanted and comfortable enough to invite their friends along. We have seen quite a few new kids come along this year and we are very excited to see the number of kids attending events continue to grow.

Our three youth groups: GESHER (8th-12th grades), BONIM (6th & 7th grades) and MAHAR (3rd-5th grades) have continued to grow and thrive. Last year the three youth groups ended with a total of 88 members. This year we have grown to 124 members (56 members in MAHAR 36 members in BONIM and 32 members in GESHER)! This is nearly a 300% increase from two years ago. In addition, 50% of the members are new this year to the youth groups. We have also had 23 “non-members” join us for programming.

We have continued to engage a larger number of youth and teens through various types of programming. We have been very active in getting the youth of the Temple involved and together offering successful monthly events, usually consisting of four to five events per month. GESHER had many great events this year, including a Mystery Lock-In and IDF Boot Camp Lounge Night. BONIM events included Bananas in Pajamas Movie Night and a Cookout at Rabbi Raucher's house, while MAHAR events included a Chocolate Seder and Bowling for a Cause. Our youth groups were also active in raising funds and donations for Jewish Family Services, Huntingtowne Farms Elementary, and Freedom School. We also initiated a new favorite program, "Youth ONLY Kiddush Club", following Shabbat morning services. While we only offered this event twice during the past year, we are looking at expanding this event once a month in the coming year. The Youth Department is proud to report that 75% of youth members have attended multiple events this year.

This year, the Youth Department also reinstated Temple Israel's College Outreach program. This program helps to keep in touch with our Temple youth that have gone away to college. This past year we had 19 participants, who received four gift packages throughout the year. These packages included a card from the Temple Israel staff, a personal letter from Rabbi Raucher, as well as a fun gift.

To make our youth groups more inclusive and inviting to all, we made membership FREE for all Temple Israel Religious School students. We were able to accomplish this goal, with the support of the Stuart F. Ostrow Youth Fund. In addition, we were able to keep all other membership fees to \$36 for the year, including the cost for the College Outreach Program.

This year we have had a fantastic GESHER Leadership Board, who showed great commitment throughout the year. Besides planning and executing events for their peers, they also volunteered and attended MAHAR and BONIM programs. A massive thank you to our entire GESHER Board: Alana (President), Leah, Landon, Abby, Jordan, Hannah, Eli, Ben, and Aliyah. Finally, thank you to all the members of the Youth Engagement Committee as well as all of the parent volunteers for their participation and efforts in making Temple Israel's youth events over the last year a success. Without them many programs could simply not take place.

*Submitted by Ariel DiDonato*

## Torah On Tap

Torah on Tap is focused on engaging young Jewish professionals on a social basis and connecting them to their Judaism through Temple Israel. We encourage, but do not require, membership at Temple Israel; rather, our primary focus is on relationships and cumulative shared experiences with and through our group. We are the landing place for young Jewish professionals who are new to the Charlotte area or just want to be more involved in the Jewish social scene. There is no membership fee and no commitment required – everyone is welcome at any or all of the events.

Each month we plan and execute three to four events for members of the Jewish community in their twenties, thirties, and forties. We always have one event that is a Shabbat experience and one event that is a Torah study session. Shabbat programs frequently take place immediately following services at Temple Israel. Our other events fall into one or more of the categories of: community service; joint activities with peer groups in the Charlotte Jewish Community; young family oriented events; and social activities. Attendance is always in flux, with some small events involving a core group of four to six people and some large events attracting sixty to seventy. While there are some members who come to nearly all events, there are a significant number who come to only a few – we exist to serve both groups!

A few other specific examples of activities we have sponsored and organized are: (1) Shabbat dinners at the homes of various members; (2) Yom Kippur (and Passover Chametz) break fasts; (3) Challah baking class; (4) Game nights; (5) afternoons in the park; and (6) volunteer days at Ronald McDonald House. We are always open to new ideas and leadership and are always excited to get feedback and input from our members. If there is an event or special cause you are passionate about, we are here to help make it happen.

Our leadership team is full of people who began their relationship with us by coming to an event or two. Here is what a couple of them had to say:

Torah on Tap has really helped me reconnect with my Judaism from a spiritual and religious perspective. For a lot of Jewish young adults, our Jewish education stopped after our Bar Mitzvah. Whether via Torah studies, or holiday or Shabbat Events, Torah on Tap has helped rekindle my desire to bring Judaism into my life, and be a part of the greater Jewish Community.  
– Justin Bregman

I feel that Torah on Tap has been essential to my personal integration into the Temple Israel congregation. While I appreciate the religious discussions that Torah on Tap hosts every so often, I am much more appreciative of the events and activities that bring the Jewish community together in ways that don't directly link to Torah. Even by the mere essence of having a "social group" such as Torah on Tap as a part of Temple Israel, the congregation is more capable of tying in young Jewish men and women to be a part of our community. – Josh Feldman

Torah on Tap was the first organization I connected with when I moved to Charlotte and in the few short weeks that I've been here, ToT has hosted several events catering to all different types of people within the Jewish community. Through ToT, I've had the opportunity to attend a karaoke party, a Torah study, and the Party of Five, and will shortly be attending a Purim event and a Shabbat dinner. At each event, I have been amazed by the sheer size of the Jewish young adult community and the fact that I continue to meet new people at each gathering. Not only does ToT create events for the community, but it has connected people in truly meaningful ways. Because of ToT, I can go to synagogue on a Friday night knowing I have people to sit with and

have already made strong friendships that would not have had the opportunity to form otherwise.  
– Lauren Kasiarz

We hope to see you soon!  
*Submitted by Aaron Weiner*

## Temple Israel Social Club



Temple Israel Social Club welcomes adults who are members of Charlotte area Synagogues. The Club provides a venue for members to meet each other, make new friends, and enjoy interesting activities. The programs in 2014-2015 were well attended --and included the following activities:

**July 20, 2014** – Members attended the Broadway musical “Mary Poppins” at Central Piedmont Community College, followed by dinner at a nearby restaurant.

**August 24, 2014** – Club went to Knights’ Baseball game at new uptown BB&T Stadium.

**September 7, 2014** – The Club visited the Levine Museum of the New South to see exhibit “Beyond Swastika and Jim Crow: Jewish Refugee Scholars at Black Colleges,” followed by dinner at a nearby restaurant.

**October 13, 2014** – 60 members and guests attended Adult-only Dinner in the Sukkah. Guest speaker was Adi Rodavsky, the new shalicha from Israel, talking about her life in Israel.

**November 13, 2014** – Rescheduled guided tour of The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond in Charlotte, followed by a van tour of recent changes in uptown Charlotte, including the Knights’ BB&T Ballpark and the Romare Bearden Park. Lunch was at a local restaurant.

**December 21, 2014** – 65 members and guests attended Annual Hanukkah Luncheon and Program at Crowne Plaza Hotel. Hanukkah Music was performed by Temple Israel’s “Rock HaRuach Band.”

**January 18, 2015** -- Mint Museum Uptown: Docent-led tour of exhibit “Connecting the World: The Panama Canal at 100.” Dinner followed at a nearby restaurant.

**February 22, 2015** – CPCC Theatre, musical “How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying.” Dinner at a restaurant afterwards.

**March 15, 2015** – 85 members attended Annual Paid-up Membership Luncheon and Program in Temple Israel Social Hall. Guest speaker, Stephanie Starr, Director of Jewish Family Services, informed the members about the many programs and services offered by the JFS agency.



**April 21, 2015** – Allen Tate Senior Bus Tour of Retirement Communities including The Carriage Club, Waltonwood on Providence Road, and The Cypress. Breakfast and Lunch were included.



**May 7, 2015**—Annual Mystery Bus Ride – An all-day excursion to interesting places.

The Temple Israel Social Club has 125 members. Temple members 55+ are welcome to join and participate in the varied activities described above. Members receive monthly flyers by e-mail or postal mail, as well as phone calls. Articles appear regularly in “Kol Yisrael,” Temple weekly e-blast, and Shabbat Announcements. Transportation is by carpools, vans or bus from the Temple parking lot. If anyone needs a ride to the Temple, the Club arranges it. Membership is \$20 per person for the calendar year. The Social Club is *your* Club. Suggestions from our members for future activities are always welcome. Do you want to join, have questions or suggestions? Please contact one of the Club’s Co-Presidents: Ruth Goldberg, 704-366-8903, or Irving Bienstock, 704-542-0094.

*Submitted by Irving Bienstock and Ruth Goldberg, Co- Presidents  
Social Club photos by Alan Goldberg*

## Social Action Committee

Year Round, the Temple Israel Community performs hands on, experiential and impactful Mitzvot linked to Jewish values. As a result, we strengthen relationships with the Jewish and Greater Charlotte Communities, and one another.

- **Huntingtowne Farms Elementary School Partnership: Year 8** - In addition to



tutoring, proctoring, teacher appreciation, after school child care, and supporting the Freedom School, generous Temple Israel Congregants donate books, clothing, umbrellas, pumpkins, holiday gifts, school supplies and helped fund field trips to Raleigh. Washington DC and to the JCC (Butterfly Project).

- **Blessings in a Backpack: Feeding the Future of America, One School at a Time** - Volunteers from Temple Israel provide food to children in need at Huntingtowne Farms Elementary School (HFES) every weekend throughout the school year.
- **Temple Israel Religious School and B’Nai Mitzvah Students: Mitzvah Projects** – Our Students and Staff perform Acts of Loving Kindness throughout the year.
- **Caring for the Homeless:** Temple Israel supports The Men’s Shelter of Charlotte’s mission to end homelessness in Charlotte by providing 360 guests with meals, along with warm clothing and toiletries, on Thanksgiving and Christmas. We also partner with the

Urban Ministry Center to open our Temple on three Saturday evenings, providing shelter and food for homeless people during the cold winter.

- **Torah on Tap, Sisterhood and Men's Club:** Perform Acts of Loving Kindness through many Social Action projects, volunteering and Tzedakah.
- **Jewish Family Services:** Temple Israel's Community actively supports JFS through donations to the JFS Food Pantry on Yom Kippur and throughout the entire year.
- **Yom Gemilut Hasadim:** On January 18, 2015, over 300 Temple Israel Family Members came together to perform hands on, experiential and impactful Mitzvot linked to Jewish values. Thanks to their hard work and generosity we provided support to: Jewish Family Services, Israel, Bright Blessings, Blessings In A Back Pack, The Men's Shelter of Charlotte, Women's Shelter, Room in the Inn, Operation Sandwich, Ronald McDonald House, Sunrise and Carriage Club, Shalom Bayit NC, Zabs Place, and Huntingtowne Farms Elementary School.



**Shalom Bayit:** Temple Israel encourages Congregants to Fight Domestic Abuse through awareness and support.

*"If I am not for myself, then who will be for me? And if I am only for myself, then what am I? And if not now, when?"* Hillel

The "Temple Israel Social Action Fund" is a great place to give Tzedakah, to provide support to so many who are in need, in honor or memory of those who you love.

Are you interested in leading or getting involved in Social Action Programs at Temple Israel? If so, please contact Jonathan Berger-Chairman of TI Social Action at either [jbergertisa@gmail.com](mailto:jbergertisa@gmail.com) or 704-995-1732.

***Submitted by Jonathan Berger***

## Temple Israel Sisterhood Annual Report

Temple Israel Sisterhood looks to support and create positive relationships with our members, the Temple Israel community and within the Jewish community in Charlotte and beyond. Our programs and activities contribute to enhancing learning and improving our Jewish lives. Programs such as Sukkah Decorating with TI Families, Charoset Around the World, and leading a Sisterhood Shabbat Service give our members the chance to participate in holiday and Shabbat preparations and bring new meaning to these celebrations. As part of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism, our Sisterhood supports all of the Masorti seminaries around the world through the Torah Fund. This obligation, to further the learning of our future rabbis and cantors,



is of paramount importance to us. We have completed our financial commitment this year through the generosity of our members.

Two of our programs were led by our Rabbis. Rabbi Raucher spoke to us about Women and Mitzvot, sharing the Masorti Movement's stance on egalitarianism within the synagogue. Rabbi Ezring spoke to us at our end of the year brunch about Keruv and Conversion from the Masorti point of view. This was followed by a panel of TI women, HERstory, discussing their experiences.

Sisterhood proudly operates The Rose Room Judaic Gift Shop, totally on a volunteer basis. The proceeds from our sales allow Sisterhood to donate \$10,000 a year to the temple and to augment youth activities through our Youth Fund. Our participation on Yom Gemilut Hasadim allows us to reach out and benefit community projects. We look forward to strengthening our ties this year with our partner school, Huntingtowne Farms Elementary School. Sometimes we come together for the sheer pleasure of each other's company, as we did with a visit to artists Sharon Hockfield and Pam Winegard in their studios, and with a family game day of Bingo with Bunny in April.



Our programs this year included the expansion of Special Interest Groups (SIGs). We have increased the number of baking opportunities and offer Mah Jongg lessons. Our Rosh Chodesh study group is thriving and continues to attract new members. This is in response to what members have asked for. What made this year so successful is not just the increase we have seen in our membership. We began the year with 117 members and now have 185. There has been a concerted effort to reach out to past members to rejoin and to invite new women to become members. We have seen increased

attendance at our programs and have an active group proposing ideas for next year's programs. We look to share our knowledge, experience and interests with each other and to celebrate our diversity.

*Submitted by Denise Abadi and Hilary Rosenbaum, Co-Presidents*

## Temple Israel Annual Meeting Board Member and Nominee Biographies

### Executive Committee

*Lynne Levinson Sheffer*—President

Previous Temple Israel offices held: 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Board member, Chair-Social Action committee

Offices held in Jewish or community organizations: Board member-Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, Board member-Levine Jewish Community Center, President-Jewish Family Services, Board member-Teen Health Connection,, Board member-Hospice of Charlotte.

Why I want to serve: I strongly believe in the role a synagogue plays in a Jewish community. Having grown up in Temple Israel, I feel a strong sense of obligation and responsibility. Temple Israel has a 120 year legacy and I want it to continue for future generations. I am grateful for all that the Temple Israel community has provided for me and my entire family for many years.

***Ron Weiner***—1st Vice President

Previous Temple Israel offices held: Member, Personnel Committee, Chair, Social Action Committee.

Offices held in Jewish or community organizations: Board of Trustees, BJH Foundation for Senior Services, Past President, Blumenthal Jewish Home, Board of Trustees, Blumenthal Jewish Home, Treasurer, Better Business Bureau of Charlotte.

Why I want to serve: Judaism has been a source of strength, guidance and joy for me and my family for most of my/our lives. For more than 25 years our membership in Temple Israel and participation in Temple life has been our greatest connection to our faith and heritage. Our Jewish values require that we give back to our communities and that is my motivation to serve on our Temple Board.

***Adam Petricoff***—2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Previous Temple Israel offices held: Chair-Marketing Committee, helping modernize our marketing efforts including relaunching our website and new app.

Offices held in Jewish or community organizations: Temple Israel Board of Trustees (4 years), Board-Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

Why I want to serve: I am committed to continuing the long history of excellence at Temple Israel and maintaining a vital home for Conservative Judaism in Charlotte.

***Marcie Williams***—Secretary

Previous Temple Israel offices held: Secretary (2014-2015), Chair, Executive Director Search Committee (2015) to successfully hire Glenda Bernhardt.

Offices held in Jewish or community organizations: Board of Directors, Charlotte Jewish Preschool (1999-2003).

Why I want to serve: I get to meet new members of the community that I share a common bond with. I enjoy getting to help the temple and our community prepare for the future to ensure that it is here for another 120 years!

***David Rosenthal***—Treasurer

Previous Temple Israel offices held: Treasurer (2013-present), Chair, Finance Committee (2013-present), Member, Strategic Planning Task Force (2014-2015), Member, Ritual Committee (2013-present), Member, Men's Club Steering Committee (2014-present), Member,

Masorti/Conservative Judaism Task Force (2013-2014). In these roles I contributed to a more informed congregation: an engaged Finance Committee, implementation of Kol Yisrael Gematria column providing education and insight with respect to Temple Israel finances, budget and costs.

Offices held in Jewish or community organizations: Temple Israel Board Representative, Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community (2013-present), Relational Judaism Committee, FCJC (2015-present), Membership and Programs Committee, Urban Land Institute (2007-present), Providence Senior High Band Booster Club President (2010-2011), Executive Board (2010-2012), Pit Crew (2008-2013).

Offices held in Jewish or community organizations:

Why I want to serve: I am passionate about and dedicated to: objectivity and keeping our community's best interest in mind; moving the Jewish paradigm from one of surviving to one of thriving; applying my knowledge base, skillset and vast experiences in furthering not only our mission and vision, but also ensuring its legacy; and creating interconnectedness amongst our congregants, the Jewish community and greater community.

### **Board of Trustees**

***Denise Abadi***—Sisterhood Representative (Co-President)

Previous Temple Israel offices held: TIRS Advisory Committee-both as teacher representative and Interim Principal.

Offices held in Jewish or community organizations: Director of Charlotte Jewish Preschool (2003-2009).

Why I want to serve: It is important for all members of Temple Israel to be involved in some aspect of temple life. By giving back and participating we all help our congregation and community grow and evolve.

***Michael Abadi***

Previous Temple Israel offices held: President, Temple Israel Men's Club (3 years)-helped set up several new programs (Keruv and Air Conditioners for underprivileged families) and continued the Mother's Day Brunch and Schach gathering on Sukkot, Chair, Ritual Committee (1 year) and Chair, High Holy Day Honors Committee (5 years).

Offices held in Jewish or community organizations: VP and Latin America Liaison for Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs (8 years) and Masorti Olami (2 years).

Why I want to serve: I am passionate about Temple Israel and since moving to Charlotte 15 years ago I consider it my home away from home. It is important to lead by example to get more people involved in our Temple Israel family, and there is a space for everyone in our tent. As part of the Masorti/Conservative movement worldwide we can influence the future of Judaism and the kind of people we want to be in the future. There is a challenge in every generation, and we can meet it by becoming more involved in our Temple, which has always been there for us.

***Irving Bienstock***—Social Club Representative (Co-President)

Previous Temple Israel offices held: Co-President, Temple Israel Social Club.

Offices held in Jewish or community organizations: Chair, Points of View, Treasurer, The Charlotte Yiddish Institute, Chair, Religious Activities, The Charlotte Yiddish Institute, Board Member, Jewish Family Services.

Why I want to serve: This is an opportunity to get involved and be a leader in promoting and participating in Temple Israel social activities.

***Jonathan Berger***

Previous Temple Israel offices held: Chair, Social Action Committee (2014-present), Chair, first annual Yom Gemilut Hasadim (2015), Chair and Co-Chair, TI Men's Shelter Dinners for past 6 years, Table Host, Men's Shelter Breakfast Fundraiser 2015, Chair, Fundraise for Jews in Ukraine (2014), Chair, Yom Kippur Food Drive (2013, 2014), Volunteer, Huntingtown Farms Elementary School, TIRS, Room In the Inn, Blessings in a Backpack (2013-2015), member of Men's Club for 13 years.

Offices held in Jewish or community organizations: Co-Chair, Drive for a Better Tomorrow, Sponsorship/Advertising Strategy Development, Celebrate the Ta-Tas (2015).

Why I want to serve: To strengthen our existing portfolio of Social Action programs by involving more congregants and raising more tzedakah to fund these programs and to add additional Social Action programs so we can make an even greater positive impact.

***Deborah (Dedee) Gould Cygler***

Previous Temple Israel offices held: Chair-Membership Committee (2012-present), Established on-going buddy system pairing buddies with new members. Host new and prospective member events. With help of Membership Committee, call non-affiliated new JCC members on regular basis. Regularly attend Shabbat and holiday services.

Offices held in Jewish or community organizations: Temple Israel Center, White Plains, NY: Board of Trustees, Honorary Trustee (2 terms), Nominating Committee (3 terms), Co-Chair, Raffle-Dinner Dance, Chair, Silent Auction & Raffle, Co-Chair, High Holiday Seating Committee (16 years), Board of Trustees, Community Hebrew High School, Publicity Committee-liaison to Scarsdale Inquirer, Chair, Sisterhood Shabbat, Usher, Shabbat and High Holidays, Simchat Torah Honoree for exemplary service.

Why I want to serve: In light of prior experience with a progressive and active Conservative synagogue, I would be honored to offer my background and enthusiasm in continuing to strengthen the Temple Israel community.

***Graig Harr***

Previous Temple Israel offices held: Member, Finance Committee-conducted a detailed review of the synagogue's audit report and identified its qualified audit opinion and what needs to be

done to remediate, assisted with the sustainability concept and relevant calculations to effectively communicate the sustainability gap to the congregation.

Offices held in Jewish or community organizations: North Shore Jewish Center, Port Jefferson Station, NY-Board of Trustees and Finance Committee.

Why I want to serve: Temple Israel and the greater Charlotte Jewish community play a very large role in my family's daily lives and as a result I feel passionate about giving my time to ensure that the synagogue's best interests are upheld while planning for future generations.

### ***Stacey Schuler***

Previous Temple Israel offices held: Chair, Temple Israel Religious School Advisory Board, Chair, Youth Committee.

Why I want to serve: I enjoy serving as TIRS Advisory Chair because I believe our children are the future of Judaism and our Temple. I am passionate about being a part of a group that can instill Jewish values, love of prayer and a love of God into the lives of our children.

### ***Steven Starr***

Previous Temple Israel offices held: Chaired Kitchen/Simcha Committee, established revamped catering systems and established new catering policies for B'nai Mithvahs and other Simchas.

Offices held in Jewish or community organizations: Vice President, Charlotte Jewish Preschool Board, Chair, Marketing Committee and Playground Development Taskforce, CJP.

Why I want to serve: Being on the Board gives me an opportunity to "give back" to the Jewish community and set a strong example regarding community involvement for my children.

### ***Dana Mandell Stoogenke***

Previous Temple Israel offices held: Member, TIRS Advisory Committee--working continuously to assist and advise leadership on ways to make TIRS the best place for our children's Jewish identity and education. Chair, TIRS Task Force for Curriculum and Scheduling—worked for nine months with Task Force members to collect data, research best practices and generate recommendations for a new TIRS curriculum and schedule, implemented in 2014.

Offices held in Jewish or community organizations: Co-Chair of Advocacy for Parents of Allergic Kids (PAK), a support group for parents that have children with anaphylactic allergies. PAK and community partners were able to convince CMS that every school needs a school nurse. In addition, statewide legislation was passed to provide an epi-pen for every public school in North Carolina.

Why I want to serve: I am committed to ensuring my children have a full Jewish life in Charlotte, North Carolina. Temple Israel has provided that for us and now it is my responsibility and pleasure to "pay it forward." I believe my professional skill set, passion for Judaism and willingness to participate can be utilized by the Board of Trustees to further Temple Israel's goals. If I am elected, it will be an honor to serve.

## *David Thrope*

Previous Temple Israel offices held: Chair, Life Long Learning—developing programs for all age groups including younger adults and professionals, most Clergy led, some Lay led; Co-Chair, Spring Luncheon at Men’s Shelter—coordinating volunteers to cook and serve lunch for 170+ men, distributing clothing and toiletries; Chair, Men’s Shelter Christmas Dinner—soliciting donations of clothing, food and money. Coordinating volunteers cooking and serving Christmas dinner at the shelter to 160+ men and distributing clothing and toiletries.

Offices held in Jewish or community organizations: At a small synagogue in New Hampshire, which didn’t always form individual committees, was very engaged and led and supported the Board and the part-time Rabbi in various outreach and ritual activities.

Why I want to serve: TI offers its members so many opportunities for prayer, learning and community outreach through Mitzvot - all of which are important to me as a congregant. I especially enjoy providing and engaging in opportunities for the TI community to better serve the larger Charlotte community as a way to start and enhance relationships. In addition, through Life Long Learning, I enjoy the prospect of being able to develop inclusive programs that are thought provoking and enlivening, hopefully addressing issues of importance to the congregation.

## Temple Israel Annual Meeting Sunday, May 18, 2014

The Annual Meeting of Temple Israel was called to order at 11:15 a.m. by the President, Barry Bobrow.

The D'Var Torah was given by Rabbi Murray Ezring.

Audrey Madans moved that the written minutes contained in the annual report satisfy the need for the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting that were recorded by Mike Eisner. Bunny Bramson seconded the motion and the minutes were approved as presented.

Barry suggested that we move the election of new officers and board members to the beginning of the meeting. Brian Bernhardt moved that we move elections to the beginning of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Nancy Kipnis. All present were in favor of the motion.

Barry thanked Teresa Brenner for chairing the Nominating Committee and also thanked Steve Hockfield for his help with procedures to be used during the election.

Teresa thanked Barry for his kind words and announced the members of the

nominating committee: Dan Ruda, Michael Abadi, Cindy Jenness, Liz Winer, Mike Eisner, Judy Nacimiento, Peter Levinson and Julie Oringel. Teresa and Anne Weiss, Executive Director, confirmed that the quorum necessary to hold the election had been met with 46 family units present.

Teresa explained the balloting procedures and informed everyone that Michael Koss will oversee voting with the help of Steve Hockfield.

Teresa asked if there were any additional nomination from the floor. Hearing none, Bunny Bramson moved that the nominations be closed. Lee Jacobson seconded the motion.

Teresa brought forth the slate of officers for 2014-2015:

Lynne Sheffer	President
Ron Weiner	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President
Adam Petricoff	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President
Marcie Williams	Secretary
David Rosenthal	Treasurer
Barry Bobrow	Immediate Past President

Peggy Gartner moved that the slate be accepted by acclamation. Julie Bradlow seconded the motion.

Teresa directed those in attendance to refer to the 5 candidate statements that had been passed out upon entering the meeting, and announced that each candidate would be given 2 minutes for remarks. Mark Farbman and David Thrope chose to make remarks.

Teresa once again explained to the congregational members that they were to vote for four (4) of the nominees, and thanked everyone for their participation and attendance at the meeting.

David Rosenthal presented the Treasurer's Report and answered a few questions.

Barry delivered his final remarks and recognized those people who were moving off the board at the conclusion of their term, or had to resign due to personal reasons.

Beth Listhaus	Margi Goldstein
Brian Bernhardt	Mike Eisner
Michael Koss	

Anne Weiss, Executive Director, thanked Barry for his service as President of Temple Israel over the past two (2) years and presented him with a gift from the staff. She welcomed Lynne, the new executive committee and board members and told them that she and the staff looked forward to working with them over the coming year.

Teresa announced the results of the election:

Jonathan Berger	74 votes
Stacey Schuler	69 votes
David Thrope	69 votes
Steve Starr	65 votes
Mark Farbman	21 votes

Teresa congratulated Jonathan Berger, Stacey Shuler, David Thrope, and Steve Starr, and thanked Mark Farbman for participating.

Having no further business to be brought before the congregation, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Gartner