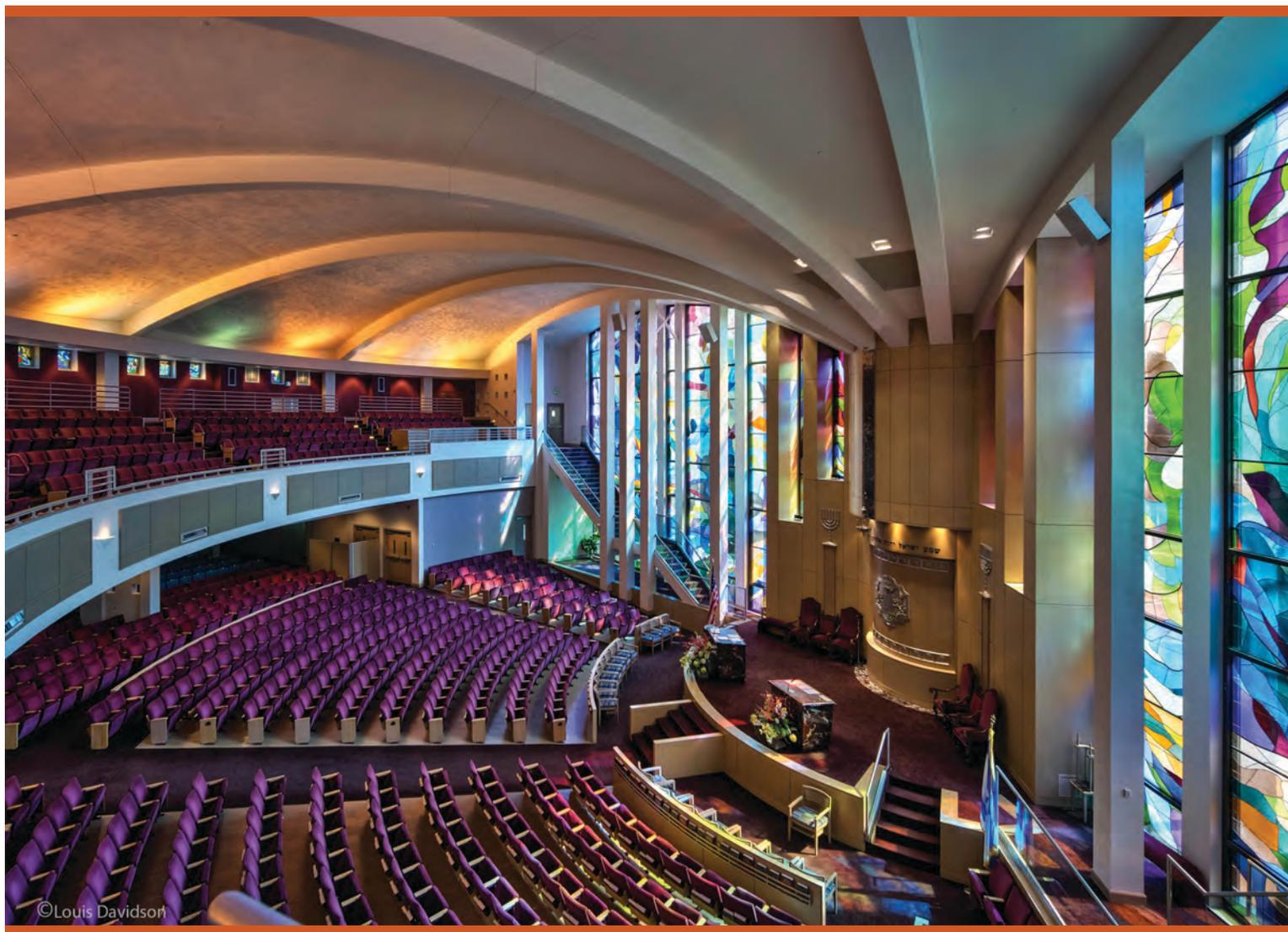




temple israel



# 2020

## ANNUAL REPORT

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Agenda.....	1
President’s Report .....	2
Clergy Office Report .....	3
Professional’s Report .....	4
Treasurer’s Report.....	5
Temple Israel Religious School .....	6
Temple Israel Youth Groups .....	7
Consolidated High School of Jewish Studies .....	8
Lifelong Learning .....	9
Torah On Tap.....	9
Temple Israel Social Club.....	10
Social Action Update .....	11
Men’s Club.....	12
Women of Temple Israel .....	13
Membership .....	14
Create Your Jewish Legacy .....	15
Officer and Trustee Biographies .....	16
Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes (2019) .....	20

# TEMPLE ISRAEL ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, May 31, 2020 10:30 A.M.

Via Zoom

## AGENDA

- Call to Order - David Rosenthal, Chairman of the Meeting
  - 1) D'var Torah - Rabbi Howard Siegel
  - 2) Reading of the minutes from the previous Annual Meeting
    - David Rosenthal
  - 3) Treasurer's Report - Nikki Sacks
- 4) Reports of the Professionals - Parting remarks from Glenda Bernhardt
  - 5) Report of the President - David Rosenthal
  - 6) Reports of Committee Chairs and Presidents of Affiliated Temple Organizations - Annual Report
  - 7) Old Business - David Rosenthal
  - 8) New Business - David Rosenthal
- 9) Report of the Nominations Committee - Stephen Moore
- 10) Election of Officers and Members of the Board of Trustees
  - David Rosenthal
- 11) Remarks of Incoming President
- 12) Adjournment - David Rosenthal

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



On behalf of the Board of Trustees, and as its President, I present Temple Israel's 124th Annual Report.

***Ben Zoma said: "Who is wise? S/he who learns from every wo/man", as it is said: "From all who taught me have I gained understanding" (Psalms 119:99). I have gained much understanding and learning from many of you.***

Judaism, at its core, is a tradition affirming our meaning in the face of crisis. One of Judaism's most distinctive and challenging ideas is its ethics of responsibility. The Talmud states, "Life is God's call to responsibility." As we serve Temple Israel's mission and carry out its vision every day during these difficult times, our communities are where we serve with a Jewish heart. Even in the darkest hours of history, within our

Jewish homes, there has always been the light of timeless faith and human kindness. As surely and inevitably as the cycle of the seasons, we have the power to start anew, to emerge whole from our hurt, our losses and our pain.

5779/5780 (2019/2020) has been a remarkable year of growth, service, joy and support for our kehillah (holy community). The effort of our clergy and professional teams, Board of Trustees, Executive Committee, extensive corps of volunteers, as well as each and every one of you, has been rewarding. Opting-in and devoting your time, energy and capital creates momentum and great results as we aspire to be the center of Conservative Jewish life for many in Charlotte, committed to shifting the Jewish American paradigm from one of scarcity and surviving to one of abundance and thriving. Our collective efforts span generations. Our calling is to honor the legacy of our visionary founders and perpetuate this shared legacy, creating a stronger, healthier Conservative Jewish community serving all generations, fostering a passion for Judaism in our children and grandchildren, our future leaders and congregants.

Enclosed in this report, you will see details regarding our many activities and accomplishments. I encourage you to thoroughly review these materials. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer in any capacity, please feel welcome to reach out. Our success depends on you, working together, daring together, collectively, to achieve the aforementioned aspirations.

Finally, we should celebrate our many blessings and stand proud of Temple Israel and our community. Temple Israel is in excellent financial health. All funds entrusted to Temple Israel are managed with great fiduciary care, supervised by the Board of Trustees and professionally managed by the Foundation for the Carolinas/Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community. Temple Israel stands above many of its peers on multiple levels and is a remarkable community!

While appropriate to reflect on the past as we approach this Annual Meeting, we must focus on the future, a bright one! Temple Israel is in a time of transition and we are well prepared. I look forward to many years of progress and accomplishment.

May you all be blessed for the many contributions you make to our thriving congregation and for being present.

*L'chaim tovim ul'shalom* to you and your loved ones.

Stay healthy, be safe and strong!

*David Rosenthal*

*President, 5779-5780*



## CLERGY OFFICE REPORT



The Temple Israel Clergy team (Rabbi Helene Kornsgold, Cantor Shira Lissek and I) met the challenges of this past year with enthusiasm and spirit. I can truly say this team of committed Jewish leaders never lost sight of what we and Temple Israel are

about: God, Torah, and the Jewish people.

With the retirement of Rabbi Murray Ezring, Rabbi Kornsgold and Cantor Lissek took charge of all aspects of Temple Israel religious life (services, rites of passage, pastoral visits, etc.) during the month of July 2019. I arrived in August 2019, and was warmly received and oriented to the responsibilities of the interim senior rabbi.

Even with the presence of an "interim" rabbi, TI's religious programs and events expanded. Even the membership grew! Under Cantor Shira Lissek's leadership the Bar/Bat Mitzvah program continued to grow, as did her work with TIRS in Shira T'fillah and the pre-Bnai Mitzvah Trope class. The Cantor's "Kavanah: The Heart & Soul of Barbra Streisand" concert yielded \$75,000 in synagogue fundraising, and her work with the temple's first family concert featuring Jewish Rock radio star Rick Recht, and the annual Purim Schpiel, entertained hundreds of men, women, and children of all ages!

During my brief stay with Temple Israel I have continued the "Lunch-And-Learn" series on a monthly basis, offered "Gutsy Torah" learning following each

Shabbat morning service and taught classes in Talmud and Basic Judaism. Together with Cantor Lissek, we have been able to move forward with an instrumental music program on Shabbat by adding a once-a-month Shabbat morning musical experience to compliment the weekly Kabbalat Shabbat Friday evening service.

Rabbi Kornsgold expanded the number of parents and children attending Shabbat services on Friday evening and Saturday morning with a re-invigorated program of "Tot Shabbat" and Jr. Congregation.

And then came COVID-19! Temple Israel is blessed with an amazing team of professionals who, almost overnight, transformed an entire synagogue-based program (religious services, TIRS, et al) from real to virtual without losing a beat! The incredible fact is most of this change and, to date, continued programming, is being planned, coordinated, and executed by a team who currently operate remotely. We are Temple Israel Strong!

I know the recent months have not been easy for anyone and even more trying for families who suffered deaths and had to endure ZOOM funerals and virtual Shiva minyans. Notwithstanding, the Temple Israel family has come together to offer comfort to the mourners, food and financial support to those in need, a simple phone call to each and every congregant, and the willingness to be there 24/7 if needed.

Finally, I want to thank this *Kehillah Kedosha*/Holy Congregation for opening her heart to me during this past year. It has truly been a privilege to serve as your rabbi. *Hazak, Hazak, v'Nit'hazeik* -go forward with strength, purpose, and hope!

*Rabbi Howard Siegel*



## REPORT OF THE PROFESSIONALS



### (Farewell Shabbat Remarks by Glenda Bernhardt)

Tonight, is certainly bittersweet. I want to thank Rabbi Siegel and Cantor Lissek for leading a beautiful service and I want to thank my team at Temple Israel for putting this evening together. I also want to thank David for his kind words.

When I began as Temple Israel's Executive Director in June of 2015, I don't think I was fully aware of what this job would become - of the opportunities and challenges I would face or of the really good and sometimes really hard work I would do, in partnership with lay leaders and the professional staff teams at Temple Israel and on Shalom Park.

It has been a very busy four and a half years. I've had the opportunity to look back on this time over the last few weeks and I am so proud of all we have accomplished: we ran a successful 120th anniversary capital campaign and completed an extensive building renovation, while also celebrating this milestone in the life of the congregation with several special events; I led the professional side of three major searches, said goodbye to two long serving clergy members and welcomed two new ones to Charlotte; I built out the professional team at Temple Israel and strategically restructured several positions to meet the changing needs of the congregation; I worked with several of you to help turn the dream of a Jewish senior living community on the campus into a reality; I worked with our professional and lay teams to develop, redesign and/or modernize our systems, programs,

marketing tools and auxiliaries to better meet the needs of the congregation; I worked with my Park Partner colleagues on several projects connected to Temple Israel partnerships in order to restructure them for greater efficiency and effectiveness; and...I have supervised some fantastic, loyal, hardworking professionals and had the pleasure of leading them, in partnership with our Senior Rabbi.

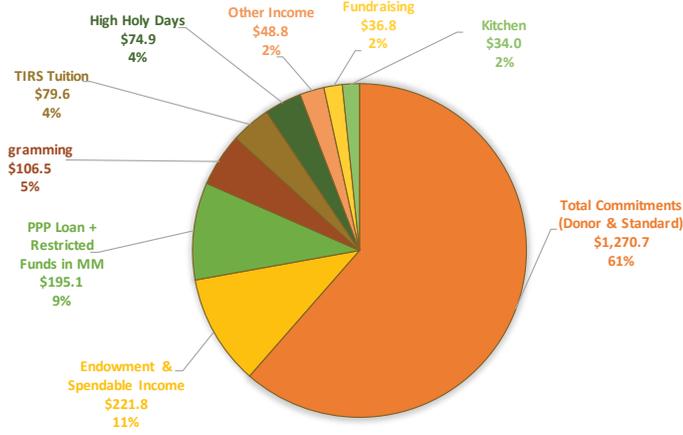
I would like to thank my husband, my children, and my in-laws for being so supportive as I have served our congregation as Executive Director. My family has been understanding when I've needed to be available for evening and weekend meetings, events, services and programs and I am so thankful for them.

It has been my pleasure to get to know many of you and I'm glad that our family will be staying here in Charlotte and that we will remain members of Temple Israel, so these relationships can continue to grow over time. This is not goodbye, only l'hitraot. I'll be back soon to join my sons, Jake and Jonah, at services, as they complete their TIRS Shabbat requirement for the year. And our entire family will be here this spring for concerts and holiday celebrations. I'm truly looking forward to sitting with them and experiencing these things as a congregant with each of you. Judaism has always been central to my life; that is why I was attracted to this position in the first place. I have tried very hard to contribute all that I have to offer as your Executive Director to build upon the amazing legacy of Temple Israel and strengthen it for the future - for your families and my own. I am so glad I will have the opportunity to stay connected to Temple Israel professionally, as I become the CEO of Freedom School Partners. I look forward to working with many of you in the coming years on this important social justice initiative and positively impacting children and families in our community. Thank you for a wild, exhausting, rewarding ride. Shabbat Shalom.

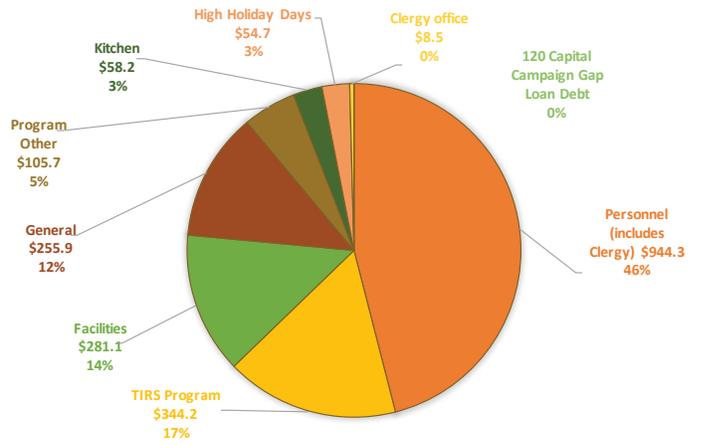


# TREASURER'S REPORT

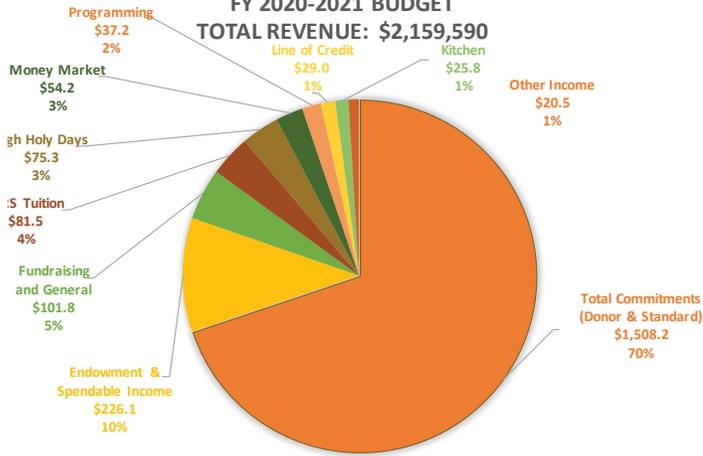
**TEMPLE ISRAEL REVENUE (000s)**  
**FY 2019-2020 ACTUAL + FORECAST (04/30/2020)**  
**TOTAL REVENUE: \$2,068,183**



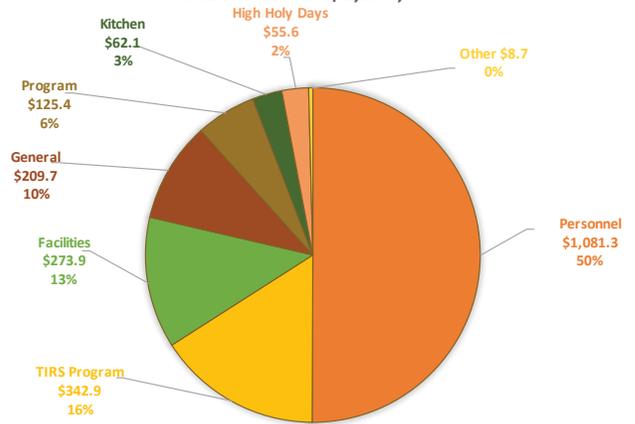
**TEMPLE ISRAEL EXPENSE (000s)**  
**FY 2019-2020 ACTUAL + FORECAST (04/30/2020)**  
**TOTAL EXPENSE: \$2,052,689**



**TEMPLE ISRAEL REVENUE**  
**FY 2020-2021 BUDGET**  
**TOTAL REVENUE: \$2,159,590**



**TEMPLE ISRAEL EXPENSE (000s)**  
**FY 2020-2021 BUDGET**  
**TOTAL EXPENSE: \$2,159,590**



## TEMPLE ISRAEL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

This year we had 124 students in our wonderful religious school. We had the opportunity to welcome 25 new families and 37 new students into our warm and heimish school community.

This year was filled with many exciting and engaging learning opportunities! We completed the third year of using the Mitkadem Hebrew program and our weekday Experiential Education class curriculum.

Cantor Lissek and Rabbi Kornsgold continue to lead the school's weekly Sunday Tefillah/Shira service and the students' knowledge of Shabbat services and their ability to lead services continues to improve.

There was a fantastic turnout of students and their families at both Yom Gemilut Hasadim and the World Wide Wrap.

We continue to have great attendance at the Family Education programs and School-wide Shabbat services, where individual classes have the opportunity to lead part of the service.

*Rabbi Helene Kornsgold*



## TEMPLE ISRAEL YOUTH GROUPS

**Thank you all for another successful year!**

Our youth department has continued to grow and involve our youth in Temple Israel. This year was a year of first for our Kadima and USY Chapters. We had our USY chapter, Ir Ha-Malka (The Queen City), attend Regional Board Weekend represented by our Chapter President Eliana Harr, and Our Israel Awareness VP Hannah Sidranski. We also attended our first Sub Regional USY/Kadima convention in the fall represented by 7 of our teens.

The Kadima Leadership Council grew this year to nine members, and our USY Executive Board filled all seven positions. Our goal is to make sure our youth feel connected to TI, the Jewish community, have fun in a safe environment and, most importantly, feel empowered and proud to be Jewish. Before every Kadima Leadership Council meeting and USY Executive Board meeting, a Jewish value is discussed, along with how it can help them as leaders.

Our events range from apple picking for Rosh Hashanah to ice skating. We also cleaned, redecorated, and revamped the Youth Lounge to hold more programs and hold meetings starting this fall. The College Outreach Program was also able to provide 22 college students with four care packages for Rosh Hashanah, Hanukkah, Purim, and one for the end of the year prefinals boost.

The Youth Department would like to thank Women of Temple Israel for their continued support from their Youth Fund. The WoTI Youth Fund was set up by WoTI to help offset costs for programming and travel for Mahar, Kadima, and Ir Ha-Malka USY. Without this fund, we would not be able to provide as many opportunities and programs for our youth. To help keep the Youth Fund going, please consider donating to the WoTI Youth Fund directly or, more importantly, purchase the amazing selection of Judaica from the The Rose Room, the WoTI Judaica Gift Shop, on Sundays when 10% of all profits go towards the Youth Fund!

*Alan Johnathan*



## HEBREW HIGH

- Temple Israel students at Hebrew High consisted of 37 students in grades 8th-12th
- Temple Israel members made up 7 teachers on staff at Hebrew High
- Temple Israel had 5 students taking Hebrew for High School Credit



### What sets us apart?

Hebrew High continues to be a safe haven for our students. With low student/teacher ratios, we notice when students miss a lot of classes or when they do not seem themselves. They become an extension of our own families and we are vested in their wellbeing.

### New and Special Events:

- **Tracks:** This year we implemented three different 6-week tracks that centered around special themes and other unique classroom experiences. These classes began with a coffee house night and ended with our clergy wrap up.

The first track was Shleimut Sheli: The Care of Me

The second track was HaOlam Sheli: The World and Me

The third track was Yisrael Sheli: Finding My Israel

- **Coffee with Clergy:** On two different Wednesday nights, students had the opportunity to learn from their clergy while enjoying a specialty drink at Starbucks or Dunkin Donuts. Clergy planned and implemented lessons that introduced each track. Hebrew High was happy to treat all students to coffee or hot chocolate!

- **Scott Fried:** Scott Fried returned this year! Scott is an international award-winning speaker, youth educator, and HIV/AIDS advocate. He spoke to the entire school on the first night of Hebrew High (October 16). His talk introduced the first track of Shleimut Sheli: The Care of Me, and included a conversation around the Jewish value of Shmirat Haguf (care for/guarding your body) and Ometz Lev (courage/strength of the heart), which helps build confidence in our own body image and strengthen our ability to make decisions about relationships.

Hebrew High and Temple Israel also co-sponsored (along with Temple Beth El, BBYO and JFS) a parent night with Scott Fried. He spoke about his new book, "How to Raise an Elegant Teen: The ABC's of Gen Z Parenting."

- **White Water Center Experience:** During the first track, 8th and 9th Graders had the opportunity to explore "The Care of Me" on the low ropes course at the Whitewater Center. Our goal was to give teens the opportunity to build identity and self-confidence through the lens of Judaism.

## Confirmation and Post Confirmation

This year Temple Israel had three (out of 33) 10th graders in Confirmation class and six (out of 24) Post-Confirmation students. This year's Post-Confirmation experience was better than ever! In this very special class, students were given an opportunity to take two-6 weeks "tracks." One of the tracks was in partnership with the Jewish Studies department at Queens University in Charlotte. This class was titled *The Tea\* About College: Big Questions, Casual Conversations*. (\* Urban Dictionary definition of Tea: the best kind of gossip, typically shared between friends. It's a bonding tool for people of all ages.) Students had the opportunity to enjoy a nosh, and talk with Rabbi Judy Schindler, Sklut Professor of Jewish Studies and Director of the Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice at Queens University of Charlotte about important things in their lives - the "big questions" that they will confront as they journey into college and young adulthood: How are we seen? For whom are we responsible? How do we recharge? How do we disagree? Where do you feel at home? How do we grow?

### Here are some examples of some of the other classes and electives:

- **Traditional Jewish Baking:** Come learn how to make your bobbies most delicious baked treats. We will make challah, mandel bread and rugelach. It is sure to be a delicious elective!
- **Jewish Entrepreneurial Class:** We looked at the history of Jewish Business Leaders not only in Charlotte, but the world. And saw how they overcame many obstacles to create a successful business. America is rich with a history of Jewish leaders who have created a better America. We not only investigated business leaders in the past, but also what current Jewish business owners are doing in America and right here in Charlotte.
- **Finding Our Future in the Past:** We learned how Judaism got to the point we are now and where we are going. The course covered various events in our past that forced us to make decisions, for better or worse, for our people's future. We also identified how to use our Judaism to make decisions in our lives.
- **Jewish Virtues:** What do we believe? Even better yet, how does this shape how we live? The virtues we hold onto are what shape us into who we become. We must decide how we want to live our lives through a Jewish lens. This class explored what exactly Justice and Mercy, Friendship, and Giving the Benefit of the Doubt meant to us as Jews. We looked at how Torah, Talmud, and the Rabbis have shaped our views. We took those values and ideas and looked at them from a modern-day lenses and see how we can change the world for the better through our virtues and values.

Megan Harkavy

## LIFELONG LEARNING

A number of continued Jewish learning opportunities were offered this year by Rabbi Siegel, Cantor Lissek, and Rabbi Kornsgold.

Following the High Holy Days, Rabbi Siegel began a Sunday morning class entitled, *Swimming in The Sea Of Talmud*. Studying the 1st chapter of the Talmudic tractate *Baba Metzia*, students who had a background in Talmud, and many others for whom this was their first exposure, learned the “ins & outs” of Jewish legal argumentation on matters of civil law. All the texts were provided with an English translation. The course must have been interesting since the number of participants grew from one week to the next. The class continues through June.

Rabbi Siegel continued the monthly program of *Lunch N’ Learn* with reviews and discussions of the books of Rabbi Harold Kushner. Topics included: *When Bad Things Happened To Good People*, *When All You’ve Ever Wanted Isn’t Enough*, *Overcoming Life’s Disappointments*, *Conquering Fear*, *Living A Life That Matters*, *How Good Do We Have To Be?*, *Who Needs God*, and *Nine Essential Things I’ve Learned About Life*.

The rabbi also taught a year-long course in Basic Judaism for congregants and conversion candidates.

In addition to classes taught in the Temple Israel Religious School, Cantor Lissek offered a year-long Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah course meeting on a weekly basis. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the actual Bar/Bat Mitzvah planned for this Shavuot was postponed until later in the Fall.

During the school year, Rabbi Kornsgold offered parents of TIRS students a variety of different Jewish life experiential learning opportunities.

Rabbi Howard Siegel



## TORAH ON TAP

It’s been a great year for Torah on Tap, Temple Israel’s auxiliary group focused especially on building community for Jewish young professionals in their 20’s and 30’s in Charlotte. We created and held over 20 programs and events that included everything from physical activity and social gathering to learning and fundraising. Our list of most notable events included:

- **Wine and Wisdom** – A lively conversation about the High Holy Days with Rabbi Siegel
- **Jew Year’s Social** – A new year’s party in partnership with four other young professional groups in Charlotte
- **Vodka Latke** – Our annual Hanukkah party, this year in partnership with Moishe House
- **Men’s Shelter of Charlotte project for Yom Gemilut Hasadim** – 25 of us served lunch to over 250 of Charlotte’s homeless residents
- **March Mitzvah Madness** – Our new annual basketball tournament that raised \$900 for Jewish Family Services

We also held our most-attended Newcomer’s Social of the last few years, bringing in many new active members of our effervescent young adult community and fostering friendships for years to come. Torah on Tap of Temple Israel is committed to creating a welcoming environment in which young adults can explore their ever-growing Jewish identities and engage in vibrant Jewish life.

Amy Fine, President

**JUDAISM: Just The Basics**  
RABBI HOWARD SIEGEL  
MOST TUESDAYS, 7-8:30 P.M.  
NOVEMBER ('19) THROUGH MAY ('20)  
(with break for minyan)  
November 5, 12, 19  
December 3  
January 7, 14  
February 4, 11  
March 5, 12  
April 7, 14  
May 5, 12  
To register for this FREE\* class  
\*There is a \$10 fee for materials.  
For information, contact the Clerk

**Lifelong Learning: SWIMMING IN THE SEA OF TALMUD**  
Sunday Mornings 11 a.m.  
beginning November 3\*  
Temple Israel Board Room  
A comprehensive compendium of Jewish law, customs, and values taught in the Talmudic tractate. Join Rabbi Howard Siegel as he guides you through the text to learn, discuss and debate the most profound and controversial Torah scholars of the past two-thousand years. No previous knowledge of Talmud is required. To accommodate with TIRS schedule.

**Lifelong Learning: GUTSY TORAH**  
SHABBAT AFTERNOONS @ 12:30 P.M.  
(BEGINNING SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26)  
LOCATION: MINDY ELLEN LEVINE CHAPEL  
Join Rabbi Siegel each Shabbat following the Kiddush luncheon (approximately 12:30-1:30 p.m.) for an hour of "eye-opening" discussion of the week's Torah portion. Meet, discuss, and debate "up close and personal" with the most profound and controversial Torah scholars of the past two-thousand years.

## TEMPLE ISRAEL SOCIAL CLUB

The Temple Israel Social Club has 120 members. The club welcomes all Jewish adults 55 and older from Charlotte and the surrounding areas. The Social Club holds a variety of activities for its members during most months of the year. This organization offers an opportunity to make new friends with existing members. New members of Temple Israel are called and invited to attend events. Members receive monthly flyers, and articles appear regularly in Kol Yisrael, weekly e-blasts, and Shabbat announcements.

### Highlights from 2019-2020

**L'Chaim to Welcome the New Year 5780**, a wine, cheese and dessert party, starring Monty Bennett at the piano, featuring Light Classical and Broadway Musical Selections by Jewish composers. 65 members and guests attended

**Annual Jewish Holiday Celebrations** included **Dinner in the Sukkah**, followed by Lawrence Toppman, Arts Correspondent for The Charlotte Observer, who talked about "How a Critic Deconstructs a Work of Art." 63 members and guests attended. **The Hanukkah Luncheon and Music** featured Cantor Emeritus Elias Roochvarg leading candle lighting and group singing with 73 members and guests participating.

Once a month Sunday Luncheons had interesting guest speakers. Of note, were Andrew Tangalos (retired diplomat with Departments of State and Commerce in Washington, DC and overseas) and his wife Bonnie (a language educator) who taught English in foreign schools where they lived and worked abroad for the US Government. Another interesting program was given by Dr. Tom Hanchett, Community Historian, who spoke and illustrated his lecture on "The Mills and the Music" in the Charlotte area.

The Coronavirus/Covid-19 forced cancellations of seeing the "Immersion of Light" exhibit at the Mint Museum Uptown; "Brooklyn" exhibit at Levine Museum of the New South; attending "Guys and Dolls" at Matthews Playhouse this spring.

Membership dues in Social Club are \$20 per person per calendar year. For information about joining the Social Club or future programs, please contact one of the Club's Co-Presidents: Ruth Goldberg, 704-366-8903, or Irving Bienstock, 704-542-0094.

*Ruth Goldberg and Irving Bienstock*



## SOCIAL ACTION UPDATE

### Performing Acts of Loving Kindness, Together!

Our vision for Social Action is to live Jewish Values as we help those in need. Temple Israel is very busy addressing critical needs in the Jewish and broader Charlotte Community, as well as Jews in Israel. We thank everyone who participates in Social Action programs and those who provide donations and financial support.

We encourage everyone to get involved in TI Social Action Programs, you will be glad you did.

Jonathan & Tess Berger – Co-Chairs,  
Temple Israel Social Action  
704-995-1732 or Email: jbergertisa@gmail.com

### Men's Shelter of Charlotte



Temple Israel supports the Men's Shelter of Charlotte's mission to end homelessness in Charlotte by providing their guests with meals along with warm clothing and toiletries.

In 2019 we cooked healthy, delicious dinners at Temple Israel, and served them to over 300 Men in need at the Statesville Ave Men's Shelter on Sunday November 24 and Tuesday December 24. We also brought 280 gifts of warm clothing and toiletries for each Men's Shelter Guest. And thanks to the generosity of many, we raised over \$1200 in donations to fund these two dinners.

In addition, in January, Torah on Tap cooked and served a healthy/delicious lunch at the North Tryon Men's Shelter and serve the meal to over 100 guests at the Shelter.

### Mark your Calendars!

We will be cooking a healthy, delicious, dinner at Temple Israel, and serving the dinner to 120+ Men in need at the Statesville Ave Men's Shelter on:

*Sunday November 22, 2020 (Sunday before Thanksgiving)*

*Thursday December 24, 2020 (Christmas Eve)*

## Yom Gemilut Hasadim

### A Day Performing Acts of Loving Kindness

On Sunday January 19, 2020, The Temple Israel Community joined forces to help others. Hundreds of Adults, Youth and Families got involved and made a difference in our community. By participating in Mitzvah projects on MLK Day, we shared in Tikkun Olam (repairing the world). Additionally, we raised over \$1,700.00 of generous donations during the day to help fund Temple Israel Social Action initiatives. Thank You to our YGH Team Leaders, Attendees, and to everyone who donated to help fund these programs. Everyone's support was so greatly appreciated!!!

### Here is a list of Mitzvah Projects that were held during the day:

*Ronald McDonald House, Men's Shelter Lunch (Torah On Tap), Huntingtowne Farms, Fitness Program for Seniors, Stand For Animals, Operation Sandwich, Blessings in a Backpack, Support of Israel, Israel Dancing Performance, Mathildes Mentionables (WOTI), Jewish Family Services, ZAB's Place, Room In The Inn, Shalom Green, Women's Shelter, Freedom School, Rose Room Gift Shop, Blood Drive, Mercaz, Caring Committee (USY), Jewish Community Refugee Initiative, TI Religious School, Lunch by the Men's Club, and Torah Tots.*

### Mark Your Calendars!

Yom Gemilut Hasadim - Sunday January 17, 2021

### Get Rewarded – Become a Volunteer at Huntingtowne Farms Elementary

*Temple Israel's Partnership School!*

As we approach the next school year, volunteers are lining up their activities with teachers and children for the 2020-2021 school year. Many more opportunities for us to help students and the school have presented themselves including – Tutoring, Mentoring, Holiday Celebrations, Teacher Support/Appreciation and Donations of School Supplies.

And over the summer, Temple Israel members and Huntingtowne Farms Elementary School volunteers will be purchasing and donated over 100 backpacks filled with school supplies for needy children.

Thank You to our HFES Volunteers and TI Congregants who invested their valuable time, and made donations, to support this initiative. Everyone's support is so greatly appreciated! If you're interested in getting involved, contact Linda Levy (704) 366-6362, levyollie@aol.com to make a difference in these children's lives, there are many fulfilling ways to do so.

*Note: Donations to the "Temple Israel Fox Fund" support our volunteer efforts at HFES.*

## Blessings In A Backpack

Blessings in a Backpack is an organization whose mission is to provide food for Elementary Education Students who may otherwise have little or no food to eat on weekends during the school year. Volunteers from Temple Israel provide food to children in need at our partnership school, Huntingtowne Farms Elementary School, throughout the school year.

To get involved in this wonderful program, please contact: Debbie Porter at [porterdeb@yahoo.com](mailto:porterdeb@yahoo.com)

## Yom Kippur Kol Nidre

Every Year, as we begin our annual fast on Yom Kippur (at our choice), we provide food for those in need who experience hunger far too often (not at their choice) due to financial challenges.

You can join us in performing an important Mitzvah on September 27, 2021 by bringing donations of food items and/or Walmart gift cards to Temple Israel prior to our Kol Nidre Service. The donations will be given to the Jewish Family Services Food Pantry and to children in need at Huntingtowne Farms Elementary School (HFES).

## SHALOM PARK FREEDOM SCHOOL

Temple Israel provides classrooms and funds to support the Freedom School every summer. In addition, TI Members volunteer their time to make this summer experience rewarding for the students.

If you are interested in making a financial donation support Temple Israel Social Action programs, in Honor or Memory of someone you love, please consider the "Temple Israel Social Action Fund".

*"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*



## MEN'S CLUB

"Who welcomes his friend with a smile is as one giving him the finest gifts in the world."

-Avot Deraabi Nathan

Your Temple Israel Men's Club worked diligently in 5780 to give our men "the finest gifts in the world." While it was largely a rebuilding year for us, we continued traditions of leadership, tradition, and friendship. We celebrated the mitzvah of tefillin and togetherness at the 20th annual World Wide Wrap, now a huge international success that began in our very own parking lot. We distributed candles during the pandemic to help members observe Yom HaShoah. Our men continued to participate in the Shabbat retreat at Camp Ramah Darom for our region's men, we served on many boards and committees at Temple Israel, Shalom Park, and the community. We

provided leadership and participation in our Kehillah's social action initiatives, and our men have conducted services, delivered sermons, increased the observance of kashrut in our homes, sent our children to Jewish summer camps, celebrated life cycle events like Bar and Bat Mitzvah and we've been honored to stand under the Chuppah with our children. Perhaps most importantly, we have made new friends and strengthened relationships with old ones. In short, the men of Temple Israel have been actively involved in Jewish life--L'Chaim!

For 5781 we have a new, expanded leadership group with true diversity of age, interests, and life experiences who share a common vision to help the men of Temple Israel build stronger relationships in a Jewish context. Even though Rabbi Wolk won't be a stranger for very long, your Men's Club is excited for the opportunity to "open our tents" to our newest member and his family as we strive to honor the promise of Conservative/Masorti Judaism: We will maintain and strengthen our traditions as we adapt for the opportunities of today. Your Men's Club is looking forward to welcoming all our friends with smiles—in person—as soon as we can.



## WOMEN OF TEMPLE ISRAEL

Women of Temple Israel (WoTI) fosters inter-generational relationships and promotes Jewish values and traditions. WoTI shares in the mission of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism to enrich and empower Conservative Jewish women. In 2019/20, WoTI was 194 members strong!

This year, WoTI offered its members a wide variety of ways to engage through spiritual, educational, social, and experiential programming, such as monthly Rosh Chodesh discussions, social action projects, an informal Summer Soiree, our Member-Only High Tea & High Fashion Show, Kawfee Tawks, and our signature NCK series. Because of the Covid 19 pandemic, WoTI was not able to hold WoTI Shabbat, as planned.

Our three-part signature NCK series began with Nosh, Conversation and Kibbitz: Sukkot. Women joined under the Sukkah for an evening of discussion led by Cantor

Lissek. In January, women gathered for Nosh, Craft and Kibbitz: Kippot Making. The series concluded with Nosh, Craft & Kibbitz: Pinot & Painting. TI Artist-in-Residence, Mordechai Rosenstein, gave a master class in painting. More than 60 women participated in each NCK event.

WoTI is especially proud of its Social Action in 2019/2020. A highly engaged Social Action team volunteered at Safe Alliance, the Charlotte shelter for women and children fleeing domestic violence. In addition, the team acquired thousands of donated underwear and other feminine items which were sorted by more than 30 WoTI members during Yom Gemilut Hasadim. Despite Covid 19, our efforts continued. WoTI provided more than 100 badly needed hand sewn masks to Safe Alliance.

Women of Temple Israel provides financial support to Temple Israel. In 2020, WoTI supported weekly babysitting and the new outdoor garden. Proceeds from the Rose Room Gift Shop supported TI Youth Programming. In addition, a portion of proceeds from each NCK went towards tzedakah. This year, WoTI gave tzedakah to Jewish Family Services, a GoFundMe campaign for a congregational family in need, and the TI Artist-in-Residence.

Our tradition tells us that Chesed, the kindness or love between people, is essential to sustaining strong community. During the year, WoTI explored the virtue, Chesed, at each of its programs and events. During Covid 19, WoTI members demonstrated their capacity to show kindness to one another, both formally and informally. Although we were not physically together, we took care of each other by reaching out to one another, continuing our social action focus, and offering virtual programming.

*Karen Knoble*



## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Shalom! I am so pleased to be able to write this Annual Report as one of Temple Israel's newest hires. As a lifelong congregant at Temple Israel, I am so proud of how we have grown this year. Since July 1, 2019, we have welcomed 55 new families into our congregation.

- We are very diverse in our congregational make up. We continue to be unique among house of worship of all faiths in that while most congregations are aging, ours continues to remain young with the average age of 44.
- Temple Israel has 575 Family Units comprising of 1,579 individuals ranging in age from a couple of weeks old to 99 years young.

This year we have made a huge push to have more follow through with new members by creating a Membership Committee which is comprised of a variety of congregants. Each person has brought wonderful ideas as ways to welcome, engage and connect our congregants.

I am so thrilled to be serving our congregation as the Membership Director. Temple Israel continues to be a leader in the community and beautiful Kehillah, even when we can't be together in person.

Erin Goldstein

### Welcoming our Newest Members

Joel & Maxine Albaum  
Marshal & Katherine Auron  
George & Julia Bock  
Dawn & Danielle Chanland (Olivia)  
Harold & Roslyn Cohen  
Elizabeth Cox (Rosemary Metakantos)  
Susan & Michael Edgerley  
Howard and Marcia Fine  
Alexia & Benjamin Fish (Louis and Aviva)  
Jordan Forsythe (Lindsay and Sadie)  
Mike Fried  
Greg Garrison  
Erin Goldstein & Amanda Vestal (Jude Vestal)  
Gabriel Gorelick  
Jonah Gorelick  
Gail Halverson  
Joseph & Erika Kauffman (Rachel and Sharon)  
Kenneth & Paula Kipperman  
Ben Lapin  
Jason and Kelly Lecker  
Cary Chaitman a& Beth Levine Chaitman (Avi and Eli)  
Dave Levy (Noah, Oliver)  
Tulla Lightfoot  
Perri Lisnek (Isaac Farmer)  
Sheldon & Ina Lubin  
Moses Luski  
Lucy Margolis  
Emet & Jessica Ozar (Sahai and Yahli)

Steven & Maris Paolini  
Allison Paolini (Jordan)  
Jennifer Payton  
Ester Polevy & Gregory Vesper  
Jonathan Polsky & Joanna Lindenbaum (Penina and Yael)  
Susan Proctor  
Michael & Tara Rainerman (Ben)  
Jeffrey & Beth Richek (Margo and Nina)  
Morris Rosen  
Brian & Robin Roth  
Joshua Savitz  
Geoffrey Schwartz & Meredith Snipes (Alex and Emmy)  
Jason & Jennifer Schwartz (Mason)  
Stormy & Helena Scott (Cameron and Tyler)  
Pam Segal  
Roni & Stacey Sharoni  
Rabbi Howard Siegel  
Herbert & Temma Silver  
Andrew & Jessica Silverman  
Samuel & Amanda Slusky  
Joseph & Tara Spil (Asher and Julian)  
Daniel & Ruth Stanton (Kayla, Aliya and Mayah)  
Harry & Katharine Tepper  
Paige Valenica  
James & LeAndra Walker (Naomi, Elijah and Joshua)  
Rabbi Michael & Heidi Wolk (Julia Louise and Klara Rose)

### Celebrating Temple Israel's Youngest Members

Logan Rousso 6/2/2019  
Cameron Levine 6/16/2019  
Rosemary Metakantos 6/19/2019  
Asher Faigen 8/27/2019  
Samuel Tepper 8/31/2019  
Evan Stern 10/23/2019  
Sadie Greenberg 11/1/2019  
Abby Harkavy 1/2/2020  
Shiri Wilensky 2/19/2020



## Temple Israel Legacy Society

Jewish tradition teaches that one of our key duties is to make the world a better place for future generations. When you create your Jewish Legacy, you reflect what is most important and meaningful to you and help ensure our community's Jewish future will be bright. Will you join the 116 families who have made a legacy gift? It's much easier than you think! If you are interested in joining these Legacy Donors, please contact Erin Goldstein in the temple office.

Thank you to the following people who have included Temple Israel in their estate plans:

Anonymous (5)	Stan Greenspon	Wendy & Frank Rosen
Ann & Bob Abel	Roz Greenspon	David & Karen Rosenthal & Family
Teri & Bernie Ackerman	Barbara & Richard Herd	Dan & Toby Ruda
Michele & Harvey Barer	Sharon & Steven Hockfield	Mark Sahn (OBM)
Michael & Meredith Baumstein	Linda & Robert Isser	Fern Sanderson
Sanford & Lois Benjamin	Susan & Donald Jacobs	Barbara & Gerald Schapiro
R. Monty Bennett	Florence Jaffa	Michael Scharf
Glenda & Brian Bernhardt	Janet (OBM) & Sol (OBM) Jaffa	Elaine & Marty Schefflin
Nancy & Samuel Bernstein	Dana & Andrew Kapustin	Dorothy (OBM) & Albert (OBM) Segal
Lillian (OBM) & Irving Bienstock	Nancy & Bob Kipnis	Melvin Segal
Karen Knoble & Barry Bobrow	Paula & Richard Klein	Lynne & Morey Sheffer
Bonnie & David Bornstein	Lorrie & Barry Klemons	Ruth Silverman
Bunny Bramson	Sheila (OBM) & Lee Kritzer	Gary & Maxine (OBM) Silverstein
Justin & Diana Bregman	Dale Lederer	Lori & Eric Sklut
Barry Brodsky	Gloria & Harry Lerner	Leonard (OBM) & Ann (OBM) Slesinger
Doris (OBM) Cagle	Alison & Mark Lerner	Stacey & Ira Slomka
Suly & Richard (OBM) Chenkin	Barbara & Jerry Levin	Marcia Solomon
Olivia & Steven Cohen	Debra & Miles Levine	Carol & Bob Speizman
Dedee & Irv Cygler	Elissa & Joshua Levine, MD	Stephanie & Steven Starr
Deedee & Gene Daumit	Julie Lerner Levine & Howard Levine	Norman Steinberger
Arlene & Gary (OBM) Davis	Sandra Poliakoff Levine & Leon Levine	Renee & Joseph Steiner, DDS
Aleen & David Epstein	Sol Levine (OBM)	Kenneth & Marcia Stern
Rabbi Murray & Barbara Ezring	Ellis Levinson	Alene (OBM) & Samuel (OBM) Strause
Caren & Mel Frank	Lisa Strause Levinson	Sylvia & Irving Swartz
Robert & Beverly Friedman	Linda & Sam Levy	Marylin & Harry Swimmer
Albert & Phyllis Garten	Adina & Josh Loewensteiner	Eleanor & Morton (OBM) Turk
Aaron (OBM) & Rhoda Gleiberman (OBM)	Rose (OBM) & Abe (OBM) Luski	Amy & Ross Udoff
Ruth & Alan Goldberg	Isaac & Sonia (OBM) Luski	Ellie & Robert Valenstein
Mark & Linda Goldsmith	Audrey Madans	Debra & David Van Glish
Erin Goldstein & Amanda Vestal	Michael Meiselman (OBM)	Judie & Michael Van Glish
Margi Goldstein	Staci & Darren Mond	Janice & Ronald Weiner
Meg Goldstein & Matthew Luftglass	Marcelle & Allan Oxman	Harriet & Barnet Weinstock
Neal & Joy Golub	Wendy & Adam Petricoff	Anne & Michael Weiss
Leon & Jennifer Golynsky	Debora & Ed Pizer	Joanna & Eric Wisotsky
Rebecca & Scott Goodman, MD	Baila & John (OBM) Pransky	Kim & Marc Wojnowich
Patty (OBM) & Bill Gorelick	Jan & Alan Raznick	Simon (OBM) Wojnowich
Keith Greenspon		

This list is not all inclusive. We know there are members who have included Temple Israel in their estate plans but have chosen not to make their plans public at this time. We thank them as well!



Create Your Jewish Legacy is an initiative of the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community (FCJC) to build a strong, vibrant community with bequests for permanent endowments. It promotes the message that all of us, regardless of age, wealth, or affiliation, have the ability to make a difference for future Jewish generations.

Our Legacy Shabbat is a special service to honor the individuals and families who have created a legacy gift and named Temple Israel as a beneficiary. These individuals are honored in the Book of Life Society with other members of our Jewish community for their gifts to support the future.

## BIOGRAPHIES OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES OFFICER AND MEMBER NOMINEES

### Teresa Brenner - President

It would be an honor and a privilege to serve as President of the Board of Trustees. I have been a member of Temple Israel my entire Jewish life, which started 29 years ago when I was 27 years old. We have celebrated many "life cycle" events at Temple Israel with our synagogue family---our wedding, a baby naming, a bris, our children's B'nai Mitzvah and confirmation. Our children attended CJP, TIRS, Hebrew High, and Camp Mindy. It is my obligation to be of service to Temple Israel, which has given so much to my family, to help ensure that Temple Israel will survive and prosper for the current and future generations of Jewish families in our greater Charlotte community.

#### **At Temple Israel, I have served in the following roles:**

- First Vice President, Board of Trustees, Temple Israel, elected position, serving under David Rosenthal
- Treasurer, Board of Trustees, Temple Israel, elected position, served under David Rosenthal
- Board of Trustees, Temple Israel (as President, Temple Israel Sisterhood), served under Barry Bobrow
- Chairperson of Nominating Committee of Board of Trustees, Temple Israel (twice)
  - Successfully completed slates of officers and directors during the Bobrow/Sheffer Presidencies
  - Revised process, with an ad hoc committee, for Annual Meeting
- President, Temple Israel Sisterhood
  - Successfully increased membership over 100% while also increasing programming and participation
  - Received the Emerald Award from Women's League (personally awarded the Light of Torah Award)
- Social Action Chair, Temple Israel Sisterhood
  - Successfully held High Holy Days collection of new tennis shoes for children at HFES
- Torah Fund Chair, Temple Israel Sisterhood (more than three years)
  - Successfully met fundraising goal set by Women's League, which increased each year
- Sisterhood Shabbat Chair, Temple Israel Sisterhood
  - Successful participation in Friday Night and Saturday Services by women in the congregation

#### **In the Charlotte community, I have served as:**

- Board Member, Jewish Family Services
- Member of the Strategic Planning Committee and Finance Committee, Women's Impact Fund
- Chairperson, Vice Chair, Board Member, Right Moves for Youth, a partnership with CMS to help middle school and high school students become successful in school and life
- Chairperson, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Director, Corporate Counsel Section, NC Bar Association

- Chairperson, Board Member, Founding Board Member, Citizen Lawyers Committee, NC Bar Association
- Board Member, Secretary, Association of Corporate Counsel (Greater Charlotte Chapter)
- Chairperson, Banking Law Committee, Business Law Section, NC Bar Association
- Chairperson, Law Firm Division, United Way (Charlotte)
- Founding Member, Parent Diversity Council, Charlotte Country Day School
- Founding Board Member, NC LEAP, a pro bono initiative for corporate lawyers (now a part of NCBA)
- Founding Board Member, Hispanic/Latino Outreach Task Force, an alliance for pro bono legal services among Bank of America, Legal Services of the Southern Piedmont and Moore and Van Allen

#### **Relevant Professional/Business Background:**

Ms. Brenner serves as the Lead Independent Director of Hannon Armstrong Sustainable Infrastructure Capital, Inc. (NYSE: HASI), a leading investor in climate change solutions. Hannon Armstrong closes \$1.3 billion in energy efficiency, renewable energy and other sustainable infrastructure transactions annually and has \$6.3 billion in assets under management. Ms. Brenner also serves as Chairperson of the Nominating, Governance and Corporate Responsibility Committee since 2016 and as a member of the Compensation Committee since 2019. She is a lawyer with experience in highly regulated industries, corporate governance, and finance. She is a member of the National Association of Corporate Directors and a member in good standing of the North Carolina State Bar.

Ms. Brenner served as an independent director on the Board of Directors of Residential Capital, LLC (restructured from GMAC Mortgage), which was the fifth largest servicer of residential mortgage loans in the U.S. and a leading mortgage loan originator, during its reorganization in 2013. While in bankruptcy, Residential Capital originated in excess of \$30 billion in new mortgage loans and was a recognized leader in loan modifications. When its bankruptcy plan was confirmed, Residential Capital had preserved assets in excess of \$4.5 billion for its creditors and 3,750 of 3,900 U.S. jobs for its employees.

Ms. Brenner retired from Bank of America Corporation in 2012 having served most recently as a Managing Director and Associate General Counsel. During her 20 years with the company, she worked with the Board of Directors, Board committees, and executive officers in the areas of corporate governance, corporate strategy, mergers and acquisitions, corporate debt and equity offerings in excess of \$1 trillion, principal and equity investing, crisis management, corporate communications, and investor and shareholder relations.

Ms. Brenner began her legal career as an associate attorney with Smith Helms Mulliss & Moore where she worked for five years. She received her JD *cum laude* from Wake Forest University School of Law in 1987, where she was an Editor of the Law Review and a Carswell Scholar, and her BA in history *magna cum laude* and with honors from Alma College in 1984, where she was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa.

### Mark Farbman - President

I would like to serve as President of the Board of Trustees to better Temple Israel by enlarging its reach to more people in the Charlotte Jewish and other Jewish Communities. My family has belonged to Temple Israel since 1978. My two children became a Bat and Bar Mitzvah at Temple Israel.

#### At Temple Israel, I have served in the following roles:

- High Holy Days Committee (past)
- Adult Education Committee, Chair (past)
- Men's Club: President (past) and Secretary (past)

I also served on the board at Charlotte Jewish Day School.

#### My goals as President:

Short term: Establish online governance transparency access for all temple members by providing them with current financial statements and Temple's board monthly meetings minutes.

Intermediate: Purchase upgraded video and audio equipment while using professional production services that will improve the quality of the online broadcast religious service experience during the COVID 19 time period and post period.

Long term: Direct the Temple's Clergy to create complete original Friday and Saturday alternative religious services for the Temple's use and license these authored works with other conservative Jewish congregations.

#### My Professional/Education background:

- Licensed Attorney since 1994, North Carolina and Federal Court.
- President of Mark Farbman, PA, a litigation law firm that has represented clients since 1994 for personal injury and workers compensation claims.
- Charlotte County Day School, Class 1980
- North Carolina State University, B.S. Textile Chemistry, 1984
- North Carolina State University, M.S., Textile, 1986
- Tulane Law School, Juris Doctor, 1993

### Eliot Meadow - 2nd Vice President

This is an exciting time for TI. With a new Board, relatively new Cantor, a new ED, and a new Rabbi, this is when we can most-influence our near, and long-term future. I'd like to leverage my prior experience, education and experience in driving organizational change, and knowledge of available resources and talent to solidify our foundation and envision the way to our bright future. As a 2-year member of TI, I joined the Men's club and agreed to serve on their Board. However, I have served in multiple roles in my former congregation where I worked on the Board for 13 years, including three as President, during which time we went through a two-year Rabbinic search. I also served as the USY Advisor for two years, and sat on virtually every Standing Committee at some point including Education, Ritual, Youth and Strategic planning. I also helped facilitate a successful merger with a local synagogue with nominal loss of members.

I have filled multiple roles within USCJ as a 14-year member of the International Board. Currently I serve as a member of the Executive Committee and am in my fourth year as Chair of the Department of Synagogue Leadership – focused on delivering programs to our member synagogues such as the Sulam series – including Sulam for Strategic Planning. We've implemented programs such as discounted streaming capabilities, more valuable this year than ever before due to the social distancing we're living with. We were also responsible for the Biennial Convention that successfully brought more than 2000 lay and clergy attendees together in 2019.

I am in my fifth year on USCJ's Nominations Committee, responsible for identifying talent to serve as an Officer or Board member. I sit on the RA\USCJ Cooperative Vision workgroup, challenged with envisioning an effective alignment between the two organizations. I'm a member of the HR committee and the CEO Search committee. This year we creatively and successfully chose to hire the RA CEO as our new CEO, while also presenting an organizational realignment to benefit both organizations with a vision to possible merger.

Regionally I served on the Northeast District board for several years, including as president-elect of the Northeast Region before the consolidation of regions into Districts.

## Nikki Sacks – 2nd Vice President

Being a part of an engaged and vibrant Jewish community is incredibly important to me. I grew up with that, having gone to a Jewish Day School, traveling to Israel many times (including a semester there in college), and was very involved in a Jewish youth group. I want my family, and especially my children, to feel a connection to a synagogue as a place that they want to go regularly, where we feel we are a part of a community, have friends, and can gain knowledge and inspiration. I want to do what I can to help ensure that this community exists and is thriving, for selfish reasons for my family, and also for the benefit of the broader community. I am encouraged by the direction that Temple Israel is going, and want to become more involved and contribute more.

I served on various committees at Charlotte Jewish Preschool when my children were there. This includes serving as Treasurer of the CJP PTO. I was also on the leadership committee for Moms in Training for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

## Tommy Mann – Treasurer

Temple Israel has been home to my family for 5 generations and I care very deeply about the future success of our congregation. As I'm writing this, these are very unprecedented and uncertain times in our society and I believe that strong leadership is required to sustain and grow our community. I've enjoyed my time on the Board of Trustees and look forward to continuing my service to Temple Israel as Treasurer. I did my undergraduate at UNC Chapel Hill and received my MBA from University of Virginia, Darden Graduate School of Business.

### Leadership positions I have held:

- Temple Israel Board of Trustees: 2019-2020
- Temple Israel Religious School Advisory Committee Member: 2019-2020

### Additional leadership positions I have held include:

- Leadership Montgomery: Board of Trustees (Maryland)
- Leadership Montgomery: Investment Committee Chair (Maryland)
- Urban Land Institute: Young Leaders Programs Committee (Washington, DC)

## Adina Loewensteiner - Secretary

I have really enjoyed serving as the Secretary of the Board for the past year and a half putting my organizational skills and vision to work for the benefit of TI and its members. Temple Israel is a very special place to me. It is not only a religious and spiritual home for me and my family, but it is also a place where I have met and become friends with so many wonderful people from various backgrounds - all of whom are passionate about Judaism. I care about Temple Israel and want to see it continue to thrive well into the future. My family has made the commitment to be "Legacy Donors" to help ensure the future of Conservative Judaism in Charlotte. I look forward to the opportunity to serve you and the community as Secretary of the Board and appreciate your support!

I am actively involved at The Charlotte Jewish Preschool (where my son is a student), The Charlotte Jewish Day School (where my daughter is in a student) and Jewish Family Services.

- Charlotte Jewish Preschool: PTO- Sunshine Committee (2018-Present); previous Room Mom; CJP Board Member (2019-present),
- Charlotte Jewish Day School: Currently PTO-Teacher Appreciation Committee co-chair
- Jewish Family Services: Live Laugh & Give Event Committee member 2019; Live Laugh & Give Event Co-Chair 2020 (have been working all year on this and sadly due to COVID19 the event has just been cancelled/postponed until Summer 2021)

## Brian Ablitz - Board Member

As part of the process of deciding where to move several year ago, my wife and I discussed that it was most important that we feel part of a growing and vibrant Jewish Community. Temple Israel is that community and, more than that, being a part of Temple Israel feels like family. There has been a lot of growth these past two year and I hope to encourage its continuation. As part of the board, I have tried to imagine myself in the shoes of every 'family member' before making decisions, and I strive to always take the approach described in Pirkei Avos of "loving peace and pursuing peace." I am proud of what this board has accomplished in recent years including, but not limited to, the hiring of the Cantor and our new Rabbi.

I have served on the TI Board of Trustees for the past two years, and currently serve on the board of the Charlotte Jewish Preschool, as well as on the Executive Committee of CJP, as the VP of Administration.

### Melanie Brown - Board Member

I was born here in Charlotte and have been a member of Temple Israel since I was born. The temple is one of the most important places to me – it's our second home. I want to continue to see our community grow and flourish for my children, and their children, and I want to be a part of the process.

I have served on the Federation's Women's Philanthropy Committee and as Chair, Pomegranate Society; Levine JCC Kids Triathlon Committee; Chair, CJP Teacher Appreciation

### Elissa Levine - Board Member

I am honored and humbled to be a nominee for the board of Temple Israel. I am eager to deepen my connection with temple and become more involved. Our (older) children attended the Charlotte Jewish Day School and attended the Temple Israel Religious School. They had a special b'not mitzvah at Temple Israel.

In the past, I have served as the Medical Director for Hands for Holly Fund. Hands for Holly gives financial assistance to families with children with serious medical conditions. Hands For Holly funds non-medical expenses including rent, utilities and transportation. With fewer financial stressors, parents are free to spend more time with their ill children. It is a wonderful, worthy cause that does a lot of good for many families in need. I was happy to develop the medical screening process and application for Hands For Holly.

### Justin Levine – Board Member

Both of my children are enrolled in TIRS and are actively engaged in their Jewish education. I would like to continue to contribute to the development of Temple Israel and all the programs/functions that are offered. Over the past two years there has been a lot of transition at Temple Israel and I feel I can be an advocate for future growth and a consistent/calming figure on the board, when change/decision making might become a challenge.

I am a past board member of CJP and have served as a representative to the board on what young families are looking for in a cantor/rabbi/E.D. etc.

## Temple Israel Annual Meeting

May 9, 2019 • Mindy Ellen Levine Chapel, Temple Israel

### 1. Meeting Called to Order – David Rosenthal

Meeting was called to order by president David Rosenthal at 10:50am, the 123rd annual meeting of Temple Israel.

### 2. D'var Torah – Rabbi Ezring

From this week's parshah, we see the words "Proclaim freedom/liberty throughout the land." That includes freedom to accept our responsibilities. Liberty implies obligations, including our obligations to support our synagogue.

David Rosenthal made a motion to reorder the agenda to next nominate and elect officers for the following year. The motion passed.

### 3. Nomination and Election of Officers and Members of the Board of Trustees

*The slate of officers was presented and asked to stand.*

David Rosenthal – President

Teresa Brenner – 1st Vice President

Stephanie Meadow – 2nd Vice President

Adina Loewensteiner – Secretary

Nikki Sacks – Treasurer

Tom Bock – Board Member

Eric Cohan – Board Member

Josh Feldman – Board Member

Stephen Moore – Board Member

Amy Udoff – Board Member

Additional nominations were asked for from the floor with none suggested. The officers were presented as a slate, voted in with no ostensible dissents nor abstentions.

A congregant asked David about succession plan with two new vice presidents who would be in line to take over as president with one-year experience. David noted that Teresa brings experience and is committed to serving as president. Stephanie was also very involved with her shul in Connecticut and is too willing to move up. David feels the shul has a succession plan that we haven't had in previous years.

### 4. Reading of Minutes from 2018 Annual Meeting

David noted that the previous year's meeting minutes are in the booklet everyone in attendance received. A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented in the booklet. The motion passed.

### 5. Treasurer's Report – Tom Bock

Tom directed those in attendance to pie charts of revenues and budget in the provided booklet, noting that the model is driven by the number of family units, which stands at 554. Tom noted on the expense side that 66% of the budget is for personnel and facilities, which are fixed costs. In 2019-20, the budget includes a net addition of 25 family units, citing that Glenda has cleaned up rolls to more accurately reflect who is active.

A congregant complimented board for their financial management and asked to elaborate on the endowment, if the shul is using the return or eating into the capital. The endowment, which was reported at approximately \$5M, is guided by the Foundation of the Carolinas with a recommended annual spend of \$250K. The shul maintains a spendable amount which remains invested but could be spent if necessary, and we do depend on that spendable amount, which we may try to wean off in time. Currently operations budget currently pays for capital expenditures, and we would love to move from that.

Two questions from Jan Weiner:

1. what was the current increase in family units, and
2. explain the additional \$250K in personnel costs

David answered that we added 39-40 family units this year with a net of nine. Tom added that it is projected to grow to 25 next year because of the scrubbing of the rolls leading to more efficient accounting of members next year. Regarding the increase of personnel costs, the \$250K was for a new senior rabbi at current compet-

itive compensation rates. Many in attendance did not seem to grasp that this would be in addition to Rabbi Ezring for the following budget year, not in place of.

Glenda addressed those in attendance, noting that 2018-19 is projected actual numbers, not budget, and the increase is closer to \$50K, accounting for the change in market value. Other adjustments were made due to leave (such as maternity leave, etc.) as well as the elimination of Casey Topol's position to ensure we have the funds to meet budget. Costs for recruiting a new rabbi have also been factored in.

David Miller reiterated the budget increase is not replacing rabbi for rabbi as we still have obligations to current clergy which we should (and will) fulfill.

David Rosenthal noted that without accounting manager Barbara in attendance, we can get back to everyone in attendance with a cleaner look at numbers in the future. He also noted the budget has been approved by the board; this was simply a discussion.

## **6. Report of Professionals – Glenda**

Glenda directed those in attendance to the booklet as much of the information for the clergy, religious school, etc., was contained therein. She noted that the shul is still in transition, with Rabbi Helene Kornsgold still being relatively new, while also noting the transition from Cantor Rookvard to Cantor Lissek and the imminent senior rabbi transition from Rabbi Ezring to Interim Rabbi Howard Siegel. Glenda then played a slideshow of the previous year, noting that "slide shows should be a specific length of time."

## **7. Report of the President – David Rosenthal**

David noted that he was honored to be elected to serve a second term. Hinaini, here I am. He encouraged those in attendance to reframe your perspective, from stress, worry, and fear which are deconstructive characteristics. David cited that we are very blessed at Temple Israel and don't often take time to celebrate those blessings. Rabbi Ezring will be leaving, taking an interim position at Temple Beth El in Norfolk, Va., and that "all of your" (members) are the heart of Temple Israel. David thanked the former board and said we should be excited about Interim Rabbi Siegel starting on August 1.

For the 124th Annual Report, David was pleased to report a remarkable year of growth for our kehillah, where opting-in creates momentum as we try to be the center of conservative Jewish life in Charlotte. We are transitioning from scarcity and surviving to an attitude of thriving as Temple Israel is probably one of the most active kehillahs in North America in terms of programming. David plans to reorganize committees while working to plan succession of the executive committee. Members should be confident we are in good financial health and that the future is a bright one. We have reviewed some reasons why some outgoing board members left, largely personal reasons.

David informed those in attendance that Monty Bennett has tendered his resignation after being offered a big opportunity with compensation commensurate of the opportunity. He will continue to be involved in some ways, such as being present on Friday nights, and we should please wish him well. David remained firm that this is not endemic of any systemic problems at Temple Israel.

Temple Israel is garnering attention in positive ways from USCJ, according to David.

Audrey Madans is leaving the board after an impressive tenure. Michael Abadi is being succeeded as the president of the TI Men's Club by Mark Greenberg.

## **8. Old Business**

Bunny asked for an update on the Senior Living project, which – she noted – she asked about the previous year.

The Senior Jewish Living Community currently has a rezoning application, and we are moving toward a purchase and sale agreement with a drop-dead date of May 24 that is likely to be extended. The shul has locked in the money for the amount of land we own, approximately \$5M, and could be breaking ground in 2-3 years.

Other facilities-related projects include:

- The Sound System: The shul has hired a consultant who specializes in faith-based sound systems, and we have solicited bids with the plan to get going in advance of the High Holy Days.
- New Main Entrance: With narrow access, looking at aesthetically-pleasing railing near the doorways.

- Back Row Seating: A contractor has looked at the back row of seats in the main sanctuary for ideas on how to make more handicap-accessible seating. The shul is currently waiting on a bid.
- Roof infrastructure: this needs to be addressed with water-proofing to be done on parts of the building (administrative offices were redone last year).
- Streaming in the chapel will be implemented.
- Yahrzeit Boards: With limited space remaining on the yahrzeit boards, the Temple plans to move to digital boards which will allow for more personal information beyond names and dates, thanks to a generous donation.

## 9. New Business

Menachim addressed those in attendance with concerns over the introduction of musical instruments on Shabbos mornings, and on High Holy Days, seeking better communication of similar changes in the future. He suggested board approval of similar changes moving forward, and David said the matter would be brought to the board.

Ruth:

Wants to publicly thank Menachim for his Torah notes every Shabbat.

Mark:

Congratulated David on his presidency before asking “why the senior rabbi search failed,” prompting David to remind those in attendance of his earlier message to reframe your perspective. David noted that the Temple declined candidates, and that all three candidates who visited received offers elsewhere and that we are at the mercy of the pool of candidates in a given year while also facing stiff competition, including New York-area positions. David maintained that Interim Rabbi Howard Siegel is the best outcome for us and we now have a jump start on the process next year.

Mark also addressed a concern in membership, asking what can be done to grow? David noted that we are seeing people transition from Beth El to Temple Israel and that Jessica Weil has been probably the synagogue’s number one recruiter to get families to affiliate with Temple Israel. The Torah Tots program also helps introduce families, and recently the Kindergarten open house welcomed 45 people, a record number.

Hilary: Would like to recognize Barbara Paterek, who is retiring from her accounting position with the shul.

Attendees also wished to recognize and thank Barbara Ezring for her dedication over the years.

Lloyd: Other places of worship in Charlotte are listed in the Observer or for out-of-town guests at Holiday Inn, wanting a way for the synagogue to promote that we are here for Jews in town as well.

Attendees asked for more frequent updates on staff, perhaps in the weekly eblast, which David noted seems potentially cumbersome and could do more to stir gossip than to serve the best interests of the shul. David followed up that we are making tremendous efforts to communicate more.

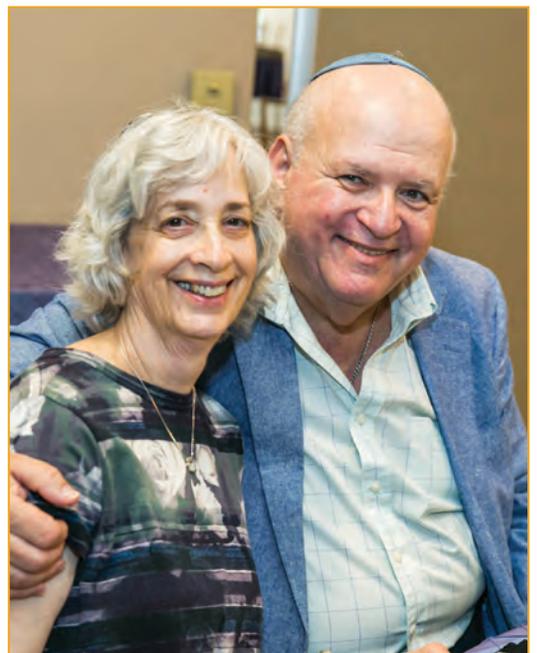
Nick: Concerned about children running around the sanctuary, specifically during Neilah. This led to a back-and-forth about the merits of families bringing their children, which most seemed to agree that it is important to have children present in services and that parents are ultimately responsible for keeping their children from disrupting the service.

Marcia: Suggested a buddy program for new members, such as families hosting Shabbat dinners.

Shelly was thanked for two years with WOTI.

With no other new business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:16pm.







temple israel