



temple israel

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



Temple Israel

2016 Annual Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2016

Mindy Ellen Levine Chapel, Temple Israel

Meeting called to order - Lynne Sheffer

D'var Torah - Rabbi Murray Ezring

Marcie Williams called for a motion that the written minutes contained in the Annual Report satisfy the need for the reading of the minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting that were recorded by Marcie Williams and included in the 2016 Annual Report. Hillary Rosenbaum called for the motion. Audrey Maddens seconded the motion. All present were in favor and the minutes were approved as presented.

Lynne Sheffer called for a motion to change the order of the agenda to move the elections to the next item. Bunny Bramson moved that the motioned be allowed. Harvey Barer seconded. All present were in favor and the motion was approved.

Nomination and Election of Officers and Members of the Board of Trustees - Miles Levine

Miles Levine, Chair of the Nominating Committee announced and thanked the members of the Nominating Committee for their service: Marcie Williams, Stacey Schuler, Michael Abadi, Robert Stoll, Al Garten, Neal Golub, Beth Stillitano, and Elizabeth Bernstein. After confirming that a quorum was present, Miles presented the slate of officers and individuals who have been nominated for Board service:

Ron Weiner - President

David Rosenthal - 1st Vice President

Gary Michel - 2nd Vice President

Graig Harr - Treasurer

Peggy Gartner - Secretary

Lynne Sheffer - Immediate Past President

Board of Trustees:

Steven Cohen (2016-2018)

David Thrope (2016-2018)

Jessica Weill (2016-2018)

Debby Weiss (2016-2018)

The bios of each officer and Board member can be found in the 2016 Annual Report. Miles asked for any additional nominations from the floor – there were none. Miles moved that the slate be accepted by acclimation. This was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - David Rosenthal

David Rosenthal presented the Treasurer's Report, which can be found on pages 6-7 in the Annual Report handed out at the meeting and provided an overview and answered questions. Biggest impacts on budget revolve around personnel. David stated that this year marks the end of Levine/Sklut families matching gift of \$75,000 and thanked them for their contribution. A public accounting firm audited the financials this fiscal year.

Projected to end the year with \$96K in operating cash and \$473K total cash. The endowment funds hold approximately \$5.2 million. Line of credit has been established of \$600K. To date, the temple has not borrowed against that loan.

Professional Report - Glenda Bernhardt

Please review the Annual Report booklet to see the committee reports and pictures from the year to celebrate the past year at Temple Israel. 120 Year Anniversary: Over 300 members attended the kickoff event Denim and Diamonds. The weekend of 5/21 kicks off the second anchor event. Final event for the 120th year event will be 12/17. Reinvestment Campaign – 95 donors who have pledged \$790K towards the \$1.2 million goal. Slide Show with pictures from the year was shown.

President's Report - Lynne Sheffer

Lynne thanked the outgoing Board Mmbers, Auxiliary Chairs, and Committee Chairs, and presented a gift of gratitude.

The President's Report can be found on page 4 in the Annual Report handed out at the meeting. Ron Weiner congratulated and thanked Lynne for her commitment and service.

Old Business - Lynne Sheffer

None

New Business - Ron Weiner

Ron thanked Lynne and everyone involved over the past two years. Ron stated his commitment to moving the temple forward and working together with the community.

Having no further business to be brought before the congregation, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcie Williams

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TEMPLE ISRAEL ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, May 21, 2017 11:00 AM

Leon & Sandra Levine Social Hall, Temple Israel,
Charlotte, NC

Agenda

CALL TO ORDER - Ron Weiner

- 1) D'var Torah - Rabbi Murray Ezring
- 2) Reading of the minutes from the previous Annual Meeting - Peggy Gartner
- 3) Treasurer's Report - Graig Harr
- 4) Report of the Professionals - Glenda Bernhardt
- 5) Report of the President - Ron Weiner
- 6) Reports of Committee Chairs and Affiliated Temple Organizations
- 7) Old Business
- 8) New Business
- 9) Nominations and Election of Officers and Members of the Board of Trustees - Lynne Sheffer
- 10) Adjournment - Ron Weiner



Report of the President

It is my privilege on behalf of the Board of Trustees to present this Annual Report for Temple Israel. Having recently shared in our temple's celebration of 120 years of service, I am struck by how many thousands of members of

our synagogue family have devoted their time, energy and financial support to our temple family over the years. Those efforts span generations, and each in turn has left a stronger community to serve the children and grandchildren of our future congregations. It is with humility and a profound thanks to so many that I report 2016 has been another year of growth, service, joy and support to this *kehillah* (holy community).

Enclosed in this report, you will see details regarding temple activities and accomplishments. I encourage you to review these materials and if you have any questions or would like to volunteer in any capacity, please reach out to the staff or board member who submitted the report.

There are so many ways Temple Israel touches the lives of our members and the broader community. For some it is through Temple Israel Religious School where we strive to provide students a rich and engaging Jewish education that will support a lifelong love of Judaism. Others partake in one or more of the many classes offered, or perhaps attend one of the exceptional programs with the Cantor and his Friends to enjoy and learn about different ages of Jewish music. Other touch points include social action, Tikkun Olam, Shabbat and Holiday observances, and community programming such as the soulful and moving Yom Hashoah Community Memorial Program this past April. Whether Temple Israel is part of your experience on a daily, weekly, monthly or even on a more occasional basis, it is important that we are here when you want us to be, and perhaps what is even more important, is that we are here when you need us to be. *Baruch Hashem*.

While it is appropriate to reflect on the past as we approach the Annual Meeting, it is more important that we focus on the future. We are beginning efforts to define the qualities we want and need when we begin the search process in earnest for a new Senior Rabbi and Cantor. Soon you will see a schedule of events, including town hall meetings and focus groups, as well as a survey that allows all members of our congregation to participate in this critically important process. These are very exciting times for Temple Israel and I look forward to sharing another year of progress and accomplishment with each of you.

– Ron Weiner





Clergy Office Report

The Torah commands us to build relationships with people within the Jewish community, and with people outside of the Jewish community. This year, 2016-17, our clergy team has created many relationships throughout the Charlotte area

and the United States.

In this past year, 226 individuals have studied in our Lifelong Learning programs; over 100 members of the Jewish community received visits from our clergy on a regular basis; our clergy team taught 20 conversion students enrolled in the Introduction to Judaism program; dozens of church and school groups have been welcomed to Temple Israel; approximately 500 people, Jewish and non-Jewish, attended our Yom Hashoah Cantata, presented by Temple Israel, Temple Beth EL, and Providence United Methodist Church choirs.

Our clergy team has visited many other institutions to teach about Judaism, including churches, mosques, community centers, and wherever people gather to learn about multiple religions. Our clergy participated in many interfaith events throughout the year, including the Moral Summit at Masjid Ash Shaheed, and other programs sponsored by Mecklenburg Ministries. We also reached out to unaffiliated families through CJP, and to the greater Charlotte community, through our partnership with Huntingtowne Farms Elementary and other numerous social action and social justice programs that we support each year.

This year, we shared the Purim weekend with Temple Beth EL, as we co-sponsored the weekend with Dan Nichols to honor Roz Cooper as she retires from the leadership of our Consolidated Hebrew High School program. Our Saturday evening Purim event drew several hundred people to Temple Israel. Cantor Roohvarg's *Cantor & Friends* concerts continue to draw hundreds from the Charlotte area.

In many ways our outreach is growing, expanding, and touching more and more people every year. It is the goal of the Temple Israel clergy to teach about our unique approach to God, Jewish history, and ritual.

As this year comes to a close, we pray that *hazak hazak v'nihazek*: we may all continue to grow stronger and stronger, through our understanding of Torah, belief in God, love of our Jewish community, and love of the people with whom we share the greater Jewish community.

Shalom,

– **Rabbi Murray Ezring**



Professional's Report

The past year has been a very exciting one for Temple Israel. Our clergy, professional staff and lay committees have worked together to produce meaningful and engaging services, programs and social and holiday events that have

enabled our members to experience a very special time in the temple's history. In December, we concluded our 120th anniversary celebration and honored many special individuals for their commitment and contributions to our community. In April, we began the renovation project that will enhance and revitalize our beautiful building so that this sacred space can be enjoyed for generations to come. More than 40% of our families chose to participate in the fundraising campaign for Phase 1 of our reinvestment effort and we exceeded the campaign goal by nearly \$150,000. We can't wait to show you the results of this exciting project this fall. There is much to celebrate and much to be proud of at Temple Israel. I look forward to seeing how things develop as our vibrant and diverse community moves into the next 120 years of our congregation's life. – **Glenda Bernhardt**

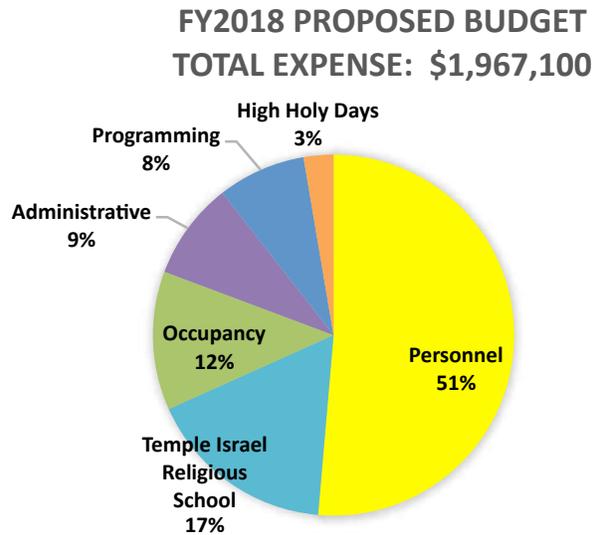
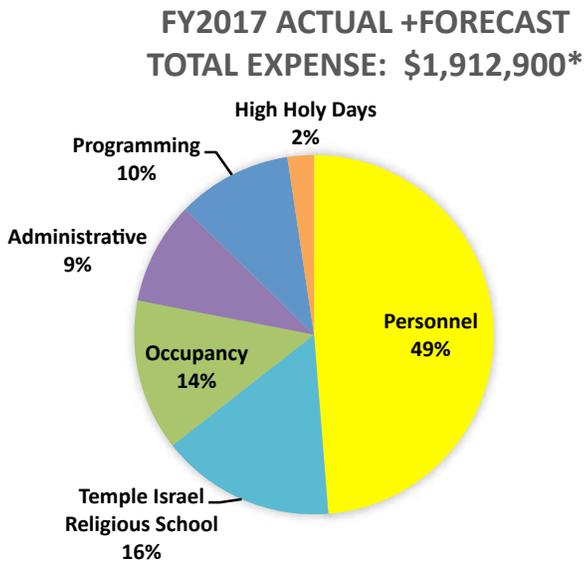
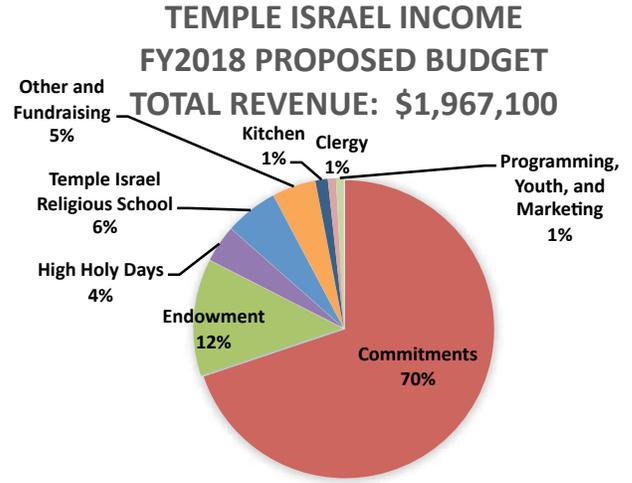
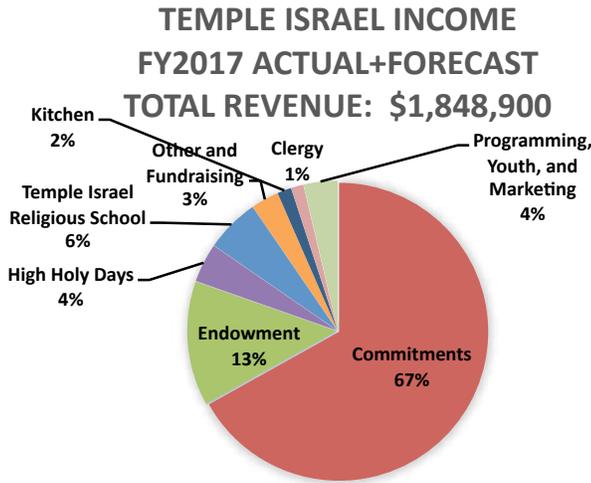


Renderings courtesy of ADW Architects



Treasurer's Report By Graig Harr

Temple Israel Income and Expense Comparison. FY2017 Actual (with forecast) as compared to FY2018 Budget.



*FY 2017 Budget was approximately \$1,953,000

Please note that historically this presentation displayed the current year budget as compared to the upcoming budget. This presentation now displays the actual results (with forecast) for the current year as compared to the upcoming budget.

Temple Israel Income Statement – Annual Historical Trend
(unaudited internal format – cash basis and in thousands)

	FY2013 Actual	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Actual	FY2016 Actual	FY2017 Forecast (1)	FY2018 Budget
Income						
Commitments (<i>Donor and Standard</i>), net of FA)	\$ 1,042.0	\$ 1,108.8	\$ 1,115.6	\$ 1,110.6	\$ 1,236.8	\$ 1,374.0
Matching Funds	150.0	80.0	77.5	78.2	-	-
Endowment and Supplemental	153.9	217.1	237.0	248.7	249.5	249.0
High Holy Days	108.8	108.2	124.6	111.2	77.9	78.9
Temple Israel Religious School	107.9	110.5	106.1	95.9	108.1	112.8
Other and Fundraising	45.2	50.6	63.7	38.0	55.4	92.7
Kitchen	41.9	35.7	22.5	34.8	28.2	26.1
Clergy	30.8	26.6	50.0	41.8	24.9	17.2
Programming, Youth, and Marketing	20.8	36.9	39.4	62.6	68.1	16.4
Total Income	\$ 1,701.3	\$ 1,774.4	\$ 1,836.4	\$ 1,821.8	\$ 1,848.9	\$ 1,967.1
Expense						
Salaries	\$ 1,002.1	\$ 972.2	\$ 1,045.0	\$ 861.4	\$ 823.2	\$ 875.9
Benefits	96.7	105.4	96.8	75.0	106.1	128.3
Contract Labor	-	-	-	2.5	2.9	6.2
<i>Total Personnel</i>	<i>1,098.8</i>	<i>1,077.6</i>	<i>1,141.8</i>	<i>938.9</i>	<i>932.2</i>	<i>1,010.4</i>
Temple Israel Religious School	**	**	**	262.4	300.2	332.8
Occupancy	348.0	336.9	340.5	245.2	260.7	244.5
Administrative	132.5	139.4	134.5	175.4	176.7	171.8
Programming	88.1	136.2	168.6	203.3	197.7	155.2
High Holy Days	47.1	56.8	53.2	44.8	45.4	52.4
Total Expense	\$ 1,714.5	\$ 1,746.9	\$ 1,838.6	\$ 1,870.0	\$ 1,912.9	\$ 1,967.1
Net Operating Income (Loss)	\$ (13.2)	\$ 27.5	\$ (2.2)	\$ (48.2)	\$ (64.0)	\$ -

Temple Israel's fiscal year begins July 1 and ends on June 30 of the subsequent year.

⁽¹⁾ This column consists of actual activity July 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017 and forecast for remainder of fiscal year. This includes the full 5% annual endowment draw available.

As of March 31, 2017, actual withdrawn from endowments are \$143K of the full \$250K available. This represents a change in practice from prior years.

** Religious school expenses were included in other line items

Temple Israel Religious School

This year we had 167 students in our incredible religious school, including 12 new families.

It was a very exciting and busy year for the school! Some of the exciting programs we had this year:

- Hanukkah Palooza and Family Celebration
- Yom Gemilut Hassadim - The first time our school participated in this.
- Purim - Program included a parade, with the addition of Shira, and students in Kitah Zayin presented a creative Purim play.
- Tu B'shvat - Kitah Gan students planted in the school garden.
- Kitah Zayin students, and their parents, visited the Geniza at The Hebrew Cemetery and buried numerous boxes of books.
- Kitah Gimel-Kitah Vav students designed beautiful siddur covers for the siddur they were to receive Erev Shavuot.

- *Rabbi Helene Kornsgold*

Gan



Alef



photos by Ralph Besnoy

Bet



Gimmel



Hey



Dalet



Vav



Zayin



Temple Israel Youth Groups

The Temple Israel Youth Department has continued to see tremendous growth, excitement and innovation this year. Our three youth groups: GESHER (8th-12th grades), BONIM (6th & 7th grades) and MAHAR (3rd-5th grades) have continued to thrive. This year we expanded to 85 families, with a total of 121 members (30 in GESHER, 33 in BONIM, and 58 in MAHAR).

Our college outreach program, which helps keep in touch with our Temple youth who have gone away to college, grew to 21 students this year. Each student received four packages from their Temple Israel family through the course of the school year. These packages included a card from the Temple Israel staff, a personal letter from Rabbi Ezring, as well as Israeli pop rocks chocolate for Purim.

We have continued to engage a larger number of Temple youth and teens through various types of programming, offering four to five successful events per month. Between April 2016 and May 2017, the youth groups had over 30 events. Ten of our high school students had a great weekend in Durham, NC for the second annual NC Shabbaton, "Up All Night for Israel," organized by the Teen Coalition, and included a limo scavenger hunt, IDF boot camp, and lots of delicious Israeli foods. We concluded the year with our fourth Annual End-of-Year Party at Squirrel Lake Park (Matthews), which was open to all youth group members, who enjoyed a cookout and games.

We had a strong GESHER Leadership Board that showed great commitment in the planning and execution of events for their peers. Our youth group President, Eli Newman, led the board, which consisted of 15 teens. In addition, BONIM Leadership Council consisted of 12 members. Both the GESHER Board and BONIM Council are already working hard at planning events for the upcoming calendar year.

Finally, thank you to our TI-Youth Advisor, Michelle Rusgo, for all of her hard work and dedication in making Temple Israel's youth events over the last year a great success. Without her, many programs could simply not have taken place. – ***Ariel DiDonato***



Consolidated High School of Jewish Studies

5777 has been a terrific year at Hebrew High. Our students have cooked, created, learned and played their way to strong Jewish identities, and a firm connection to the land and people of Israel. They have developed close ties to one another and formed a community of compassionate and caring friends.

The amazing faculty consists of clergy and lay leaders who are dedicated to turning our teens into the Jewish leaders of tomorrow. Skills learned in our classes prepare our students to be AIPAC representatives, Hillel officers and proud Jews on campuses all over the country.

Our terrific student council (all voluntary) leads the school in ruach (school spirit), organizing special events, and as our ambassadors to the community. These devoted kids painted faces and made balloon light sabers at the Purim Carnival. They organized our Hanukkah party and Purim parties, and will be designing a teacher appreciation program at our end of year event.

The Temple Israel students joined the teens from Temple Beth El to make 200 sandwiches for "Operation Sandwich." These sandwiches went to feed clients at Urban Ministries. Our parents graciously bought the ingredients for the donation, thus making it a family mitzvah.

Special electives, like "ART with Heart" highlight Jewish values. In this mitzvah based art class, projects have included sleep shirts for the children at *Alexander's Children Home*, decorating the "Plague Museum" at the *Center for Jewish Education*, centerpieces for a tri-region Hadassah conference, Cookies for JFS and teachers' gifts for our teachers.

This year, at the eighth and ninth grade retreat, the Rec Hall at Camp Mindy became an Israeli-based obstacle course. Teens formed groups of three or four, and competed in "Amazing Race Israel." It took great creativity and fortitude to win bragging rights, and the title of strongest team. This sleepover event focused on community building, personal growth and, of course, fun. Students hunted for Hebrew letters, learned about the value of water in Israel, and looked for treasures in a simulated dig for antiquities. There was lots of fun and ruach throughout!

At Hebrew High, our students make best friends, find roommates, and some have even met their spouses in our classes. We continue to provide an excellent educational and social outlet for Charlotte's Jewish teens. Hebrew High is definitely the place to be on Wednesday nights!!!

- Roz Cooper



Lifelong Learning

Lifelong Learning continues with its mission to engage with the Congregation, in order to create programs that are of importance to the Temple Israel Community. We reached out to obtain as much Congregational input as we could to provide programs of interest and worth - in keeping with our goal of trying to address issues that are not only relevant to our lives as Conservative Jews, but are relevant to our lives as part of the Charlotte community.

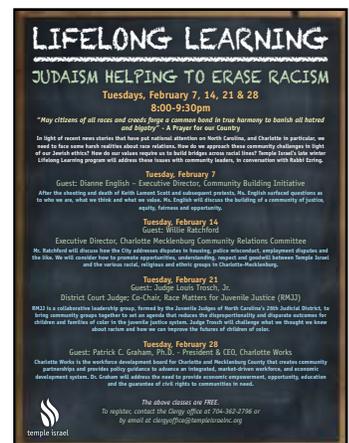
In November/December 2016, we tried a new format to our Lifelong Learning experience. Rabbi Ezring welcomed academics, religious leaders and notable figures from the Charlotte community to Temple Israel to engage with him (and attendees) in conversations on topics of interest and concern in today's world. The Program aimed each class around a different subject, calling the program, *An Evening With...* Each presenter was accomplished in his/her field, including academics, religious leaders and a subject matter expert from our own community. The class averaged 25 to 30 people for each class.

Cantor Roohvarg presented the *Jewish Impact on the American Popular Music Scene*. This two-part November 2016 class examined the impact that Jewish music and musicians had on American Popular Music. The course began with the 19th Century and covered the evolution of Popular Music through the Second World War to Bob Dylan and Simon & Garfunkel. The classes averaged about 7 to 10 people.

Rabbi Klirs taught two classes in September on *Preparing for the High Holy Days*, in which she presented the overarching themes of the High Holy Day liturgy, explored the new *Machzor Lev Shalem* in-depth, taught several deeply spiritual songs from the High Holy Day liturgy or its themes, and reviewed home observances. 27 people attended each class.

Rabbi Ezring and Rabbi Klirs continue to offer Torah study classes, with Tuesdays with Torah, Torah Sparks and Java 'n Jeans, which continue to inspire.

Furthering the concept of engaging with the Charlotte community and understanding the issues that face Charlotte, and how to respond in a socially responsible way, Rabbi Ezring presented a four-part program, *Judaism Helping to Erase Racism* in February, 2017. The program required us to face some harsh realities about race relations in our city in light of our Jewish ethics and how our values require



us to build bridges across racial lines. Rabbi Ezring invited community leaders to engage with attendees in conversations about race relations. Over 25 people attended each class.

In November, Cantor Roochvarg, as part of his *Cantor and Friends* series, presented a program featuring America's most beloved songs of Irving Berlin. Cantor Roochvarg was joined by special guest Cantor Mary Thomas of Temple Beth El, and was accompanied by Monty Bennett, as they sang two dozen chart-topping Irving Berlin songs. 120 people attended the Program.

Rabbi Klirs taught the March series, *Do It Yourself Judaism* which provided the tools necessary to be able to bring Jewish practice into our homes and lives, and practical advice for putting up a mezuzah, putting on *tallit* and *t'fillin*, using a *siddur* (prayer book) and a *chumash* (printed Torah with commentaries), and much more. The program used *The Complete How-To Handbook for Jewish Living* as the text. The class had 13 participants.

For his March 2017 *Cantor and Friends* program, Cantor Roochvarg was accompanied by Monty Bennett and presented a smorgasbord of great songs: a chronological romp through the Cantor's favorite songs in styles from Baroque, Classical, '60s and '70s pop, ending with songs of inspiration. 80 people attended the Program.

Cantor Roochvarg has begun (as of this writing) his April class (to be concluded in June) on the *Evolution of American Synagogue Music: From Zayde & Bubbe's Shul... and into the Future*. Cantor used live and recorded examples of synagogue music from the 19th Century through the 40's and 50's Golden Age of Cantors. The classes cover the influence on American music and customs, Israeli pop music, the revival of Klezmer, Orthodox pop and today's Jewish icons. 23 people attended the first class.

In May, Rabbi Klirs will teach *From Klezmer to 'Bubbe Mayses': Influences and Gems of Yiddish Music and Culture*. The course will explore the oversize impact Yiddish culture and music have had on American popular culture. The course will delve into the origins of Yiddish, the unexpected places one would find Yiddish, and how its influence has infiltrated American culture and literature.

LIFELONG LEARNING
FROM KLEZMER TO "BUBBE MAYSES":
Influences and Gems of
Yiddish Music and Culture
 Wednesdays, May 3, 10 and 17
 7:00-8:30pm, with break for Minyan
 Leon & Sandra Levine Social Hall

Have you ever wondered or marveled at the oversize impact Yiddish culture and music have had on American popular culture? Do you remember some choice Yiddish words or expressions from your grandparents, and wish you knew more? Is there a connection between Klezmer and cartoon music? Is it true that that every curse and singer is much juicier in Yiddish? Here's your opportunity to delve into the origins of Yiddish, the wild and unexpected places you'll find Yiddish, and how its influence has infiltrated American syntax, theater, Broadway, literature, movies, music of various genres, and much more. And would it be so terrible if you also learned to sing some Yiddish songs, tell a few Bubbe Mayses (wild stories) and even let fly a few dirty Yiddish words or curses? What's not to like? So, no? Don't be a shmendrik! Join Reb Zaytl (AKA Rabbi Klirs)).

The above class is FREE to all Temple Israel members.
 Cost for non-members is \$36.
 To register, contact the Clergy office at 764-362-2796 or
 by email at clergyoffice@templeisrael.org.



Also in May, the *Cantor and Friends* series continued with Cantor Roochvarg, accompanied by Monty Bennett, singing songs that reflect all aspects of our lives (songs of birth, lullabies, childhood, school, youth [a Yeshiva student's lament], love, loss, marriage, family, work [from a sweatshop] and more).

- David Thrope

CANTOR & FRIENDS
 TEMPLE ISRAEL 2016

For half a century, Irving Berlin wrote America's most beloved songs, songs that were sung by millions, and that earned him million\$. Come stroll down memory lane with a couple dozen chart-topping, unforgettable songs, as Cantor Elias Roochvarg is joined by special guest, Cantor Mary Thomas (Temple Beth El), and accompanied by Monty Bennett. Singing along is encouraged!

Sunday, November 6
4:00pm

Irving Berlin

Morris & Sylvia Speizman Sanctuary
 FREE

*No RSVP required, but seating is limited.
 templeisrael.org



Intro To Judaism - Challah making class



Torah on Tap

Torah on Tap has been an integral part of our young adult community here in Charlotte. We have organized and/or promoted 25 events this last year, with approximately 375 people participating in such varied activities as making breakfast for homeless families, or even getting together for Chinese food and movies during Christmas.

One of our highlights this year was our Tastings & Tales of Food & Israel at YAFO Kitchen. Getting together to share our Jewish experience through our stomachs and conversation was very rewarding. Our Give Back & Give Thanks- Bowling for a Cause was also something special. It is fantastic to be able to raise money for a worthy charity, while having fun with friends.

Torah on Tap members range from singles in their 20's to young families with small children, and everything in between.

Exploring our Jewish identities and being an essential part of the Temple Israel community growing and flourishing is what Torah on Tap is about. – *Jordana Weiner*



Temple Israel Social Club

The Temple Israel Social Club has 120 members. Temple members 55+ are welcome to join and participate in the varied activities described below. New members of Temple Israel are called and invited to attend events. Members receive monthly flyers by e-mail or postal mail. Articles appear regularly in Temple Israel's *Kol Yisrael*, Temple weekly e-blasts, and Shabbat Announcements. Off-site transportation is by carpools, vans, or bus from the Temple parking lot.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR 2016-2017

Annual Jewish Holiday Celebrations:

- Sukkot Dinner with Patricia Ball performing her original script, "Ah Woman."
- Hanukkah Luncheon with Temple Israel's band, The Ruach performing Hanukkah music.

Cultural and Social Activities:

- Trips to see *Sister Act* performed at CPCC, *A Raisin in the Sun* at Theatre Charlotte, and *National Parks* at IMAX/Discovery Place.

Luncheon Programs at Temple Israel:

- OTC IMPROV Group entertained with audience participation.
- Professor Barry Koplen of Danville, VA talked about growing up Jewish in a small Southern town, and raising 2 Jewish daughters there.
- Marvin Barman, Gail Halverson, Sheila Peltzer, and Sharon Taubman shared photos and talked about their recent trip to Cuba.

Membership dues are \$20 per person per calendar year. For information about joining the Social Club, 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

During the past year, the Temple Israel Social Action Committee continued its strong commitment to fulfilling the twin Jewish commandments of *Tzedakah* and *Tikkun Olam*. The Temple Israel Social Action Committee has been wrestling with how to address some of the root causes of poverty and inequality in Charlotte. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Opportunity Task Force, which was formed nearly two years ago under the direction of the Foundation of the Carolinas in response to Charlotte's being ranked 50th out of 50 metropolitan areas in social mobility, recently release its comprehensive report, "Leading on Opportunity." Among other things, the task force report calls upon houses of faith to help implement the report's 21 key strategies, 91 recommendations and over 100 implementation tactics and policy considerations. Over the coming year, the Social Action Committee plans to reach out to the people who have been charged with following up on the task force report, as well as other houses of faith, so that we can contribute to restoring the ability to live the American Dream to all who live in Charlotte.

Huntingtowne Farms Elementary School

Our 10+ year relationship with Huntingtowne Farms Elementary School continued in full force. Under the direction of Barbara Ezring, Temple Israel provided a pipeline of volunteers who, week after week, would spend time at the school, assisting teachers, or simply reading to students or helping them with their schoolwork. Their consistent presence in the classroom over the course of the school year served as a reminder to the students that people outside of their immediate circle care about them, and helped contribute to their sense of self. At the same time, through our participation in the Blessings in a Backpack program, run by Tracy Brown, we helped assure that many students who might go hungry over the weekend, without the benefit of the school-provided lunches and snacks during the week, would have enough food to tide them over until the following school week.

Shelter Health Services

Just before Christmas, Peggy Gartner led a very successful collection effort to provide toiletries and various over the counter medications for women and children in desperate need at Shelter Health Services. Numerous items were collected and then distributed to the 400 women and children at the shelter.



Men's Shelter of Charlotte Under the direction of David Thrope, Temple Israel continued its tradition of feeding and donating clothing/amenities to the Men's Shelter (Statesville Avenue facility) just before Thanksgiving and on Christmas Eve. In April, David arranged for Temple Israel volunteers to serve lunch at the Men's Shelter's main North Tryon Street facility.



For the pre-Thanksgiving Day meal, on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, more than 25 volunteers in total (some brought their children) prepared a healthy meal of chicken, vegetables, salad, potatoes (at Temple Israel), and brought in rolls and homemade cookies, assorted donated clothing, and prepared amenity kits which were placed into 120 shopping bags.

We then transported the food and shopping bags to the Statesville Avenue facility, served the food and distributed the shopping bags. We served about 120 guests that night.

Christmas Eve fell on a Saturday night this year (no cooking at Temple Israel) and, despite attempts to find an alternative place to cook, we finally decided to have the meal catered. We served dinner and distributed shopping bags filled with assorted clothing and amenities kits put together by volunteers to 90+ guests at the Statesville Avenue Shelter. About 22 volunteers donated their time for all these activities.

We added a lunch service in 2016 as a new Spring event to be held at the larger main North Tryon Street facility. As the date assigned this year was the day before the first Seder, we decided to order and pay for the food and have the Shelter Staff prepare the lunch. With nine volunteers, we were able to serve lunch to 112 guests.

- Neal Golub and Steve Cohen

YOM GEMILUT HASADIM

Our day of performing acts of loving kindness consisted of eighteen acts in the Leon and Sandra Levine Social Hall. Our auxiliary groups, Temple Israel Religious School, and a cadre of volunteers led acts which included donations of blood, making no-sew blankets, planting a micro green garden, assembling hygiene, trail mix and birthday bags, making sandwiches, baking challah, making various greeting cards for seniors, children and Israel Defense Forces soldiers, decorating positive message mirrors, selling homemade muffins, hot chocolate and coffee, as well as a hot dog lunch. We also collected tzedakah.



A few hundred participated in this event, including Temple Israel Religious School students, parents and madrachim. Thank you to all of you for your support and contributing to the morning's tremendous success!



Highlights:

- 20 units of donated blood (met goal and 60 will benefit)
- 19 no-sew blankets
- 125 trail mix bags
- 150 birthday bags
- 190 sandwiches
- 250 hygiene bags
- \$2,334 in tzedakah donated including a match by an anonymous donor.
- (We spend approximately \$4,500 - \$5,000 annually on Social Action.)**



Thank you again for making a difference! We look forward to next year and hope all participants commit acts of loving kindness multiple times a day.

A link to The Charlotte Observer article about Yom Gemilut Hasadim: <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/local/community/south-charlotte/article126967609.html>

- David Rosenthal

Temple Israel Men's Club

This year has been great for our Men's Club as we continued the process of rebuilding and planning for the future. In addition to our traditional programs like the *World Wide Wrap*, *Men's Club Shabbat* and *Yom Hashoah* commemoration, we also started new ones like our Networking Group and a revamped Hanukkah Dance with a record-setting crowd of people of all ages. We are reaching out to the men in Temple Israel to continue to increase our membership, and getting them to participate in some of our regional activities (our yearly retreat at Camp Ramah) and our International FJMC Convention.

For all of you who participated with us this year, Kol HaKavod, and we hope you will renew your membership for next year. For those of you who have not done so already, especially our younger congregants, we hope you join us this year to find out about all the good things we do, and how we contribute to develop the Conservative/Masorti movement by strengthening our pillars of leadership, innovation and community.

– Michael Abadi



Temple Israel Sisterhood

As part of the Women's League of Conservative Judaism, our Sisterhood supports Masorti seminaries worldwide through the Torah Fund. It gives us great satisfaction knowing we are helping to shape the next generation of rabbis and cantors.

Volunteers run *The Rose Room*, Temple Israel Sisterhood's Judaic Gift Shop. Our newly located, updated, and beautiful facility will continue to offer beautifully crafted Judaica, much of which comes from Israel, giving our congregants the ability to enhance all their holidays and life cycle events. With the proceeds, we continually make a financial contribution to Temple Israel and augment youth activities through our Youth Fund.

Our *Rosh Chodesh* group (in existence now over 10 years, and for women of all ages) continues to meet monthly discussing customs, Torah, community, prayers, etc.

Z'havah is our newest project. For younger women, this group enables them to create a variety of activities directed to their interests.

At our opening program this year we welcomed all new members of Temple Israel's family.

Our newly formed "Management Team" enabled many of our members to actively participate in service to the Temple as well as Sisterhood projects. Stuffing, addressing, mailings, and the Sisterhood Shabbat Service were some of our activities.

We also participate in activities that benefit organizations in the Charlotte community. This past year we provided 90 pumpkins to our partner school, Huntingtowne Farms Elementary, for their fall project.

We want to continue to develop new leadership and encourage our members to grow by taking on responsibilities and new roles. We look to share our knowledge, experience, and interests with each other and to celebrate our amazing diversity.

– Audrey Madans, Interim Sisterhood President



Membership Update

Since July 1, 2016, Temple Israel has welcomed 37 new families, and 9 babies have been born to the congregation. Our congregational family of 603 family units totals just over 1,600 individuals. What is most exciting to see is the average age of the congregation - 41.8 years.

In a time when most congregations are dying, our large Conservative congregation is vibrant and exciting. Temple Israel has always been on the cutting edge of Judaism and with wonderful young families joining, we feel poised to be a shining light of Judaism in Charlotte for the next 120 years!

– **Monty Bennett**

Welcoming Our Newest Members

Bob August, Abigail and Jakob • Andrew Bagli & Leia Pritzker • Tony Bates & Stefanie Robertson • Stephen Belenky • Robyn Benjamin • Bonnie Berman • Phil Berman • Warren & Debby Binnick • Sherry Blenner • Adam & Denise Carlton, Elisabeth and Olivia • Cara Chase, Catrine and Delenn • David Fine, Rachel and Mitchell • Mannie & Dikla Frances, Emily and Juliet • Mitzi Freiberg • Barry & Fran Friedman • Harris & Billie Green • Justin Horwitz & Julie Hannum • Bob & Leigh Jacobson • Michelle Kaloz • Barbara Karro • Ellen Lee Klein • Rabbi Helene Kornsgold • Brian & Stephanie Kreitman, Ethan and Elliot • Mort & Mimi Levine • Steve Listhaus • Rick Meir • Ream & Maggie Picker • Cherie Pollard, Meleah • Pierre Pratt • Larry & Dionne Sands, Julia, Scarlett, Ava, and Jack • Larry & Lissette Scheinson. Jacob, Elijah, Natalia, and Shai • Adam & Meggan Shapiro • Zigmund & Mindy Stern • Seth & Monique Werner, Harry, Max • Moshe & Rochelle Wilensky, Keren • Aaron & Suzanne Woland, Nyah, Netanya, and Cassandra • Rachel Zander

Temple Israel Celebrates Under the Chuppah



Julie Schneider and
Michael Levy
9/4/2016



Alexandra Nevid and
Steve Halpern
11/12/2016



Yvonne Ely and
Jason Ackerman
12/3/2016



Julie Hannum and
Justin Horwitz
5/14/2017

Celebrating Temple Israel's Youngest Members

Carolina Brown 12/12/2016 (not pictured)

Maya Cohen 8/28/2016 (picture 1)

Eliza Dranove 4/23/2016 (not pictured)

Noa Goldstein 8/17/2016 (not pictured)

Romy Kunkes 11/11/2016 (not pictured)

Sadie Lisk 4/14/2017 (not pictured)

Nathan Loewensteiner 7/22/2016 (not pictured)

Keren Wilensky 10/27/2016 (not pictured)

Cassandra (R) and Netanya (L) Woland 10/14/2016 (picture 2)



1



2

Remembering the Temple Israel Members We Loved

Rose Luski 9/15/2016 • Ellen Dubin 10/1/2016 • Gary Lewis 10/12/2016 • Douglass Mann 11/2/2016 • Abe Luski 11/20/2016 • Phil Widis 1/1/2017 • Patty Gorelick 1/12/2017 • Bob Solow 2/5/2017 • Harold Kossove 3/26/2017 • Sheila Fisher 4/14/17 • Nat (Buddy) Roberts 5/9/2017

Todah Rabah!

Without all the hardworking volunteers of Temple Israel, we would not be able to function as a Kehilla Kadosha, a sacred community. We want to thank the faithful dedication of our Minyanaires, Chevra Kadisha, Shomrim, and Greeters. Your work makes our community a family.

Temple Israel Legacy Society

The Legacy Committee has been hard at work to help people create their legacies at Temple Israel. We currently have 102 families who have made Temple Israel part of their legacy. As part of the nationwide Create Your Jewish Legacy program, Temple Israel has been a grant recipient of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation each year, by exceeding their requirements for participation.

In celebration of our 120th anniversary, our goal is to attain at least 120 legacy donors—we only need 18 more. Don't you want to be part of the chai needed to help us reach 120? If you are interested in becoming a Legacy Donor, please contact Monty Bennett in the temple office.



Photos from Temple Israel's 120th Anniversary Celebration



Photos from Temple Israel's 120th Anniversary Celebration

Biographies of Board of Trustees Officer and Member Nominees

Ron Weiner - President

I have served as President of Temple Israel since May 2016. Prior to that I served as First Vice President of Temple Israel and as a board member as well. I have also served as a member and the chair of the Personnel and Social Action Committees. I am a Past President of the Blumenthal Jewish Home and the BJH Foundation for Senior Services, and continue to serve on the Board of Trustees of the BJH Foundation for Senior Services. I also have been a member of the Board of Trustees of the Better Business Bureau (BBB) of Southern Piedmont for nearly ten years and currently serve as the treasurer of the BBB.

Judaism has been a source of strength, guidance and joy for me and my family for most of my/our lives. For more than 28 years our membership in Temple Israel and participation in Temple life has been our strongest 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.

David Rosenthal - First Vice President

I have served our congregation in various positions and capacities since 2004: 1st Vice President; Treasurer; Chair, Finance Committee; 120th Anniversary Renovation Committee; Strategic Planning Task Force; Ritual Committee; Men's Club; and, Masorti/Conservative Judaism Task Force. Most recently, I chaired our Yom Gemilut Hasadim event; serve on a committee exploring the viability and development of a senior living community on our property; and since 2015, oversee the management and renovation of our single-family residence portfolio. I also serve as Temple Israel's representative on the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community (FCJC) Board. In the greater Charlotte community, I serve on Urban Land Institute's Membership and Programs Committee; advocate for the Charlotte Entrepreneur Think Tank; and, volunteer for the Excel2Fitness program. In the past, I have served in various capacities with the Providence Senior High School Band Boosters Club. I am also an active alumnus of Kenyon College and currently chair the Class of 1987, 30th Reunion Committee.

I am passionate and dedicated to: progressing our congregation's vision and mission as an exemplary Conservative Jewish congregation; educating our community across generations; objectivity, keeping our community's best interest in mind; moving the Jewish paradigm from one of surviving and succumbing to the conclusions of the 2013 Pew Study, to one of thriving, flourishing; applying my knowledge base, skillset and vast experiences to ensuring Temple Israel's legacy for future generations of Conservative Jewish adherents in Charlotte; and, creating linkages amongst our congregants, the Charlotte Jewish community, the Greater Charlotte community and the world.

Gary Michel - Second Vice President

I served as the Chair of the Clergy Task Group and the Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee. In the Jewish community, I have worked on the Federation campaign and served on the Board of Jewish Family Services.

Graig Harr - Treasurer

I have proudly served as Treasurer for the past year. Previously, I served on the Finance Committee and Clergy Task Force. Prior to Temple Israel, I was a member of the Board of Trustees and Finance Committee at North Shore Jewish Center, Port Jefferson Station, NY. Professionally, I co-chair the SEC Professionals Group in Charlotte and am a licensed CPA in both NY and NC. 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.

Peggy Gartner - Secretary

I have served as Temple Israel Board Secretary; Chair, Endowment Committee; Co-Chair, Seating Committee; Co-Chair, Kristallnacht 65th Anniversary and 70th Anniversary; Co-Chair, Program Committee. In the Jewish community, I have served as Vice-President, Levine Jewish Community Center; President, North Carolina Hebrew Academy; served on the Board of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte; participated on the Allocations Committee and various other committees promoting the work of Federation; Board Member, Foundation of Shalom Park; President, HaLailah B'nai B'rith Women; Regional Chair, Jewish Women International; Vice-President, National Board, Jewish Women International; President, Donors Forum of Charlotte. As the Secretary of the board, it is vital that the business of the board is recorded in a precise manner. Having been an active leader in Temple Israel for over 20 years, I feel that my expertise and knowledge of our congregation will be helpful as we address many of the issues facing our congregation over the coming years.

David Cohen - Board Member

At Temple Israel, I served on the search committee for the TIRS Education Director and on the Temple Israel Men's Club Board. I want to serve temple Israel because I have a young family and care about the future of Temple Israel.

Neal Golub - Board Member

I have served Temple Israel and the Charlotte Jewish community as a Finance Committee Member 2014-2016; Men's Club Family Chanukah Celebration Co-chair 2016; Commitment Leadership Committee 2015; Board of Trustees Nominating Committee 2016; Presidential Appointee to Board of Trustees 2016-2017; Board of Directors-JFS of Greater Charlotte 2017-2018; Finance Committee-JFS of Greater Charlotte 2017-2018. My interfaith, multicultural family has been so welcomed here since we moved from NJ back in late 2013 that I was simply drawn into wanting to give first to Temple Israel then to other Shalom Park organizations, not just monetarily but with time through volunteering. These are things I never did to any great extent prior to joining Temple Israel with my wife Joy and our daughter Mia. Here it just feels to me like the right thing to do. Temple Israel has become our congregational family and we feel like giving back to levels that our budget allows or via time from our busy lives. My grandparents and great grandparents have a history of supporting the Jewish Community dating back to the turn of the 20th century. My guess is that the family legacy of supporting the Jewish Community dates back before that time as well. It is my responsibility to keep the momentum going and that legacy alive. I see serving on the Board of Trustees as a true honor which I never take for granted.

Rachel Spector - Board Member

I currently serve Temple Israel on the B'nai Mitzvah Committee, where I helped establish new guidelines and policies for future b'nai mitzvah classes. I am a member of the Federation's Pomegranate Society, and while that is not an office position or committee chair I am committed to our Federation's support of women's initiatives and causes. When my husband and I moved from Boston to Charlotte 11 years ago, being part of a vibrant Jewish community was important to us. Therefore, we chose to continue in our conservative roots and became members of Temple Israel. My children are now 11 and 7 years old, and I am personally vested in the financial health and collective success of Temple Israel. I am interested in helping to enhance areas that need improvement within the current TI community as well as being part of the shaping of the temple's future. I want to help strengthen and enrich Temple Israel's connection to our community, our children, and generations to come.

Marc Titlebaum - Board Member

I have served Temple Israel as the Men's Club President, am the Chair of the Personnel Committee, and have taught for Hebrew High. In the community, I have been a teacher for the Temple Beth El Religious School and have served on the boards for Jewish Family Services and the Hebrew Cemetery. I want to serve as a Temple Israel Board member because Temple Israel is the most significant part of our family's participation in the Charlotte Jewish Community. I am honored to be able to help contribute to the continued success and growth of the temple.

Amy Udoff - Board Member

At Temple Israel, I have been working with Rabbi Klirs, Rabbi Kornsgold, and Ariel DiDonato to increase the attendance at Torah Tots and plan preschool activities. We've been meeting every month or so to discuss events and projects for the children. It has been a pleasure to watch the children enjoy themselves and learn new things, at the events. I have been communicating with different families at the Charlotte Jewish Preschool in hopes of their family joining Temple Israel. I am a Charlotte Native and grew up at Temple Israel and enjoyed all of the programs this Temple has to offer. I was the President of Kadima in the early 90's. This coming year, I am also going to serve on the Social Committee to help plan and execute events for families and adults.

In the community, I have been active as Chai Chaverim BGG- Sunshine Girl; City Director for BBYO in Charlotte; Bernstein Leadership Group - Charlotte Jewish Federation; "YAD" (Young Adult Division) Committee Chair of Charlotte Jewish Federation; Charlotte Jewish Preschool Open House Committee; PJ Library Committee for Charlotte Jewish Federation; Upcoming Charlotte Jewish Preschool PTO Vice President.

Temple Israel is so special to me. My great-grandfather, Harry Roth, was one of the founding members of Hebrew United Brotherhood, which became Temple Israel. My great-grandparents were one of the first documented Jewish weddings in Charlotte. On their 50th wedding anniversary, Temple Israel presented them with a wine glass that I used at my wedding under the chuppah at Temple Israel. My mother had her Bat Mitzvah at Temple Israel; my parents were married here and were the first presidents of the Temple Israel Young Couples club. I was born in Charlotte and then had my baby naming at the Temple. I started and continue my Jewish Studies at Temple Israel. I became a Bat Mitzvah with Rabbi Ezring and Cantor Roochvarg, and later was confirmed and attended Hebrew High School. Rabbi Ezring and Cantor Roochvarg led a beautiful wedding ceremony for my husband Ross and me on the bema of Temple Israel. My daughter, Olivia (2), had her baby naming here and my son, Jacob (1) had his bris on a Shabbat morning at Temple Israel. I know my children will one day stand on the same bema that my Grandparents and my parents have stood on for so many special events and that means everything! We are so proud to call Temple Israel our synagogue home. I look forward to being a part of Temple Israel's continued growth and to tell the Temple's story to others and how it may be a welcoming community for them and their families.



temple israel