2021-22
Annual Report

68TH ANNUAL MEETING
June 9th, 2022
Temple Emanu-El
Mission Statement

Temple Emanu-El is a Reform Jewish congregation on the North Shore of Massachusetts.

OUR MISSION IS TO:

Welcome into our community all who seek a Jewish religious connection and who choose to embrace and participate in Jewish culture;

Empower members of all ages to fashion meaningful lives through study and education in traditional Jewish subjects and progressive Jewish thought;

Worship together and celebrate the joy of Shabbat, Jewish festivals, and personal and family life-cycle events, and to support and comfort our members in times of need;

Affirm our bond with Jews around the world and especially with our historic homeland, the State of Israel;

Inspire our members and the larger community toward social justice and holiness.
President’s Report
Submitted by: Lisa Nagel

Fiscal year 2021-2022 has been another unusual year, but thanks to our dedicated staff, devoted members and generous donors, Temple Emanu-El remains a vibrant place of activity, learning, celebration, and worship. With hard work and collaborative efforts, we have stayed connected with you to keep Temple Emanu-El and Judaism a part of your lives.

Every week this year, Rabbi Meyer and our Music Director, Jon Nelson, have led joyful, inspiring services livestreamed for our community and beyond. On Friday, July 2, 2021, members and friends were finally invited back into the sanctuary for Shabbat evening worship and we have been able to host services in-person since that date. With approximately 20-30 people coming to services in the sanctuary on Friday evenings and attendance online remaining high with several hundred people watching the livestream or recording each week, these services have served as a strong connector among our congregants. They give people the opportunity to join with the Temple and each other through song, prayer and supportive words to one another. This past March, Rabbi Meyer and Shelby Chapper-Pierce also rolled out the “Goneg.” This type of Oneg allows those who are attending in-person Friday evening services to take some individually wrapped food items to go on their way home.

By late summer, we returned to in-person Shabbat morning services as well as allowed some neighborhoods, such as Senior Connection and Families with Children, to gather for activities in the Temple building.

In addition to indoor sanctuary services, we were able to host two outdoor Friday night Shabbat services: one at the JCCNS community pool in July and one at our Temple building in August. These events were special for the members of our congregation.

With the pandemic still affecting our world, September arrived with a need for diverse ways to celebrate the Jewish New Year. Services were offered with both in-person and remote options for our community. The staff distributed High Holiday prayer books to all members who wanted to use them in their homes. On Yom Kippur, we held our annual food drive and received a record amount of donated food. The generosity of our members was significant and uplifting during such difficult times.

The fall also brought with it the start of a new year of Religious School. Temple Educator, Rabbi Allison Peiser, and her teaching staff found creative ways to make sure our students of all ages were engaged in Religious School programming throughout the year. (You will hear a more detailed report from Rabbi Allison later in this meeting).

In addition, to Sunday School, Weekly Hebrew School, Pre-Confirmation, Confirmation and Post-Confirmation classes, our Rabbis and tutors were able to perform B’nei Mitzvah ceremonies for 15 Bar/Bat Mitzvah students. Once again, with the advances of technology, families had a range of approaches to enhance their experiences while keeping everyone safe: some families chose a more intimate ceremony with only a few people present in the sanctuary and streaming the service live to family and friends on Facebook; others chose a “Zoom” ceremony where family and friends were able to participate in the service from afar. In November, we were able to open the Social Hall for receptions following the services. We are truly grateful to the Rabbis and the families who were able to make the most of a time that deserves recognition and celebration.
We continued through the autumn months with more creative ideas and activities to stay as connected as possible with our congregants. Our neighborhoods were particularly active:

- The Senior Connection met weekly on Tuesday mornings. They met outside during the summer and fall and moved inside during the winter months.

- The Outdoor and Active Neighborhood hosted walks in Lynn and Swampscott.

- The Families with Children Neighborhood held numerous events including Pumpkin Decorating, Hamentaschen Baking, and coordinating with DCFS to fulfill the holiday wishes of 75 local children.

- There were food and craft events sponsored by our Sisterhood, including the Sisterhood “paid up” event in October, a brunch collaboration with the Families with Children Neighborhood, challah baking with Marla Meyer and a workshop on Passover seder flower arrangements with a local florist.

- It is my pleasure to report that the Temple Brotherhood has been resumed by Board member, Rob Yomtov. The Brotherhood held its first event, Mixology with a local bartender, with great success!

- Our Tikkun Olam neighborhood welcomed a new Chair, Jackie Rubbio, who made it her mission to offer a different mitzvah opportunity to our congregants every month. She has already collected donations for the Marblehead Animal Shelter, worked with the Mass. Coalition for the Homeless and helped organize donations for DCFS.

- As part of our Temple’s mission to help those in need, our congregation had the pleasure of welcoming and helping establish a new family from Afghanistan to our community through our “Welcome the Stanger” program.

- Mah Jongg continued virtually and the Jewish Music Neighborhood hosted remote gatherings monthly with featured guest speakers and topics that were enlightening and unifying for the group.

With the help of our new Graphic Designer, Andrea Healy, we have tried to keep all of our members informed of the numerous events and activities happening at the Temple. We hope you have noticed newly crafted designs of our weekly emails and monthly bulletins, as well as holiday materials and important ‘Do a Mitzvah’ opportunities.

One of our greatest publications and form of communication with the congregation over the past two years has been our Currents magazine, conceived and developed by our own Claudia Kaufman. Claudia worked with our graphic designer to continue creating and publishing the Temple’s magazine to provide another medium to share unique stories and relevant topics to our community. We hope you enjoyed the August and January editions.

In December, we closed out the year with a Community Candle-lighting service for Hanukkah, hosted in our reception hall by Rabbi Meyer. It was a beautiful holiday gathering that brought much needed light into all of our lives.

January 2022 began with significant news. Our beloved Rabbi Meyer announced his decision to retire in June 2023 after 30 years of service as our Senior Rabbi. Change can be challenging but we are excited for the next chapter, both for Rabbi Meyer and for Temple Emanu-El.

As of today, leadership has put together both a Search Committee and a Transition Committee whose members represent all aspects of Temple life. Each of these committees have met and been given specific responsibilities including: fact-finding from our congregation, staff and community, as well as completing an application for a new Rabbi.

We will be welcoming input from the entire congregation as we begin the search process. There will be opportunities for everyone to provide feedback through a variety of means including a congregational online survey and focus groups. Everyone will have a voice in this process.

Temple leadership is working closely with CCAR (Central Conference of American Rabbis) and URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) to make sure we conduct an appropriate and effective search for our new Senior Rabbi.

In April 2022, we hosted a very special fundraising event — “For Our Fathers.”

Austrian soprano Ute Gfrerer and Boston-area visual artist Lisa Rosowsky presented an unforgettable evening of song and art in honor of their fathers, who lived through two very different experiences of WWII in Europe. We were eager and hopeful that this event would bring our community together in joy and great spirit, and united with more understanding of the Holocaust. It was an incredible event with tremendous attendance and generosity by our membership. The Temple raised $30,000 with this event, and it was a very powerful night for our community.

Overall, this past year we stayed true to our mission of staying connected with our members and our extended community by offering streaming services, dinners and neighborhood events. We also strengthened partnerships with local organizations such as the JCC, JTI, DCFS, Mass. Coalition for the Homeless, as well as with our local police and fire stations.

None of what I have reported on today could have been done without our remarkable staff members. They are small in number, but grand in their love and dedication to our Temple. They are always present and positive, their commitment is undeniable and invaluable, and to all of them I say Thank You!

As always, we appreciate every member of Temple Emanu-El. We are a thriving Jewish community because you are a part of our family. It feels good to know that we can now see each other once again in our building, our sanctuary, our home.

Wishing you all good health and happiness in the year ahead.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa A. Nagel, President
In the Torah portion we read this week, “Beha’alotcha”, our seemingly ever-complaining Israelite ancestors, making their way steadily through the wilderness toward the Promised Land, begin to wax sentimental for the good old days in Egypt, recalling the “cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic” as their steady and cost-free diet. (Num. 11:6). It is interesting to note that harvesting such produce requires that one bend down, focusing one’s sight on the ground. On the other hand, the fruits of the Land of Israel require that one be postured upward toward the skies. Pomegranates, dates, olives, and grapes, the signature fruits of Israel, required the farmer to reach heavenward for the harvest.

This has been another year when the ongoing COVID pandemic, along with an economic downturn, and other challenges might have been cause for anguish or contraction of our Temple’s programs, our efforts and our services. But as we review and celebrate the year now ending, we can see that as a community and congregation, we have continued to look upward to new possibilities, renewed growth, and even expansion as we have navigated the various challenges.

So I would begin this, my 30th Annual Report by congratulating and thanking staff, leadership, volunteers and so many generous donors. It is remarkable to recall how Lisa Nagel and her Board have managed two years with no in-person board meetings, but all the while, keeping leaders engaged and active. Congratulations and thank you to our outstanding officers and leadership, and I look forward to welcoming our incoming Board at tomorrow evening’s Shabbat service.

It continues to be a blessing everyday to join alongside our devoted, hard-working and talented staff, and I do want to lift up the efforts of Jaime Meyers, Rabbi Allison Peiser, Shelby Chapper-Pierce, Julie Grossman, Liza Clinton, Andrea Healy, Jon Solomon, Jon Nelson, Amy Saltz, Beth Tassinari and Stephanie Gladstone. We are likewise grateful to our fine and dedicated Religious School Faculty.

At this time last year, I agreed to take on the role as Convenor of our local Marblehead Ministerial Association – a role I last filled some 20 years ago. I did so not only to support and further interfaith efforts in our town, but also to assure that our own, uniquely Jewish concerns are recognized and addressed. It was a delight once again to host the Association’s annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship here in our beautiful sanctuary. As I’ve stated before, building alliances and partnerships throughout the community can play a key role in addressing the rise of antisemitism and other forms of prejudice, racism, and violence.
So another unique highlight of the past year, although conceived under horrific circumstances, was creating a communal and political response to the hostage crisis in Colleyville, TX, where loss of life at Congregation Beth El was only prevented thanks to the heroic efforts of my colleague, Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker. On the Sabbath following, in response to my call for support and action, we welcomed political, law enforcement, and community leaders to offer from our Sanctuary their unequivocal support for the Jewish community and determination to stand with us against hatred and violence. So thank you again to our Congressman, Seth Moulton, to our Marblehead Chief of Police, Dennis King, and to our dear friend, the Rev. Dennis Calhoun of Old North Church. We have placed a recording of their remarks for preservation in our Temple Archives.

I’d also invite us to recall tonight, after a two-year wait, the magnificent presentation of “For Our Fathers.”

Again, this year, we hosted a remarkable Yom HaShoah commemoration broadcast live from our Sanctuary in collaboration with Salem State’s Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

And I was happy to welcome our congregation remotely into our family home for a beautiful 2nd night Passover Seder.

I would also acknowledge the relief efforts we led on behalf of Ukrainian refugees which included food preparation by our teens, adult diaper collections from our adults.

We again mounted a significant food drive at the High Holydays to benefit the Marblehead Food Pantry, and throughout the year sponsored efforts drives for our Welcome the Stranger efforts, along with and other collections of food and clothing from our Religious School students and families.

In the realm of continuing education, of course I taught 9th through 12th grade students in our Confirmation and Post-Confirmation programs. In addition, twice monthly Torah studies shared between Rabbi Allison and me, and classes as part of our community’s Torah Hub and Introduction to Judaism programs were opportunities for teaching Torah. Once again this year, I joined with my colleague, Rabbi Michael Ragozin of Congregation Shirat Hayam to offer a 4-month long program exploring “When Everything Changed: Turning Points in Jewish History.”

I could go on with many more reflections, but I would conclude my annual report with a word acknowledging the hard work of our transitional committee preparing the ground and planting the seeds as a new chapter begins in the rabbinic history of our congregation. I’m not going anywhere, of course, quite yet. And I will be delivering a 31st Annual Report to the congregation only a year from now. In the meanwhile, I pledge to continue bringing my energy, creativity, and vision to all that the year ahead holds for our cherished congregation. We will continue looking upward to our bright future ahead.

Respectfully Submitted,
David J. Meyer, Senior Rabbi
A sign of a successful school year is students, parents and teachers expressing disappointment that the year came to an end. Yet, it is time for the school year to end when students are unable to focus, and attendance begins to wane. Both factors were apparent when our 2021-2022 (5782) school year culminated on May 1st, with an end of the year ceremony, honoring our teachers and Madrikhim.

All our grade-level Sunday teachers taught in the program previously and continue to adjust their content to the interests of the students. One special addition to this year's program was “Sababa with Rachel.” Rachel Jacobson taught the students about Israeli culture for thirty minutes each week. In our art specialty, students made wooden Sukkot, decorative Hanukkah menorahs, framed butterflies, Purim masks and Shabbat candle stick holders. We continued our music program with Madrikhim Teddie Silver, Anna Sokolow, and Adam Gansenberg with the help of Josh Cohen. As in previous years, all the students gathered in the sanctuary for Tfilah with Rabbi David Meyer.

We also welcomed seventeen new students to our Religious School program, ranging from PreKindergarten to Seventh Grade. We had 51 students in our PreKindergarten to Sixth Grade program and 50 students in our Pre-Confirmation, Confirmation and Post- Confirmation classes. This also included 23 Madrikhim, teaching assistants.

In our Sunday religious school program, the grade with the biggest content shift was sixth grade. Instead of focusing on Jewish history (which is now the first half of fifth grade), students considered what it means to become a “Jewish adult” and started the process of preparing for their B’nai Mitzvah ceremonies. This also included three family programs that followed our Friday night worship. This educational shift also extends to our Pre- Confirmation program for seventh and eighth graders. Seventh graders learned about the nuances of adulthood, which students discussed with their parents at three family programs in the fall. Students also learned about Jewish practices around the world. Next year, a third component of the curriculum will be comparative religions: differences between Judaism, Christianity, Islam and more.

Our eighth-grade students learned about Jewish identity and the Holocaust. They also heard the stories of two different families, including a child survivor and the daughter of survivors. Both grades chose between learning about Judaism and mythology and Judaism and games in January. Next year the program will meet on Wednesday evenings for twelve sessions over the course of the year.

Our Confirmation (9th and 10th grade) and Post- Confirmation (11th and 12th grade) students continued learning with Rabbi David Meyer. We were able to celebrate our graduating seniors and Confirmands in person this year.

While COVID did not dramatically impact our Sunday program—students wore masks for most of the year. There were a couple cold Sundays when we kept windows open. A grant from CJP allowed the school to invest in air filters for every classroom and large meeting space as well as higher quality masks. We also delayed the start of the spring semester. All these steps helped prevent the spread of COVID in our classrooms.

COVID precautions played a larger role in our weekday, Hebrew, program. We used a curriculum that allowed for larger group activities and individual projects. The year began with a seven-week Hebrew alphabet and reading review. Then the Wednesday and early Thursday session students learned Barchu, Yotzer Or, Shema and Mi Chamocha. The late session on Thursday, which was mostly sixth graders, learned the Amidah blessings and Vahavta. We had Tfila every week and the students progressed through the service, learning the choreography, tunes, and words of the individual prayers.
They were excited to announce which prayer was coming next, as well as its page number in the Mishkan T’filah for Youth prayerbook.

Next year we plan on incorporating the best aspects of this year’s program (group learning and focusing on one prayer for a certain period) with our former program (individual learning). We look forward to announcing more details about the program later in the summer.

We were pleased with our in person Purim celebration this year. The Madrikhim helped organize games, crafts, and other activities in the school classrooms, which gave a “carnival” feel to the celebration. There was also a magician. We enjoyed seeing everyone’s costumes—as well as the smiling faces as they entered the building. The year ended with outdoor games (included Gaga, dancing with Rachel, and other craft projects) and an ice cream truck!

Thank you to our teaching staff who once again helped ensure a successful year of school. Our Sunday teachers include Mad McElroy (PreKindergarten), Celia Jepsky (Kindergarten and First Grade), Stefanie Gladstone (Second and Third Grade), Jill Simmons-Wetmore (Fourth Grade), Cindy Leong (Fifth Grade), Heather Greenberg (6th Grade), Cara Maney (Art Specialist) and Rachel Jacobson (Sababa Specialist). Our weekday Hebrew teachers were Stefanie, Heather, and Jill. Heather and Jill also taught our Pre-Confirmation course along with Aviva Summers who joined our faculty this year.

Next year our program will have an outdoor kick-off and welcome event on Sunday, September 11th. The Hebrew program will begin on Wednesday or Thursday (September 14th or 15th) and our first official day of Sunday classes will be Sunday, September 18th.

We look forward to seeing everyone in September!

Respectfully Submitted
Rabbi Allison Peiser, Temple Educator
## 2022 Nominating Committee Report

The Temple Emanu-El Nominating Committee respectfully submits the following slate of Officers and Board of Trustees for the year commencing July 1, 2022 to be voted on at the Congregational Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 9, 2022 at 7:00pm via a virtual meeting.

### Officers:

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Gail New</td>
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<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Mira Kucharsky</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Steven Fafel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recording Secretary</td>
<td>Katie (Alexander) Appleton</td>
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<td>Immediate Past President</td>
<td>Lisa Nagel</td>
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### Board of Trustees:

#### 2 Year Trustees

- Emily Barron
- Steve Field
- Risa Kahn
- Aaron Siegel
- Sarah Waechli
- Wendy Webber
- Stephanie Zweig-Brown

#### 1 Year Trustees

- Richard Kessel
- Rachel Perrella
- Jackie Robbio
- Brian Strasnick
- Matthew Swartz
- Rob Yomtov

Respectfully submitted by the nominating committee: Matthew Swartz & Rachel Dicker, Co-Chairs

Ethan Forman, Rachel Perrella, Brian Strasnick, Jamie Yomtov

*We appreciate the efforts of our outgoing Board members: Jessica Black, Michael Chefitz, Shari McGuirk*

*Special thanks to Claudia Kaufman, as she concludes six years as an Officer of Temple Emanu-El.*

The 2022-2023 Board of Trustees will be installed at the Outdoor Shabbat Service on June 10th.
Meet Our Officers

Mira Kucharsky
VICE PRESIDENT

Mira Kucharsky grew up as a member of Temple Emanu-El, where she had her Bat Mitzvah and attended religious school. She lives in Marblehead with her husband David and their children Jeffrey (14) and Lindsey (11). Mira works for Pfizer in the Digital Manufacturing division, specializing in training, communications, and change management. She enjoys traveling with friends, summer BBQs, and walks with her family and dog. Mira finds it so special for her children to have the experience growing up at the Temple. She is excited to continue supporting the Temple and community as Vice President.

Gail New
PRESIDENT

After living in London, I moved to Atlanta where I met my husband Dan. We have been married for almost 25 years. Dan’s parents and extended family have been long standing members of Temple Emanu-El. I am a proud mom of three great kids; Ali, a recent college graduate and Aidan and Lucy who head off to college in the Fall. The only child remaining in our home will be Chloe, our Cardigan Corgi. I am looking forward to guiding the congregation through the next two transitional years as President. I am confident the Temple’s future looks bright.

Steven Fafel
TREASURER

Steven grew up in Marblehead, where he attended Hillel Academy, and then graduated from Marblehead High School in 1990. In 2010, he and his wife Alyssa, and twins, Sasha and Dylan, settled in Swampscott. Steven and Alyssa chose to join Temple Emanu-El when they were looking to begin their twins’ formal Jewish education. The atmosphere that Temple Emanu-El offered with many young families, Rabbi Meyer, and the staff made the choice obvious. Sasha and Dylan celebrated their B’nai Mitzvot in October of 2020. Steven is a Certified Public Accountant focusing on individual and small business taxes and consulting in Salem. When not working, Steven enjoys traveling with his family and is actively involved in road and off-road cycling, including charity rides and long-distance events.
Meet Our Officers

Katie Appleton  
RECORDING SECRETARY

Katie has served on the Board of Trustees for the past six years and is thrilled to be returning to the Executive Committee as Recording Secretary for a fifth year. Temple Emanu-El has been meaningful to Katie for her entire life and she has enjoyed giving back by serving on the Board. She grew up as a member of the Temple, and her family has always appreciated the warmth of this caring community. She attended the Temple's Religious School through Post-Confirmation and was actively involved in SMARTY during high school, including serving as its President. When the neighborhood structure began, Katie founded the former Young Professionals/Chai Tide Neighborhood and served as its chair for six years.

Katie currently teaches and tutors elementary school students privately. She also teaches a graduate-level education course to student teachers through Lesley University, and helps local independent schools with their admissions assessments. Previously, she spent a total of 12 years teaching kindergarten at Brookwood School (Manchester, MA), followed by first grade at Belmont Day School (Belmont, MA). From 2016-2018, Katie served on the Board of Directors of the Marblehead Festival of Arts as Director of Exhibits. When not working or volunteering, Katie enjoys painting, exercising, and spending time with her husband Sam, family, and friends.

Katie looks forward to continuing her involvement on the Board and continuing to bring her leadership skills to the Executive Committee.

Lisa Nagel  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

My husband Dave and I moved to Marblehead in 1999. We joined Temple Emanu-El in 2008 and have been actively involved with our three children through Sunday School, Hebrew School and Confirmation classes, as well as by attending many activities and special events. We have stayed members for over 14 years because of our love for Rabbi Meyer and this Temple community. I chose to become a member of the Board of Trustees in 2015 because I know I can make the biggest contribution to our community by volunteering my time and working as a leader in the boardroom.

It has been an honor to serve as President of the Temple's Board of Trustees for the past two years.
Meet Our Board Members

Emily Barron

Emily Barron moved to Marblehead in 2010 with her Husband Marc Arbesman. They have two children, Eddie and Abi. Emily graduated from Union College and received her Master of Architecture from Washington University in St. Louis where she met Marc. Emily is an architect and works at a local firm. She currently serves as a member of the Marblehead School Committee. Emily is an active member of the Marblehead community. The Barron Arbesmans have been members of Temple Emanu-El for five years. Emily lives by Redd’s pond with her family, a giant dog, two cats, and three chickens.

Steve Field

Temple Emanu-El is and has been an important part of our family life. My wife grew up as a member of the Temple congregation; we were married by Rabbi Shapiro; and our children Michael and Joanna were Bar and Bat Mitzvahed at the Temple. We have been proud and active Temple members and supporters for over 40 years.

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve on the Board—especially now at a time when we are dealing with the challenges of bringing on a new rabbi (with such huge shoes to fill!), membership retention and expansion, financial pressures, and striving for unity and harmony within our community in the face of anti-semitism. I look forward to contributing time and effort in the service of the Temple wherever I can.
Meet Our Board Members

**Risa Kahn**

Risa Kahn is a Senior Recruiter for New Dimensions in Technology (NDT). Based in Swampscott, NDT specializes in the permanent placement of tech and tech-business professionals in Software, Healthcare-tech, Edtech, Fintech, Cybersecurity, Medical device and Robotics companies throughout the United States. Risa holds a B.S. from Syracuse University and an M.S. from Tufts University.

Risa and her husband Larry are long-time residents of the Northshore and have volunteered their time for many groups and organizations over the years. They have been Temple Emanu-El members for many years having both of their children attend our Hebrew school and both celebrating their Bar and Bat Mitzvah in our sanctuary. Their daughter, Arielle, will be entering her sophomore year at Marblehead High School and their son, Ben, is a recent Marblehead High School grad heading off to University of Michigan in the Fall.

Risa shared that she is honored to be a Board Member at Temple Emanu-El given her family’s love for the Rabbi and appreciation for all of the time and effort the warm and welcoming staff, Temple Board and members contribute to make the Temple such a treasured and special place to be.

**Richard Kessel**

My wife, Joan, and I have been members of Temple Emanu-El for over thirty years. Our beloved Rabbi has been involved with our baby namings, Bar Mitzvahs, Confirmations, weddings and funerals. After a week of work there is nothing better than attending Friday night services and seeing my Temple family. I have been involved in retail lumber and supplies for over forty years while raising my two boys Jeffrey and Bradley. I am now blessed with 2 grandsons, Noah and Ethan.

I was a director of the JCC for twenty-eight years during the most challenging of times. Director of Lynn Museum and at this moment I am on the Board of the Brotherhood Credit Union and Congregation Ahabat Shalom. Our Temple has always been there for my family. Now is the time to give back to this special place.
Meet Our Board Members

Rachel Perrella

Rachel and her husband, Tom, have been members of Temple Emanu-El for more than 20 years, where their sons both celebrated their Bar Mitzvahs. They have been residents of Swampscott for 33 years. As an interfaith couple, they have found the Temple to be a welcoming and supportive place for their family. Zachary graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 2015 and is now a test engineer in the aircraft engine group at General Electric in Lynn. Alex graduated from Quinnipiac University in 2018 and works for Rockland Trust. Rachel is a second-grade teacher at Tower School in Marblehead, and has been there for 36 years. In addition to teaching second grade, she is also the coach of the Girls’ Varsity Basketball team and the Mindfulness Coordinator for the school. Rachel practices yoga on a regular basis, having recently completed a 200 hour teacher training course.

She can frequently be found at the JCC early in the morning taking a dance, spin, or conditioning class. She enjoys reading, cooking, and the arts. She is also an avid sports fan.

Jackie Robbio

Growing up in the 60’s in Worcester, Ma my family were members of Temple Emanu-El which is where I participated in many youth activities while attending the Hebrew school. It was during my 12 years there that I developed my love and loyalty for our Jewish religion and holiday traditions.

After graduating from Simmons College in 1983 with a BA in Communications and Spanish, I was hired by Delta Airlines in Boston. During my 37 year reign at Delta, I held many positions in customer service and management supervising sales teams in the reservations call center and at Logan, as an Operations Manager (Red Coat). I retired in August 2020.

Married to David Robbio and live in Salem with Carson, our cat. I have one daughter, Kalliopi who is a jewelry designer living in Northern California.

I love to take long walks, garden and clean and organize just about anything.

Having traveled all over the world meeting so many interesting people combined with many years of working in a service industry I have realized that no matter where you are, who you meet or what language you speak, people are all the same.
Meet Our Board Members

Aaron Siegel

Aaron Siegel was born and lived in West Hartford, Connecticut. He had his bar mitzvah and confirmation at Beth Israel Congregation. Aaron was active within the Jewish community, belonging to the JCC, BBYO, and also playing in the Maccabi games. Aaron participated in the Birthright Israel program, touring and learning more about Israel. He will forever be thankful for this opportunity. Aaron graduated from Bentley University, majoring in Finance and Economics. He is currently a Vice President for Santander where he manages its corporate branch in downtown Boston. Aaron lives in Swampscott with his wife Sherice and daughter Alanna. They enjoy belonging to Temple Emanu-El, taking advantage of its diverse programs and activities. Alanna attends religious school. Aaron is grateful and appreciative for being nominated to Temple Emanu-El’s Board of Trustees. He looks forward to contributing to the Temple’s operations, growth, and prosperity.

Brian Strasnick

Brian is the President & CEO of CDX Analytics in Salem, MA. He has a PhD in clinical psychology as well as a law degree. Brian resides in Swampscott with his wife Bonnie and they have four children and seven grandchildren. Brian & Bonnie fostered 17 infants in various stages of distress while their own children were growing up. Brian can often be heard saying that his kids grew up as great adults because of the experience of helping to care for these infants during their formative years. Brian has served on various other Boards throughout the years including a major biopharmaceutical company. He has served on the Board of Governors and as Golf Chair at Kernwood. Brian is looking forward to serving on the Temple Emanu-El Board and helping the Temple to continue to grow.
Meet Our Board Members

Matthew Swartz

Matthew Swartz currently serves as the Chair of the Fundraising Committee for the Jewish Journal. Working in this role for six years, Matthew has pioneered many fundraising projects such as the annual Jewish Journal Gala and most recently a donation match campaign with the help of Arthur Epstein. Along with his time at the Jewish Journal, Matthew has served on the JCCNS Board of Directors for the past four years. Concurrently, over the last sixteen years, Matthew, developed a strong passion in working with Youth Link, a teen prevention program and vocational center in Franklin Field, Dorchester with the mission of keeping the youth safe. Matthew a graduate of the University of Maine, was raised in the North Shore in Swampscott where he lives with his wife, Allison, and son, Jesse.

The Swartz family celebrated Jessie’s Bar Mitzvah this past Fall at Temple Emanu-El.

Sarah Waelchli

Sarah Waelchli and her husband, Nathan Goldstein, joined Temple Emanu-El in 2014, after moving to Swampscott from Cambridge. In looking for a community for their interfaith family that would help give their two children (Aliza now 10 and Leon now 6) a sense of belonging and Jewish identity, Temple Emanu-El was the right fit. They have been active in the Temple’s family events over the years, with Aliza and Leo attending religious school, Nate serving on committees for school hiring and employment, and Sarah co-chairing the Families with Children Neighborhood for several years. As a family, they enjoy spending time with their elderly rescue dog, Winnie, playing sports, and watching movies.

Sarah is a partner at the law firm of Hemewny & Barnes LLP in Boston, working with high net worth clients on estate planning and charitable giving. She serves as a trustee and advises other trustees on their fiduciary duties and trust management. She also volunteers her time with the Hadley Elementary School PTO and Raw Art Works in Lynn.
Meet Our Board Members

Wendy Webber

I have been a Temple member for over 30 years - I have been on the board for the past 24 months and was previously on the board over 10 years ago. I am a licensed real estate agent with Coldwell Banker, serving buyers and sellers on the North Shore and beyond since 2005. I am deeply involved in this community having raised our two adult children, Charlotte and Ben, here in town. Both of our kids attended Temple, were madrichim, and became Bat/Bar Mitzvah here at the Temple. I volunteer my time with several organizations. I also love the great outdoors and traveling. My husband John and I hike as often as we can, especially enjoying the national parks. I love spinning and I teach several classes a week. John and I are originally from Maine and have lived on the North Shore for over 37 years.

Rob Yomtov

Rob became a part of the Temple Emanu-El community upon moving to the area at the age of 14. He was confirmed at the Temple, and also completed his Post-Confirmation studies with Rabbi Meyer. Soon after meeting his now wife and visiting Israel on a Birthright trip, Rob rejoined Temple Emanu-El. The community he has been a part of through the Young Professionals neighborhood, Chai Tide Neighborhood, and currently Babies and Bagels group has become an important aspect of his life. Rob is proud to be a member of the Temple, alongside his wife, Jamie, and values the culture and opportunities it has provided to raise their sons, Asher, and Adley in a rich Jewish community. Rob also participates in PJ Library and Rekindle Shabbat programming through the Lappin Foundation. Additionally, Rob is an avid golfer and sports enthusiast. He works in manufacturing operations and supply chain management at SimpliSafe. Rob earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering and Business from The University of Connecticut, and his Master of Science degree in Engineering Management from Tufts University. Rob is honored to serve on the Board of Trustees.
Meet Our Board Members

Stephanie Zweig-Brown

Stephanie Zweig-Brown is originally from Maryland and after college in Pittsburgh and graduate school for architecture in Syracuse and Florence, Italy, she moved to Boston. She then met her husband Matt, a biomechanical engineer and scientific software specialist. After 15 years of architectural practice and starting a family, Stephanie and her family settled in Marblehead. In Marblehead, she has focused on raising her sons, Aaron and Sam, and has volunteered for local nonprofits. In 2017, she founded SteamWorks Kids’ Lab, a STEAM education program for schoolchildren. Her family joined Temple Emanu-El in 2018 and Stephanie was thrilled to join the Temple renovation committee and assist in the B’Yadenu renovation process. She is honored to participate on the Temple Board.
Activities for SMARTY in 2021-2022 included community service, recreational programs, and a virtual activity. Families were informed of activities through eblasts, Facebook posts, and flyers. The SMARTY Facebook page was used to publicize the events and post pictures. Flyers, announcements, and reminders were given to the students during weekday Hebrew school sessions and on Sundays at religious school.

The year began with a trip to Brooksby Farm for apple picking, hayrides, donuts, and cider. Other events included pottery painting at Clay Dreaming, glass-fusion pendant making at North Shore Glass School, a bingo party with prizes, creating personalized wooden projects at Create & Escape and a tie-dye party on the grass behind the Temple. Cooking mini cheesecakes was a virtual event this year.

We had a Mitzvah lounge that included pizza, make your own sundaes and creating Thanksgiving decorations for My Brother's Table. A yearly favorite, Mitzvah gift shopping was an opportunity for participants and their families to help fulfill holiday wishes for children using lists from the Temple's Giving Menorah.

The year will conclude with a Stand-Up Paddle board event at Riverhead Beach in collaboration with The Families with Children Neighborhood.

It continues to be a pleasure watching the students engage in fun activities in and out of the Temple setting with their Jewish peers.
Neighborhood Report

Outdoor and Active Neighborhood:
The Outdoors and Active Neighborhood is looking to rebound and re-energize with robust programming. The ocean has always been a central motif at Temple Emanu-El. The new bimah is inspired by the ocean, our tashlich service is at nearby Preston Beach and one of Rabbi Meyer's passions is fishing. The Club accordingly has scheduled many programs such as kayaking and stand up paddle boarding. This summer season will kick off with a program: “Marblehead Mariners: Kayakers, Lobstermen and Ghosts from the Past” on June 18th. This will be a walking tour through Marblehead’s Old Town and Brown’s Island in Little Harbor and, looking out at the ocean, recount the tales of ocean storms and the hearty local mariners caught in its grips. As the summer months warm up, we will schedule a paddle in Marblehead Harbor and hope to charter a boat for a fishing expedition.

In addition, walking tours are also part of the planning. Past tours have been along the boardwalk at King’s Beach, the Ipswich Wildlife Sanctuary and Lynn Woods. On these tours we investigate local history and interesting events of the area. And, to conclude an event, there’s always a nosh or a meal planned.

We hope to offer programming that is compelling to the entire family and look forward to another exciting year.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Mark Sherf & Richard Kessel

Jewish Music Neighborhood:
The Jewish Music Neighborhood, under the direction of Jon Nelson, met one Wednesday per month on Zoom. Jon and Neighborhood Chairperson (yours truly—Amy Saltz) continued to put our heads together to come up with some creative and unifying programming ideas.

"Jon’s Favs" was a resounding success. Our dedicated music specialist played some of his favorite songs for us and shared why these tunes resonate with him. That gave us the idea for our next offering: "Our Favs"! The response to Jon playing our favorite songs was fantastic. We had three Zoom gatherings devoted to this. Everybody submitted one or two of their favorite songs. We emailed everyone the lyrics and encouraged folks to share why they chose these songs. We learned so much about each other in a very meaningful way.

In September, we joined with Movie Night on Zoom to discuss Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles, the first in-depth documentary of the story’s long reach across time and cultures. Our very own Tevye (Jon Nelson) led the discussion and played some songs from Fiddler. Next, Jon shared his enthusiasm and wealth of information about the Beatles with us. "Jon and the Fab Four" had a session for George, for Ringo, for John, and for Paul. We culminated the experience by joining with Movie Night when Jon discussed the Beatles Let It Be recording sessions and their rooftop concert with accompanying clips. What an incredible offering by our fearless leader!

One of the benefits of meeting on Zoom is that our members can connect from wherever they are. Several members go to Florida during the winter. Diane Levinson spends some months away from Massachusetts to be near her children. She volunteered to join Jon for a presentation about Joni Mitchell—her life, her music, and her unique guitar style. What an opportunity for all of us!

Our next sessions will be “Tales of the Brothers Gibb: The Music of The Bee Gees.” We’ll join Jon Nelson for a musical journey highlighting the songs of Barry, Robin, and Maurice Gibb...the fabulous Bee Gees.

Our Neighborhood continues to learn together and revel in the joy of music. Thanks to the Temple for providing us with this venue and especially to Jon Nelson for soulfully sharing what is dear.

Our group is open to everyone—all ages and musical abilities. We plan to continue meeting monthly on Zoom. We always welcome new members.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Amy Saltz, Chair
Neighborhood Report

**Tikkun Olam Neighborhood:**
As Rabbi Meyer has stated, “we are a connected community, built on relationships.” This year, the Tikkun Olam (translated from Hebrew to mean “repair the world”) neighborhood, did just that. We reached out to several area organizations, met their leaders and offered help and support toward their mission of helping others in various capacities.

Our kick off event in the Fall was very close to home. In fact, we cleaned and organized the basement of the Temple. This event occurred in two phases. All unnecessary items were professionally removed during the first phase and at the second event, Temple members cleaned and organized essential items. Many treasures were discovered and the entire process was very rewarding.

A big thank you to Jeff, John, Jaime, Shelby, Lisa and other congregants for this great accomplishment.

In January, the Department of Children and Families under the direction of Carla King was contacted. We met her at All Saints Church in Danvers and arranged bins of clothing for foster children. In February, we worked with Robyn Frost at the Mass Coalition for the Homeless in Lynn to assemble “stitch fix bags.” These bags of coordinated clothing items are then sent to those less fortunate. At that event, it was wonderful to work with students from the religious school.

March thru April, donations were accepted for the Marblehead Animal Shelter. Items such as dog and cat food, toys, paper towels, cat tree and treats were generously donated. It was a pleasure to coordinate with Kathy from the shelter and learn about all the care and love she and her team of volunteers show to cats and dogs.

On May 29, we headed out to the Marblehead Rail Trail for a Spring clean.

Meet at 10am on the steps of the Temple for an enjoyable walk and clean-up along the trail. More information will be forthcoming in our bulletin.

I hope to continue helping our community and building meaningful relationships in the future. It has been a great learning experience and an honor to lead this neighborhood and bond with our leaders and congregants.

*Respectfully submitted by:* Jackie Robbio, Chair

**Memorial Park:**
At the end of August 2021, a Memorial Park task force was developed. Responding to congregants, encouraged by leadership, and supported by Rabbi Meyer. It was the right time to focus on the sacred ground of our Temple cemetery.

Beautification and expansion became the goal, focusing on the entryway and meditation garden, as well as plans for new plot locations and road repaving. A new sign was designed and installed for Route 114 in Danvers, similar to the temple sign on Atlantic Avenue, Marblehead. Changes were made in the hiring of a new landscaper. Potential contractors and designers continue to be interviewed, resulting thus far in the successful hiring of an architectural landscape designer.

During the High Holyday Annual Memorial service, within the meditation garden, an initial positive renewal was visible. Appreciative feedback came from the Rabbi and those who visited during this time.

When our new architectural landscape designer completes initial plans, the task force will offer feedback and direction. At that point a decision will be made for the hiring of a contractor.

Monthly Memorial Park installments are now an on-going part of the Temple Bulletin. Informing the entire congregation about the task force, the history of the Memorial Park, and facts about our practice is of utmost importance, as the Memorial Park is as much a part of our Temple as the building on Atlantic Avenue is. It is our other sanctuary.

Our task force is comprised of passionate individuals with a variety of skillsets. We continue to meet regularly on ZOOM. Honoring those buried, meeting monthly at the Memorial Park, we are committed to all who have purchased plots for the future. Feedback and participation with this process is open to the entire temple family.

*Respectfully submitted by:* Ellen Bresner, Chair
Sisterhood

Temple Emanu-El’s Sisterhood is an organization of women of all ages, backgrounds and interests, who join together to celebrate our heritage, socialize, support, share and learn. Temple Emanu-El’s Sisterhood welcomes the support of all women in the congregation. If you are a grandmother, mother, sister, or daughter, if you are single, married, widowed, divorced, with or without children, born Jewish, Jewish by choice, a non-Jew married to someone Jewish, there is a place for you in the Sisterhood. It can provide you with an outlet for your energy, creativity and spirituality.

This year Sisterhood offered the following programs on Zoom and some in person:

October ~ “Paid Up Event” on Zoom with speakers Shari McGuirk, Rosie Segil and Shelby Chapper-Pierce including a “to go” bag of sweet, savory and bubbly treats.

November ~ Breakfast collaboration with the Families with Children neighborhood and guest speaker Carla King from DCFS on Zoom including a “to go” brunch.

January ~ Challah Baking with Marla Meyer on Zoom.

April ~ Passover centerpiece flower arranging workshop with Lumiere Lauren in person.

June ~ Sisterhood Led Shabbat service in the sanctuary and this was our first time back since 2019 due to the pandemic!

On the third Thursday of each month, Sisterhood in collaboration with Brotherhood, runs cooking for our Temple community. We cook for those who could use a little help due to an illness, surgery, a loss in the family or taking care of a new baby. All are welcome to join us to cook and deliver meals. We missed a few months this year due to covid but we are back and cooking!

Sisterhood also continues to plant trees through the Jewish National Fund, “JNF” in celebration of Temple Emanu-El’s Bar/Bat Mitzvah children.

As we move into the 2022-2023 fiscal year, we are not exactly sure what the coming year will look like for our activities because of Covid 19, but we look forward to the future with hope and more in person events. We would like to engage some new participants at our Sisterhood events. We welcome new energy and ideas to the group.

Thank you to all who supported the Sisterhood this year. We look forward to next year.

Respectfully submitted by:
Heidi Greenbaum, Chair
Senior Connection Neighborhood:

For our first meeting this year, we had a delicious outdoor picnic lunch (thanks Jackson!) to reacquaint. Our first program followed when representatives from Seaglass Village joined us to discuss their new program just forming in the Marblehead, Nahant, Swampscott area. (and parts of Salem) The mission of the program is to provide support so that seniors can live independently in their homes as they age.

This informative program was followed by our annual barbeque on August 12. The barbeque was postponed due to a heat wave and as I recall, showers were also predicted. We rescheduled for two weeks later. There was another heatwave but our brilliant Temple staff suggested we move to the other side of the building where it would be shady (and cooler) by 5pm. With the help of Alan K and Linda H inviting friends, and phone calls made, our Barbeque was THE BEST! Entertainment was GREAT and food DELICIOUS! What a great feeling it was when at 5:00 pm people entered from all directions and filled the tables!

We then moved inside to the Youth Hall for our weekly meetings—but still wearing masks and no refreshments. LOL. We missed our snacks and have to apologize to the Staff for having to keep reminding us to keep our masks ON!

We managed to set a goal for our group. We decided, we were going to have programs this year that would help us to stay active and maintain a positive attitude as we aged. We put our heads together and made a list. Some suggestions were: Marla Myer LICSW speaking with our group, Jewish museum trip, VJ Physical therapist from JCC speaking and demonstrating some safety issues, getting involved with Council on Aging, finding out what is available for seniors when traveling, guest speakers from fire department, police regarding safety concerns, writing memoirs.

Wonderful Marla Myer came to speak with our group in early fall. —Everyone loved her upbeat presentation on staying positive during these difficult times. After the program, several of our guests asked Marla to “talk about death” with the group. Rabbi was kind enough to follow-up with a presentation on this sensitive topic to a well-attended audience in the Sanctuary a few weeks later.

We tried to stay positive but our year was a difficult one! A lot was happening. Alex was ill, then Bruce, then Bob, our leader. Bruce passed in September, Alex in October and Bob in November. There are no words to express how much they were loved and are missed!

In December, we took a little break, then moved to the Youth Hall where the acoustics were definitely better. We celebrated a 90th birthday with deli from Evans, we went out for breakfast but most of all, we were there for each other and have discussed personal interests and concerns. Manya Fine a new Temple member joined our group, Clare Helfman has added to our discussions and we are now looking forward to our Florida members coming home!

Opening the 2022/2023 fiscal year with two summer programs. We are sponsoring a breakfast Sunday, July 10th (bagels, lox and music) with Cantor Linda Hirschkrorn. In August we will host our FABULOUS annual BBQ with returning entertainment Jay Daly and his BBQ Brass Band and catered by the best, Evans NY Style Deli.

We look forward to a good year ahead and open to suggestions for continuing to present interesting, informative and entertaining programs.

Thank you Shelby for all you do! Thank you Jaime and Julie for always being there for us!

Respectfully submitted by:
Linda Rosenfield, Chair
Families With Children Neighborhood
The Families with Children Neighborhood was pleased to be able to undertake a few more in-person events this past year. We were able to end the prior year with an outdoor BYO dinner event with musician Philip Alexander and his daughter. It was such a fun event with music, sunshine, and cookies! After the summer, we held another BYO event, this time for Sukkot where we gathered around the Sukkah and enjoyed games and crafts. In October, we held a pumpkin carving event in the Social Hall, where each family had a separate table to carve pumpkins and then have pizza and cupcakes. It was fun to see the different creations...and nice for parents to avoid the mess at home! In March, we were able to once again host an in-person Hamantaschen baking night for Purim, again with families gathered at separate tables in the Social Hall. Delicious treats were made, and families participated in a spirited service led by Rabbi Meyer and Jon Nelson. We are also planning a SUP event in June in collaboration with SMARTY. In addition to our activities, we are very proud of our continued sponsorship of the Giving Menorah. This was the fifth year of our sponsorship of this program in which we, as a congregation, purchase holiday gifts for local foster care children. In November, our Neighborhood and the Sisterhood Neighborhood co-hosted a Zoom presentation by the Director of the Department of Children and Families in Salem to help the congregation learn more about the families this project helps and the strong appreciation they have for our support. This year the congregation was able to give 75 foster children holiday gifts. We are very thankful for the generosity of the congregation. We look forward to programs from this Neighborhood to continue to bring together families and help them connect with each other and the congregation.

Respectfully submitted by:
Sarah Waelchli, Chair

Families With Children (Babies & Toddlers)
The young children division of the Families with Children Neighborhood had a successful year as we navigated programs for families with young children during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our programs included Babies and Bagels, where we offered bagels on a Sunday morning and had programs such as baby/toddler yoga, Jewish themed drumming, and Jammin’ with Jon, which was a music session led by Jon Nelson. We held these events in the Temple courtyard, and attendance at these events was great, with numbers greater than any Babies and Bagels we’ve had in previous years. Additionally, we’ve had programs on Friday mornings for children under 4, including a music series, Jammin’ with Jon, led by Jon Nelson. Jon sang young children themed songs and the children were able to sing along and dance with musical instruments. Our next series was Wiggles and Giggles, led by Joyce Speicher. This high energy program gave the children an opportunity to dance, bond with caregivers during lap songs, and interact with other children all while having lots of fun! Over the winter, we offered Open Play in our social hall, where various baby/toddler toys were available for children to play with. This unstructured drop in play time was during the height of the omicron COVID surge, and attendance reflected the level of cautiousness parents of young children displayed. It wasn’t as well attended as we had thought it would be, but this is a program to consider for the future. This spring, we have Philip Alexander leading a music program back outdoors in the courtyard. Philip leads the children in song, dance and musical instrument playing. He plays various instruments and is very entertaining for the children. Our events have been open to Temple membership as well as the greater local community and we have had consistently well attended events overall this year.

Respectfully submitted by: Jamie Yomtov, Chair
Neighborhood Report

**Holidays Together Neighborhood:**
Do you remember having Jewish Holiday meals with family, or friends? Do you hope to meet or be with local area friends for any of our holidays? We are here, this may be a neighborhood to regularly or occasionally attend. Basically, we plan traditional holiday meals, either pot luck or purchased, gathering to meet, greet, eat and feast with the usual holiday songs, prayers and personal stories! All ages are welcome, and food accommodations made when possible. Costs vary from $8-$15 per person to cover our costs. Payment is excused whenever needed. (Or choose from the menu to make 8 servings!) With COVID in better control, we look forward to in person gatherings, again, with Zoom options. Call or text Claire with any questions or to be added to our email list. 603-321-0222. We welcome you to join a small committee to meet only a few times a year to make plans for the menus, venues and possibly adding a progressive or picnic luncheon or dinner. Text 603-321-0222 to get information.

*Respectfully submitted by:* Claire Helfman, Holidays Together Chair

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**Caring Community Neighborhood:**
The pandemic made it difficult for this neighborhood to gather in person. In the Fall, the Caring Community neighborhood was able to organize a small group of volunteers to gather in the Temple kitchen and cook meals for those in the Temple community that were in need during a time that was in between the monthly Brotherhood/Sisterhood monthly cooking. These meals were distributed to those recovering from surgery, a loss of a loved one or an illness. The meals were cooked fresh and then frozen. When they were needed, a Temple staff member defrosted and supplemented with salad and challah and delivered. In the coming year this devoted group of volunteers is looking to grow and hopes that they will have opportunities to gather in person on a more frequent basis and develop new programs to help support the Temple community in times of need.

*Respectfully submitted by:* Shelby Chapper-Pierce

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**LGBTQIA Neighborhood:**
After our initial year of 12 monthly meetings, our LGBTQIA Neighborhood met for a great discussion on gay parenthood and held a Hannukah gathering live and online, with several new faces joining us. We are looking for any LGBTQIA Temple members and all interested allies to let us know who you are so we can reach out about gatherings, and let us know your interest in resuming our regular meetings or in attending holiday and social events. We maintain our presence in the Temple Bulletin and website so all know that we are here to welcome you. Contact Bob Goldman, 617-378-1776, bob83goldman@gmail.com.

*Respectfully submitted by:* Shelby Chapper-Pierce

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Due to the Pandemic the Adult Jewish Learning Neighborhood was unable to host activities and programming. We are hopeful that this coming year will bring these groups back together in person. Please notify Shelby Chapper-Pierce if you would like additional information about this neighborhood or any of the others at Temple Emanu-El.
As we prepare for the close of fiscal year 2021 – 2022, I want to report the current state of the Temple’s finances, as well as the budget for the upcoming year.

When we budgeted for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, there was still uncertainty surrounding the pandemic and its impact on the Temple’s finances. With that in mind, we took a conservative approach and prepared a budget with an anticipated deficit of $58,000. However, I am pleased to report that for the year ending June 30, 2022, the actual overall income is projected to be $37,000 higher than had been budgeted, and the overall expenses are projected to be slightly lower, resulting in a small surplus for the year ending June 30, 2022.

As the Membership Pledges and annual fundraising for the year exceeded our budgeted goal, I want to extend my gratitude to our members for their generosity. On behalf of the Temple community, I am deeply grateful for the continued support.

I would also like to recognize the dedication of our Board of Trustees and Temple staff who have worked to create programming and events that have helped us reach this goal. One of those initiatives was hosting the “For Our Fathers” event, both in-person and virtually, which raised $36,000.

Through our investment committee, we had previously reallocated our investment portfolio to ensure that it was in alignment with our investment objectives. Over the past year, our holdings have enjoyed healthy growth, which contributes to our budgeted income.

For the fiscal year 2022-2023 budget, we are presenting a balanced budget. We have considered an increase in our overall income based on this prior year’s pledges and fundraising. The increase in expense lines consider typical increases that we see on a year-to-year basis, as well as inflation.

As we move into the next fiscal year, we do so with a healthy cash balance and a Board Reserve Fund. The Board has voted to approve using a portion of the Board Reserve Fund for expenses related to the search for a new Rabbi. This is the correct moment to utilize these funds, as we look to invest in our Temple’s leadership.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Fafel
Treasurer
Thank you to our volunteers!

Asylum Seeker Project:
Deahn Leblang and Deb Seiberg

Brotherhood:
Rob Yomtov

For Our Fathers Fundraiser:
Valerie Cohen and Allison Swartz

Families with Children Neighborhood:
Erin Cullen, Sarah Waclchi, Gwen McCoy, Jamie Yomtov

Holidays Together Neighborhood:
Claire and David Helfman

Jewish Music Neighborhood:
Amy Saltz

LGBTQIA:
Bob Goldman

Mah-Jongg:
Amy Saltz

Memorial Park:
Ellen Bresner and Judith Emanuel

Movie Night:
Amy Saltz

Outdoors and Active:
Mark Sherf and Richard Kessel

Senior Connection Neighborhood:
Linda Rosenfield

Sisterhood:
Heidi Greenbaum

Tikkun Olam:
Jackie Robbio