

Annual Report 2010



WELCOME TO OUR 124th ANNUAL MEETING Friday, January 14, 2011

Election of new Board Officers and Trustees • Presidents' Reports • Award Presentations
Honoring Our Retiring President and Outgoing Board • Tribute to Shofar Society Members
Pillar Award Presentations

SLATE OF NOMINEES

JoAnne Levy, President Jonathan Bloom, VP, Membership David Chassin, VP, Facilities Pamela Dern, VP, Social Action Harvey Harris, VP, Community Outreach Michael Weiss, VP, Strategic Planning Carol Cohen, Secretary Dee Mogerman, Assistant Secretary Cathy Goldsticker, Treasurer Diana Rothbarth, Assistant Treasurer

Lifetime Board Membership

Jack Deutsch Dr. David L. Weinstein, Immediate Past President

Nominees for a first, three-year term

Ellen Brin Burt Garland, Jr. Dr. Barbra Horn Yale Hollander Larry Linkon Rob Litz Dr. Mitchell Platin

Nominees for a first, two-year term

Ronald Chatmon Dorette Goldberg David Victor

Nominees for a second, three-year term

Thelma Davidson Rob Epstein Marcie Kalina Jeremy Shook Arnold Spirtas

Retiring Officers and Board members

Ken Kraus – VP of Strategic Planning Judy Jacks Art Lewis Avery Seidel Dr. Howard Schlansky

Pillar of the Temple Awards

Walter Gusdorf Dotty Pressman Tepper



Our Mission

Congregation Temple Israel is a caring, inclusive community committed to living Reform Judaism and participating in the sacred destiny of the Jewish people and Israel through education, worship and repair of the world.

Our Vision

Since its founding in 1886, Temple Israel has been a leading synagogue within Reform Judaism and the Midwestern United States. Our legacy is the product of a deep love of God, Torah and the Jewish people, and of the generosity, commitment, and vision which such love engenders. Continuing our pursuit of excellence and well-being, and building upon our Strategic Plan, the following represents our vision for Congregation Temple Israel as we look to the future.

Our caring shall know no limits.

We aspire to rejoice in each other's triumphs, support each other in our sorrows, and nurture each other on our paths to spirituality and wholeness. We aspire to be a community where strangers become friends and friends become family. As in every family, we aspire for every member to perform deeds of loving-kindness for each other and the community as a whole.

Our inclusiveness shall be unqualified.

We aspire to be an inclusive community in which everyone feels honored and loved for who they are, regardless of interfaith status, sexual orientation, race, age, or gender.

Our Judaism shall be living and nourishing to the soul.

We aspire for Judaism to be relevant, meaningful and vital in the lives of our congregants. Therefore, we shall enable and encourage each other to engage fully in study, worship, deeds of loving-kindness, and other primary expressions of living Judaism. As individuals and collectively, we shall support our community of living Judaism with generosity and fullness of heart. Moreover, just as we seek to conduct our personal lives with compassion, integrity, and responsibility, so too shall we conduct the business of the synagogue with compassion, integrity, and fiscal responsibility. In all these ways, we shall lead lives of holiness and fidelity to God and Torah.

Our love of the Jewish people and Israel shall be overflowing.

Recognizing that all Jews are responsible for each other, we aspire to teach and model *Ahavat Yisrael* – love for the Jewish people – to children and adults alike.

Acknowledging our sacred partnership with one another, we shall pledge our talents and resources to assure the well-being of our synagogue community.

Understanding the miracle that is the State of Israel, we shall rejoice in its existence and draw it near to our hearts through ritual, learning, celebration, and pilgrimages for youth and adults alike.

Appreciating our commitment to Reform Judaism, we shall participate actively in the Reform Movement and build up Reform Judaism in Israel and throughout the world.

Expecting that our Jewish brothers and sisters honor and respect our beliefs and practices, we shall honor and respect theirs as well.

Our education shall prepare and inspire us to engage in living Judaism.

Education being integral to living Jewish lives, we shall commit ourselves to serious Jewish study over the entire course of our lives. As well, we shall aspire to offer abundant and high-quality learning opportunities for our entire community.

Our worship shall bring the Divine Presence into our midst and nourish our souls.

Called to be a holy people, our worship shall enable us to encounter the Divine and create a holy community. Called to love God with all of our heart, soul and might, our worship shall appeal to all aspects of our being – the spiritual, the emotional, and the intellectual.

Our call to holiness shall animate us to engage in tikkun olam - repair of the world.

Endeavoring to become a light to the nations, we shall answer the prophetic call to social and economic justice, environmental stewardship, understanding through interfaith dialogue, deeds of loving-kindness and peace. Accordingly, we commit the fullness of our hearts, souls, and material resources to the realization of those exalted ideals.

In these ways and more, we shall be a *kehilah kedoshah* - a holy community.

Adopted July 10, 2007

President's Message January 14, 2011

As my fourth and final year of serving as president of our 124-year-old congregation comes to a close, I am better able to appreciate the rich history of our institution and understand how this has transformed us into the congregation that we are today.



I am honored to have been able to lead our congregation's Board of Trustees for four years and am grateful for the incredible opportunity and personal experience that you have afforded me.

We are a congregation in transition. What I have come to realize over the last four years is that unlike most other congregations, our transition has been thought out, planned, and is understood by our congregants who continue to participate in the process. This is a very positive and healthy attribute of Congregation Temple Israel.

Earlier this year, Rabbi Shook transitioned from our Senior Rabbi and spiritual leader to our Rabbi Emeritus. He has served as a rabbi of this congregation for a total of 31 years, first as our assistant and associate rabbi from 1972-1980, and then as our Senior Rabbi from 1987-2010. Our reMarkable Weekend last June provided us with an opportunity to pay fitting tribute to Rabbi Shook's many accomplishments and his tremendous devotion to Temple Israel. During our Friday evening Shabbat service, Rabbi Shook was presented with the Malachi Award for Interfaith Relations and Understanding, an honor he richly deserved for his tireless efforts to promote interfaith dialogue and understanding. It was also quite fitting that our gala dinner the following evening featured keynote speaker Rabbi David Saperstein, Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. A hallmark of Rabbi Shook's rabbinate was his commitment to life-long Jewish learning. As a lasting tribute to Rabbi Shook, we have created the Rabbi Mark L. Shook Fund for Life-long Jewish Learning. This fund, which supports adult education programs, will ensure that Rabbi Shook's presence will be felt at Temple Israel for generations to come. Our lives have been enriched because of his interactions with us over the years. We are delighted that he and Carol are remaining in St. Louis and that he will continue to be not only present, but will have an active role in our congregation as our Rabbi Emeritus.

With Rabbi Shook's planned retirement on July 1, 2010, we had several years to decide collectively who should be the next spiritual leader of Temple Israel and in what direction we wanted to proceed. Under the leadership of past president Cary Mogerman, our congregation's Rabbinic Transition Committee met extensively, reviewed applications from 15 candidates, interviewed 12 of those candidates, brought four finalists to St. Louis for more extensive interviews and tours, and ultimately concluded that we did not have to look very far to find our ideal spiritual leader. Our congregation chose and joyously welcomed Rabbi Amy Feder as our new Senior Rabbi. With Rabbi Feder and her husband, Rabbi Michael Alper, we have secured for TI's future rabbinic leadership that is young, yet mature way beyond their years; dynamic and overflowing with positive energy, and excited about Judaism and the future.

Although Rabbi Feder grew up here at TI and is familiar with our *minhag* and culture, it is clear that any change in leadership will also bring changes to the congregation as well. Rabbis Feder and Alper, along with the temple's lay leadership and Board of Trustees, are carefully evaluating every aspect of our congregation and congregational life so that future changes are consistent with our desired goals and direction and will allow us to continue to not only survive, but to thrive in the years ahead.

Over the summer, Rabbi Feder led a Board retreat focusing on who we are as a congregation, who we ideally want to be, and how to most effectively get there. The discussion at the retreat led to three primary objectives going forward:

- To engage our congregants and build community;
- To appeal to and increase the number of younger families connected to our congregation;
- To look for opportunities to collaborate with other congregations.

Rabbis Feder and Alper have already taken steps to engage congregants and build community. Our Rabbinic Installation Weekend with Debbie Friedman went a long way towards building community and a sense of family within our congregation. Our Saturday evening concert featuring Debbie Friedman (z"l) also helped to showcase our congregation and our rabbis to the entire St. Louis Jewish community. The symbolism of Rabbis Feder and Alper choosing to be installed this past October not by another rabbi, but by us, their congregation, was a very powerful statement about the importance of working together in sacred partnership. Just as we put our faith and confidence in our rabbis, they also put their faith and confidence in us. Our worship services are becoming more intergenerational and participatory. To encourage even greater attendance and participation in worship by families, we will shortly move the start of our Friday evening Shabbat services to 6:30 p.m. on a trial basis for several months. This experiment is planned to see if this earlier start time will attract and engage more congregants and families to join us each Friday as we welcome Shabbat as a community.

Special events throughout the year, such as our annual Fruit of the Vine Wine Tasting, our adult Purim party, and our Family Movie Nights, are all designed to engage our members and create a deeper sense of family and community within our congregation.

We are also making a concerted effort to have regular meaningful conversations with our Shofar Society members and with all of our congregants, to engage them as well as to let them know how much their contributions to our congregation – both monetary and of their time and other resources – are greatly appreciated.

We are already starting to experience some success in achieving our second objective, to increase the number of young families who are connected to Temple Israel. Enrollment in our Deutsch Early Childhood Center has grown from 42 children in 2009 to more than 103 children today thanks, in large part, to the leadership of our DECC Director Leslie Wolf and our DECC Committee Chair Jennifer Deutsch. It should be noted that many of these new students come from young Jewish families who are currently unaffiliated.

This provides us with a wonderful opportunity to engage them and welcome them into our congregational family.

As a direct result of the third objective, to pursue opportunities for collaboration, and in response to our congregation having been approached by leaders from United Hebrew Congregation, a meeting of past presidents of our congregation was held, and discussions ensued with United Hebrew about collaboration and a potential merger. Although these discussions did not get very far, they provided us with the opportunity to have two congregational meetings at which our congregants were brought up to date on our financial and facility challenges. A "blue ribbon" ad hoc committee of congregants with expertise in real estate has been formed to look at all of our options on our present campus as well as elsewhere. It is anticipated that their work will be complete this spring and a recommendation to the Board of Trustees will be forthcoming at that time.

As we continue to explore our options and determine the best plan for addressing our long-term facility challenges, we continue to take steps to meet our immediate needs. The roof over the school building was replaced during this past year to enable our children to have full use of all of our classrooms. Thanks to a generous anonymous gift, we were able to design and complete construction in the May Chapel of a handicap accessible ramp and enlarged bimah this past spring. Our worship space is now accessible to all of our congregants and their family members.



Although the journey has not always been easy and the road has often been more rugged than hoped for, my job as president has been made easier by the able assistance of an outstanding group of fine men and women who comprise our Executive Committee. Their counsel, advice, wisdom and their willingness to engage in open and honest debate regarding the Temple have been valuable beyond measure. I extend my deepest thanks to

each of them: David Chassin (Vice President of Facilities), Yale Hollander (Vice President of Membership), Ken Kraus (Vice President of Strategic Planning), JoAnne Levy (Vice President of Social Responsibility), Larry Linkon (Vice President of Fundraising), Carol Cohen (Secretary, with responsibilities overseeing education), Diana Rothbarth (Assistant Secretary, with an active leadership role in membership and fundraising), Ellen Brin (Treasurer), Michael Weiss (Assistant Treasurer), Cathy Goldsticker (coordinator of special projects, including our dues program), and Cary Mogerman (chair of our Rabbinic Transition Committee).

I also thank all of the members of our Board of Trustees, who have made many courageous decisions concerning our Temple's future and have provided important direction to the Executive Committee concerning the operation and management of our congregation. My gratitude also goes to our many committee chairs for their hard work and dedication to the Temple. Our committees are where the real work of our congregation is carried out. I especially want to thank our three rabbis, Rabbi Emeritus Mark Shook, Rabbi Amy Feder and Rabbi Michael Alper for their unwavering dedication to our congregation, for their wisdom and guidance, and most importantly, for their friendship.

Our leadership staff – Executive Director Eli Montague, Education Director Deborah Morosohk, DECC Director Leslie Wolf, Development and Communications Director Carol Wolf Solomon, and Membership and Programming Director Judy Lewis – each deserve my sincere thanks for all their hard work on behalf of our congregation. Their willingness to participate in many conversations and meetings, often after business hours to accommodate my work schedule, is greatly appreciated. I also want to acknowledge the leaders of our youth groups and our many preschool, religious school and Hebrew school teachers. Lastly, I convey my thanks to our administrative, maintenance and kitchen staffs for all that they do behind the scenes on a daily basis to keep our Temple running smoothly.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this report, we are a congregation in transition. After four years as President of Temple Israel, it is time for me to pass the gavel to our incoming President JoAnne Levy. I do so knowing that our congregation is in very capable hands. JoAnne is a wise and thoughtful leader who will work tirelessly on behalf of our congregation. I have learned during my four years as President that the work of the congregation is never complete. We have many challenges and opportunities ahead as we chart our congregation's path for the future. I am confident that JoAnne, along with our new officers and Board members, will work in partnership with our Rabbis, staff, and congregants to ensure a bright and prosperous future for Temple Israel.

David L. Weinstein, M.D.

Duil Woise

President, Board of Trustees



Rabbis' Message

Dear Congregants,

Congregation Temple Israel has been producing and disseminating a written Annual



Report to the congregation since the 1990s. Initially, this was viewed as a way to shorten our Annual Meeting, as our constitution requires a presentation by every committee chair on the work of their committee. The thinking was that producing these committee reports in written form would streamline the number of presentations at our congregational meeting.



In reality, our Annual Report is much more than

a time-saving measure. It is an important communications tool. It is a vehicle for keeping you, our congregants, informed of the important work performed at the Temple each and every day of the year by our dedicated lay leaders, committee members, volunteers and staff. It also serves as a written historical record of congregational life. Our Annual Report documents our programs and activities and provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the year just past – to review our accomplishments and our challenges. It also serves as a valuable reference and tool in helping us plan for the future.

We hope you will take the time to read this year's Annual Report. We think you will be pleased to see just how much we have accomplished during 2010! It will also provide you with insight into our vision for the future of our congregation.

The future of Temple Israel is bright. At the High Holidays in 2011, we will begin a year-long celebration of our congregation's 125th anniversary. We look forward to embarking on the next chapter in the history of our congregation with you.

B'shalom.

Rabbi Amy Feder

Rabbi Michael Alper

Adult Education Committee

Mission Statement

Temple Israel's education programs strive to provide an understanding of Reform Judaism and instill pride in our Jewish heritage. Our programs seek to engage our community, promoting an enduring relationship with God and the Jewish people through worship, Torah study, and the performance of acts of loving-kindness. We encourage individuals to develop their unique Jewish identities through life-long learning.

In 2010, the Adult Education Committee, under the leadership of Jennifer Hartranft, continued to work with the Director of Education to review and make recommendations concerning all of the adult education programs of our congregation.

Programming for the 2010-2011 academic year is in full swing with the following programs:

- Shabbat Morning Bible Study Rabbi Shook continues to lead study of various texts at 9:45 a.m., prior to Saturday services.
- **Hebrew Classes** Debbie Morosohk conducts two classes, Continuing Hebrew and Biblical Hebrew.
- Sunday Series Our rabbis each conduct a three-week course that meets on Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 11:15 a.m.
- **Tuesday Institute** On the first Tuesday of the month, we are offering a series of sessions led by our own members with expertise on Jewish topics. Carol Rubin led off the series this winter with a session on Reform Judaism

In an effort to recognize our adult Jewish students, the committee continued its "Chai-er Learning" program which honors all congregants who attend any of our courses throughout the year, with special recognition to those who attend more than 18 hours of programming during the academic year. At our Shabbat service on June 18, we honored 85 participants in our classes and an additional 35 people who had participated in 18 or more hours of Jewish learning.

Jennifer Hartranft, Chair Carol Cohen, Executive Committee Liaison Deborah Morosohk, RJE, Staff Liaison

Committee members: Jessica Billhymer, Frederic Cohen, Stephen Edison, Sarijane Freiman, Rebecca Goldberg, Jim Goldwasser, Mary Joftus, Karen Knopf, Michael Steinberg and Jeffrey Wilson.

Boy Scout Troop 11

Troop 11 celebrated its 90th anniversary in April with a banquet at Temple Israel and a visit to Camp Pultman for the dedication of the new addition to the Scout Lodge. We are now in our 91st year and are one of the oldest continuously active Boy Scout troops in the St. Louis area. Our troop continues to provide a variety of activities for boys ages 11 to 18 on a year-round schedule. While camping continues to be the principal focus, scouts also participate in service projects and community activities in conformance with scouting's objectives of citizenship and character building.

Our troop experienced continued growth in membership during 2010, with the number of registered scouts reaching 35. With the quality program presented by Temple Israel's Troop 11, membership in the troop has become most desirable. Although Troop 11 is the only troop in the Greater St. Louis Area Council that is sponsored by a Jewish institution, we are proud of the diversity in the scouts. Our troop has boys of several other faiths – Catholic, Protestant, Buddhist and Islam. The compatibility and friendship that pervades throughout all activities is truly demonstrative of the tenets of scouting. Some of the boys have special dietary requirements, and they have been duly accommodated at Camp Pultman and the two summer camps.

Service projects carried out this year included decorating veterans' graves with American flags at New Mount Sinai Cemetery on Memorial Day, Scouting for Food, and assisting at Temple Israel's mammoth Thanksgiving Dinner for people in need.

In addition to our monthly camping trip to Camp Pultman at the Edison Retreat Center, the Troop attended Camp Joy near Carlyle, Illinois for a full week. Scouts also attended a camp at S-F Ranch at Knob Lick, Missouri and participated in the District Camporee at Beaumont Reservation in October. Several members of the Troop were honored by election into the Order of the Arrow (St. Louis Council) and advancement in the Tribe of Mannaseh (Okaw Valley Council).

Three scouts attained the rank of Eagle, the highest award in scouting: Marc Hansell, Benji Wolff, and Josh Aroesty. Each completed a very commendable service project in addition to a number of merit badges.

Venture Crew 2011 had a successful year, continuing its program of recreational and social activities pursuant to the plan of Venturing, a scouting program for boys and girls ages 14 to 21. Twenty-four Venturers had a great week at S-F Ranch in June of this year. Also, the Crew participated with our Troop in several service projects including Scouting for Food and the Thanksgiving Dinner at the Temple.

Troop 11 meets every Tuesday evening from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Beaumont Youth Lounge, and the troop camps one weekend every month at Camp Pultman. We would welcome a visit by any boy of scout age to a meeting or camping trip.

Sandy Silverstein, Scoutmaster Emeritus Marvin Goldfarb, Committee Chair Joel Schwartz, Scoutmaster Mike Hampton, Co-Scoutmaster

Deutsch Early Childhood Center and Rabbi Mark and Carol Shook Camp Committee

DECC Mission Statement

The Deutsch Early Childhood Center of Congregation Temple Israel builds relationships that foster each child's social, emotional, intellectual and physical growth in a safe and nurturing Jewish community.

The DECC Committee was created by the Board of Trustees in the spring of 2007 to oversee the Deutsch Early Childhood Center. As of June 2009, this committee also includes the Rabbi Mark and Carol Shook Camp program. The purpose of this committee is to work with the DECC Director and the Director of Education to set policy for and to promote the preschool and camps of Temple Israel. This leaves the DECC Parent Committee free to focus on their primary roles of fundraising, running the library and social programs, and volunteering as room parents.

The 2010-11 school year marks Leslie Wolf's second year as the director of the Deutsch Early Childhood Center. The major accomplishment this year was the tremendous increase in enrollment. There are currently 103 students enrolled. This is a big change from the 42 students enrolled at the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year.

In addition to the increased enrollment, the DECC committee, along with the DECC director, Director of Education, and the DECC Parents' Committee, has accomplished the following:

- The hours and programs available to our students are the most flexible in the area. This flexibility is a huge draw for the parents.
- The Deutsch Early Childhood Center continues to offer before and after care programs to accommodate parents who need a more flexible schedule. Care is available from 7:00-9:00 a.m. and 2:45–6:00 p.m., if needed. Parents must sign up in advance. Currently, we have seven children who utilize these extended hours.
- DECC continues to promote our Project Construct curriculum to the parents and staff while also educating them about it.
- The Kidzrock music program was added to the curriculum.
- New faculty and staff members have been hired to address the growing population at DECC, including a new office manager and six new teachers.
- The DECC director continues to implement several new programs that were initiated last year, such as the new Open House format, the continued evaluations of and enlisting feedback from staff, and the conducting of Dial 3 child development screenings.
- The addition of several new classroom spaces to address the needs of the DECC population.

- A Grant Request Form was created to provide the staff at DECC with a way to request funds from the Parents' Committee.
- DECC switched to a new computer billing system that allows families to choose several different payment options including credit and debit.
- The committee is currently creating scholarship guidelines and application forms for the school and camp.
- The DECC Committee administered an online parent survey that provided us
 with honest and candid feedback about the school's programming and overall
 satisfaction. The results of this survey were very positive.
- The Rabbi Mark and Carol Shook Camp had 77 preschool age campers in the summer of 2010. The camp was restructured to offer more programming and flexibility including four, two-week sessions and the addition of Dynamite Days offered during the weeks between school and camp.

Jennifer Deutsch, Chair Carol Cohen, Executive Committee Liaison

Committee members: Susan Kemppainen, Art Lewis, Mindi Loebner, Laura Reichman, Julie Sandler, Emily Wallis, Kim Wallis

Staff Members: Leslie Wolf, DECC Director; Debbie Morosohk, Director of Education; Karen Lucy, Teacher Representative; Rabbi Amy Feder and Rabbi Michael Alper.

Deutsch Early Childhood Center Parents' Committee

As a sign of the amazing growth of the Deutsch Early Childhood Center for the 2010-2011 school year, our kick-off parent meeting was extremely well attended. There were representatives from 27 families at the meeting in August, which focused on how parents can get involved at school throughout the year. Intake conferences preceded the start of school, during which parents were able to dialogue with teachers about their goals for the year, as well as any needs their child may have. The conferences took place in the classrooms and included both parents and children so that everyone could familiarize themselves with their new surroundings.

A Fundraising Sub-Committee has been formed in order to raise funds for DECC and to help us plan for more age-appropriate play spaces at school. In the spring of 2010, the committee held an "All About Me" night at Temple Israel. Moms from the school, as well as other community members, enjoyed an evening of an exercise class followed by a silent auction and light dinner. The committee also organized a fall Makit plate fundraiser for which parents sent in family pictures that were then used to create unique plates, platters, and mugs to be purchased as gifts.

Our Social Outreach Sub-Committee has also been busy this year. They sponsored had DECC's first Mom's Night Out program that involved gathering at a parent's house to

play Bunko. Attendance at this event was high and parents got the chance to meet and socialize. Another Mom's Night Out event is being planned for January 2011. This subcommittee also worked with DECC teachers and students on a *tzedakah* project to make Shabbat candles for soldiers in Kuwait. They also partnered with the Jewish Family and Children's Service's Hanukkah Hugs programs to involve DECC families in donating new and unwrapped toys for area children in need.

Last Spring, our Teacher Appreciation Sub-Committee organized a spa luncheon for teachers and staff. The teachers enjoyed spa treatments such as massages, hair styling, and manicures and got to socialize and enjoy a lunch catered by Mazara. The committee also sponsored a farewell coffee for Annette Fudemberg, our beloved office assistant who retired at the end of 2010.

Our DECC Scholastic Book Fair took place the last week in November. An enthusiastic group of parents helped to set-up the book fair, which had a superhero theme. We earned Scholastic dollars to go toward the purchase of new books for classroom and school libraries.

The DECC Caring Committee continues to support families during births, deaths, and illnesses through tributes, meal cards, small sibling gifts, and flowers.

Co-chairs of the Parent Committee are working to restructure the sub-committees of the school to allow for more volunteer opportunities. We are also considering changing the format of the monthly committee meetings to ensure that parents are engaged and able to plan upcoming events that are of importance and relevance to DECC.

With the number of new families at DECC steadily increasing, we are trying to maintain a personal, warm atmosphere among the parents. Because of DECC's warm, nurturing, caring, flexible, and positive climate, we are now considered the elite Jewish preschool of St. Louis. Parents and students alike are happy and proud to be a part of such an amazing school.

Julie Sandler and Emily Wallis, Co-chairs

Committee members: Joy Bassett, Nina Bastow, Robin Blatt, Jodi Blucher, Marni Deutsch, Judy Elledge, Kendra Epstein, Jody Franey, Abby Goldberg, Simcha Lourie, Laura Reichman, Cheri Rich, Kristi Runyan, Angela Sandler, Michele Steinberg, Alana Umansky, Emily Wallis and Janine Zeldin.



Facilities Committee

This year we had two major improvements to our facilities. The roof over the religious school building was rebuilt using tapered insulation to create better drainage and eliminate standing water from the roof surface following rains. The repairs were made using funds from the Livnot Campaign, including monies raised by and from our school families through a special "Raise the Roof" appeal. The project was completed successfully and came in under budget. The repair allowed the Religious School to begin using two large classrooms at the north end of the school which previously had been closed off due to major and recurring leaks from the failed roof.

The second major improvement to the building this year, the reconfiguration of the seating and *bimah* area of the May Chapel and the installation of an accessible ramp, was made possible thanks to an anonymous gift. The project also allowed us to extend the *bimah* area out further to accommodate different pulpit arrangements as well as to allow more musicians and their instruments to join us on the *bimah* for worship.

Our roof and skylights over the Gall Family Sanctuary and Isserman Auditorium continue to leak significantly, with each rain or snow bringing new areas of penetration. We have attempted to be diligent in utilizing a roofing company to make temporary repairs whenever the origin of leaks can be located. We also repaired plaster and painted the ceiling in the sanctuary seating area prior to the November installation weekend of our new rabbinic leadership, but like the roof repairs, these are of a temporary nature and have already started to show discoloration and produce falling paint chips and plaster dust. These problems will continue to increase until a permanent solution can be funded.

Most other expenses for the building this year were in the areas of heating, cooling and plumbing repairs. The bulk of our facility's operating equipment and infrastructure are beyond their expected lifespan. As a result of our financial situation, we continue to address problems as they occur. For many years now, we have been unable to fund a proactive preventative maintenance and repair program. According to our 2007 facility survey, there is in excess of \$9 million in infrastructure repairs, building systems upgrades and replacements, and modern code compliance additions that are needed for our facility; none of which will address the cosmetic or building reconfigurations required to make programming more effective or to improve our energy and operating efficiency.

Work to repair our freight elevator will begin in 2011 and paid for from the Lindner Fund savings achieved when the lower roof surrounding the main building was replaced during 2009.

Ted Greenberg, Chair Eli Montague, Staff Liaison

Fundraising Committee

Our fundraising efforts for 2010 were very successful. The biggest fundraiser of the year was our ReMARKable Weekend honoring Rabbi Mark L. Shook. The weekend was cochaired by Gary and Joyce Follman and Dr. Jerry and Judy Levy, and our congregants responded with an outpouring of support. The Friday night Shabbat service was attended by more than 400 congregants and guests and a crowd of 391 enjoyed the gala dinner at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac Hotel featuring guest speaker Rabbi David Saperstein. Thanks to the generosity of our Benefactors, Tribute Book advertisers, and gala attendees, the weekend generated \$30,000 for the new Rabbi Mark L. Shook Fund for Life-long Jewish Learning and more than \$122,000 for the Temple's general operating fund.

Our second annual Fruit of the Vine wine tasting last spring expanded to include tastings of gourmet chocolates and nuts. The event, which was co-chaired by Dr. Hui Hua and Dr. Keith Bernstein, Sarah and Ron Falkoff, and Betsy and Jeff Schechter, attracted close to 80 congregants and guests and netted just under \$2,600. We view this event as a community building "fun-raiser." It has been well received by congregants and has attracted attendees from the greater St. Louis community.

We have tried to be more aggressive this year in marketing our Scrip Program. Advertisements appeared regularly in our weekly e-newsletter and Shabbat sheets. This program is a true win-win for our members and the Temple. Congregants simply do their regular shopping at stores such as Dierbergs, Whole Foods and St. Louis Bread Company using prepaid gift cards purchased from the Temple, and Temple Israel earns 5 percent on all purchases. The Temple also continues to benefit from congregants who participate in the Schnucks eScrip Community Card program.

Other ongoing ways the Temple raises funds are through the sale of "leaves" on the *Eyts Simcha* (Celebration Tree) in honor of special occasions and family milestones such as birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, B'nai Mitzvah, etc. and through the establishment of new Perpetual Memorial and Wall of Honor memorial dedications.

Larry Linkon, Vice President – Fundraising Carol Wolf Solomon, Staff Liaison

Fruit of the Vine Wine Tasting: Keith and Hui Hua Bernstein, Ron and Sarah Falkoff, Jeff and Betsy Schechter, Co-Chairs.

ReMARKable Weekend: Joyce and Gary Follman and Dr. Jerry and Judy Levy, Cochairs; Larry Linkon and Dr. David Weinstein, Benefactor Steering Committee CoChairs.



Human Resources Committee

The Human Resources Committee's goals and objectives include developing and implementing strategy, plans and programs to attract, motivate, develop and retain the best people to further Congregation Temple Israel's mission, as well as to reduce the risk of employment litigation and protect our reputation in the community.

2010 accomplishments:

- ✓ Provided legal counsel and recommended better employment practices.
- ✓ Updated job descriptions and the organizational chart to reflect changes and to properly classify each position as exempt or non-exempt.
- ✓ Reissued the child abuse policy to all employees.
- ✓ Completed a draft outline of a Supervisor Guidebook.
- ✓ Completed a draft outline of a Development Feedback Form.

In Progress:

- ✓ Continuation of the labor audit process to review the record keeping practices as it relates to employee files.
- ✓ Continuation of work on a Supervisor Guidebook which will contain instructions on how to orientate a new employee, job descriptions for that department, a copy of the Employee Handbook, forms for the new hire to complete and instructions on where to distribute them.
- ✓ Supervisor training for new processes.

Rachel Andreasson, Chair Eli Montague, Staff Liaison

Committee members: Susan Frager, Martha Kreipke, and Jeremy Shook.



Investment Committee

The Investment Committee is responsible for the oversight and management of the invested assets of the Temple's various endowments and other funds. The committee reports to the Board of Trustees regarding investment performance, asset balances and other matters related to investment results.

The committee, in overseeing the investment assets, attempts to maximize the investment return of those assets, given the relative risk deemed to be appropriate. The Committee follows the Temple's Statement of Investment Policy Guidelines and Objectives. Accordingly, the investment funds continue to be allocated among several asset classes, including large, mid and small cap equities as well as international equities and bonds and a small portion in alternate investments. Such an allocation reduces volatility and, therefore, risks with ample investment returns.

The endowment consists of both unrestricted and restricted funds. Each year, the committee recommends to the Board what portion of these funds shall be allocated to the General Fund and other specific purposes. For 2011, the Committee voted to approve a three percent spending rate for the restricted funds and for the unrestricted funds. This was based solely on the Temple's program needs while giving the investments of the restricted and unrestricted funds a chance to recover from prior years' losses. The rate of return on all the invested funds for the period January 1 through September 30, 2010 is 4.1%. The total value of the investments at September 30, 2010 was approximately \$4,427,084.

Cathy B. Goldsticker, Chair

Committee members: Arthur Auer, Ellen Brin, Jack Deutsch, Doris Fishman, Gary Follman, Milton Fry, Ted Greenberg, Neil Handelman, Irv Levy, Lou Loebner, Albert Melman, Joshua Reichman, David Weiss, Michael Weiss, and Eli Montague, staff.



Israel Engagement Committee

During 2010, our eighth year of existence, the Israel Engagement Committee continued our efforts to engage the congregation with the land and people of Israel.

The most significant accomplishment of the committee during this year was the recent visit of 11 representatives from YOZMA in Modi'in, Israel, a Reform congregation and day school. Between December 2 and 8, 2010, we studied, danced, ate, sang, shopped and prayed together. It was a sensational experience for our TI community and our guests. YOZMA has hosted TI members and staff on at least 4 TI trips to Modi'in in the past 3 years. It was a pleasure to return the hospitality. We are looking forward to continuing our partnership with YOZMA in the coming years. Thank you to all of our members and staff who assisted with this wonderful experience.

On March 14, 2010 the committee, in conjunction with the Bayit Israeli (Israeli House) at Temple Israel, conducted our fourth annual "Mini-Israeli Film Festival." Two wonderful Israeli films were shown to more than 100 attendees. The event was very well received. Between the afternoon and evening films, Israeli food was enjoyed by the theatergoers. Both the Bayit Israeli and the Israel Engagement Committee were very pleased with the success of the film fest evening and look forward to presenting the Mini Israeli Film Festival for many years to come. Mark your calendar for the next one on March 6, 2011.

Our committee also assisted with the Friday night Israel Shabbat service on April 16, 2010. Several committee members participated in the service and helped with the Israeli oneg afterwards. In addition, committee members participated in the community-wide Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day) celebration held at the Jewish Community Center on April 19, 2010.

Our committee continued to submit weekly "Israel Facts" for the Friday night Shabbat service leaflets and was a co-sponsor of a film at the 2010 St. Louis Jewish Film Festival.

The goal of the Israel Engagement Committee is to help connect the congregation with Israel. We strive to help the congregation follow the portion of the Vision for Temple Israel which states: "Understanding the miracle that is the State of Israel, we shall rejoice in its existence and draw it near to our hearts through ritual, learning, celebration, and pilgrimages for youth and adults alike."

Our committee members are enthusiastic and hard-working toward this goal. Members of the committee also attended various other local Jewish community Israel related activities and events.

Rob Litz, Chair

Debbie Morosohk, Rabbi Amy Feder and Rabbi Michael Alper, Staff Liaisons

Committee members: Patty Bloom, Pam Brinkmeyer, Jody Chassin, Amy Cohen, Jennifer Culp, Pamela Dern, Mary Friedman, Carol Gusdorf, Neil Handelman, Earl Kessler, Esther Kessler, Jerry Koenig, Linda Koenig, Jodi Leise, Dr. Jerome Levy, JoAnne Levy, Judy Levy, Cary Mogerman, Dee Mogerman, Donald Mogerman, Aaron Scharff, Bob Schnurman, Audrey Shanfeld, Adam Wallis, and Linda Waniewski.

Kahn Foundation Committee

The Nathan Kahn - Ernestine Kahn - Charles Kahn Foundation, an endowed fund of Temple Israel, was established through the generosity of Lina Kahn for the purpose of improving the quality of life for senior citizens. From the first grants awarded in 1992 to the present, the Foundation has distributed more than \$2,330,000 to agencies and organizations for services and projects benefiting the elderly. Funding is provided from the earnings on invested funds.

Grant requests are received from many agencies in the Jewish community as well as the general community and are reviewed by the committee twice each year for funding. Proposals range from programs that are religious, social, educational and recreational, to those concerned with the health and wellness of our senior citizens. Several Temple Israel programs have been underwritten by the Kahn Fund, as well.

Due to the downturn in the economy and the effect this has had on our investments, we were unable to provide funding to any programs this past year. We hope to again be able to support appropriate projects in the future.

Linda Kraus, Chair

Committee members: Randy Arst, Doris Fishman, JoAnne Levy, Cary Mogerman, David Weinstein, M.D., Bea Young, Rabbi Mark L. Shook, and Eli Montague, staff.



Livnot Capital and Endowment Campaign

During 2010, the Livnot Campaign continued to focus on addressing the most urgently needed facility repairs. The Temple took advantage of favorable construction costs caused by the economic recession and elected to replace the school building roof using campaign funds. Among the pressing needs still to be addressed is the replacement of the upper roof over the Gall Sanctuary and the Isserman Auditorium.

Two open congregational meetings held this fall gave us the opportunity to educate congregants about the financial challenges facing the congregation due to changing demographics and about our facilities needs. These discussions were very positive and informative. Given the financial and demographic trends of the past few years, we recognize that our initial plans for renovating our facility were based on information and assumptions that may no longer be relevant today. At the end of 2010, a



task force was formed to analyze the condition and value of our current property and facilities and to make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees as to how to address current and future facility needs.

The recommendation of the task force should provide us with guidance in determining the future direction of the Livnot Campaign.

Larry Linkon, Vice President - Fundraising Livnot Campaign Chair

Carol Wolf Solomon, Staff Liaison



Membership Support Review Committee

Your Membership Support Review Committee has been hard at work with a clear direction. Our assignment is to manage the Temple's membership support process to include members' inquiries and implementation of the fair procedures authorized by our Board of Trustees. Our ultimate goal is to make sure that all members who are capable of doing so pay their fair share of annual Temple support. At the same time, we are sensitive to those congregants who are truly in need of concessions. All requests for dues adjustment are handled in a confidential and expeditious manner.

There are many initiatives being launched by this committee to ensure there is a responsible process for membership support. We are providing members with more direction, including specific choices for dues submission, preferred payment methods of debit or credit card, and precise schedules and deadlines for making payments or alternate arrangements. On Sundays and occasional evenings, our committee has made many confidential calls to members in an attempt to reach out to them and arrive at a support plan that meets their needs as well as those of the Temple. We have had to make some tough but important decisions for our members. With the tireless efforts of this committee and amazing staff support from Membership and Programming Director Judy Lewis, we have improved our response time and handling of the numerous member requests. We continue to monitor these requests are and making sure that the Temple's financial needs are being met.

Rest assured that your committee is dedicated and continually attempts to improve this fair process for our members. We need volunteers, so please consider helping our committee so we can reach out to our members on a timely basis.

Cathy Goldsticker, Chair Judy Lewis, Staff Liaison

Committee members: Amy Cohen, Carol Cohen, Carla Feuer, Cathy Goldsticker, Ted Greenberg, Nancy Kodner, Diana Rothbarth, Adam Wallis, and Eli Montague, staff.



New Mt. Sinai Cemetery Association

New Mt. Sinai Cemetery, nestled in the rolling hills of Affton, Missouri, is St. Louis' oldest and largest Jewish cemetery. The cemetery is located at 8430 Gravois Road and is situated on 52 acres of beautiful green space. Approximately 11,000 people are interred in single graves, family lots, and in our beautiful Community Mausoleum. 2010 marked the 160th anniversary of the founding of New Mt. Sinai Cemetery. Due to its beauty and its history, the cemetery is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. We are the only Jewish cemetery in this area with that distinction.

New Mt. Sinai Cemetery is co-owned by B'nai El Congregation, Congregation Shaare Emeth, and Congregation Temple Israel. Members of Temple Israel are entitled to significant discounts on pre-need sales of property, and now the Temple also receives a percentage of all sales of cemetery property to our members. New Mt. Sinai offers burial or entombment of cremated remains, and we also permit non-Jewish family members to be buried at the cemetery. Our Community Mausoleum features the beautiful stained glass panel titled "Window of Truth," designed by the celebrated artist Sol Nodel. We are the only Jewish cemetery in St. Louis to offer public mausoleum space.

We had another productive year at New Mt. Sinai in 2010. Students from area temple religious schools came out to the cemetery in the spring to plant flowers in the front garden areas; for Memorial Day Cub Scouts from Pack 982 and Boy Scouts from Troop 11 conducted flag ceremonies at the graves of more than 800 veterans interred in the cemetery. In September, we held our annual Memorial Service in the mausoleum. Cantor Seth Warner of Shaare Emeth led the service. Musical selections were chanted by the cemetery's Executive Director, Dan Brodsky, as well as by Cantor Warner and Linda Blumenthal. Once again this year, instrumental music was provided by musicians from the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra.

The following Temple Israel members passed away in 2010 and were interred at New Mt. Sinai: Sally Greenblatt; Susan Fry; Joseph Berger; Ellis Lipsitz; Minnette Bloom; Albert Prel, and Harvey Friedman. They join all the other members of our congregation who have chosen New Mt. Sinai Cemetery to be their final resting place.

We expect 2011 to be an exciting year for both New Mt. Sinai and Temple Israel. We hope that our new arrangement between the cemetery and the Temple will result in renewed interest from our members in purchasing property at New Mt. Sinai Cemetery. If you wish to discuss purchasing property at New Mt. Sinai, or would like to arrange a tour of the cemetery, please contact the cemetery's Executive Director, Daniel Brodsky, at 314-353-2540 (office) or 314-504-3302 (cell). You may also send an e-mail to him at danielbrodsky@ sbcglobal.net.

William Eiseman, Jr., Chair, Association Member, and Life Member

New Mt. Sinai Cemetery Association: Robert Epstein, Neil Handelman, Louis Loebner (Treasurer), Norman Roth (Secretary), Randall Scherck, and Sanford Silverstein.

Temple Israel Life Members: Robert Meyer and Robert Wegusen

Public Relations/Communications Committee

Our public relations and communications focus in 2010 was to use our Rabbinic transition as an opportunity to re-brand and update the "look" and image of the Temple. To that end, we've updated the Temple's logo and the graphic design of publications including the monthly *Dateline* newsletter, our weekly *ConnecTions* e-newsletter, and our High Holiday service leaflets. Temple stationery, Shabbat sheets and other printed materials will be updated as current supplies are depleted. We have also incorporated the new logo and look into the design of a new Temple Israel website that is currently under construction.

Many hours during this past year have been devoted to doing the extensive background work required to prepare for the implementation of a new, interactive website for the Temple. As part of this process, the Temple is upgrading its membership management and calendar software programs. This is necessary for our website to enable our members and others to pay online for Continuing Synagogue Support and other fees, make tribute donations, purchase scrip; register for programs, view our events calendar; receive event reminders via e-mails, and more. Our in-house website implementation team is comprised of Carla Feuer, Bruce Morosohk, Eli Montague and Carol Wolf Solomon.

As a result of some changes in the professional staff at the Temple, in March of 2010 Carol Wolf Solomon, who had been serving as Capital and Endowment Campaign Coordinator, was named Director of Development and Communications. Since assuming this role, she has used her extensive background in journalism and public relations to dramatically increase Temple Israel's visibility in the local Jewish and secular media. She spearheaded the development of the updated logo and new graphic design Temple publications and has also been reviewing and updating wording in all internal and external communication to ensure that our language and tone are inclusive, warm and welcoming.

Carla Feuer, Chair Carol Wolf Solomon, Staff Liaison



Rabbinic Transition Committee

The Rabbinic Transition Committee was established by our president, Dr. David Weinstein, in 2008. The Temple Israel Strategic Plan contemplated the creation of this committee to identify a successor to Rabbi Shook upon his retirement as Senior Rabbi of the congregation.

At its January 2010 meeting, the Board of Trustees of Temple Israel overwhelmingly approved and endorsed the committee's recommendation that Rabbi Amy Feder be



engaged to succeed Rabbi Shook as the seventh Senior Rabbi of our congregation. The recommendation of the Rabbinic Transition Committee was made after engaging in a national search during calendar year 2009 under the auspices of the Rabbinical Placement Commission of Reform Judaism. The Committee felt that Rabbi Feder, over all other candidates it considered, possessed the deepest, broadest knowledge and understanding of the

culture of our particular congregation; possessed the warmth and personal relationship and sense of connectedness to our members and to our congregation that was appropriate; and had the intellectual prowess, knowledge of Judaism, thirst for teaching and learning, and exceptional emerging leadership skills that we felt were required. We concluded that Rabbi Feder was uniquely qualified to successfully move our congregation forward as its next spiritual leader.

On February 21, an open meeting of the congregation was held in the Gall Family Sanctuary of Temple Israel, at which time the congregation warmly and enthusiastically ratified the Board's selection of Rabbi Feder to succeed Rabbi Shook as Senior Rabbi.

As the summer approached, Rabbi Feder was formally engaged by the congregation as its next Senior Rabbi, and the Board also deemed it appropriate to exercise its option to grant a new contract to Assistant Rabbi Michael Alper, promoting him to the position of Associate Rabbi of Temple Israel and extending his term of service for another three years. Additionally, arrangements were completed for Rabbi Shook to assume the position of Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Israel, a distinguished position held previously by Rabbis Alvan D. Rubin and Ferdinand M. Isserman (z"1) upon their retirements from active service to the congregation as Senior Rabbi.

On June 4, the congregation thanked Rabbi Shook for his years of service to the temple, and paid tribute to him during a celebration called "A ReMARKable Weekend." The celebration, chaired by a committee appointed by the president – Gary and Joyce Follman and Dr. Jerry and Judith Levy, was a smashing success. We were joined for this celebration by our special guest Rabbi David Saperstein, Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, who delivered a stirring address during the Saturday evening dinner. It was a wonderful event for our congregation, and for the St. Louis Jewish community at large.

In November, the congregation formally installed Rabbi Feder as Senior Rabbi, and Rabbi Alper as Associate Rabbi, during a warm and heavily-attended Shabbat service held in the Gall Family Sanctuary. We were joined during the service by legendary Jewish singer Debbie Friedman (z"l), who also appeared in concert on Saturday evening here at Temple Israel, an event which was open to the entire community.

The events of 2010 afforded the entire congregation the opportunity to celebrate Rabbi Shook's long and successful rabbinate, while also creating the anticipation and excitement which naturally accompany change.

In the coming year, the congregation will sponsor a series of coffees and other informal gatherings to provide multiple opportunities for all members to get to know our new Senior Rabbi.

The most experienced leaders in the Reform Movement tell us that "transition" of spiritual leadership is a process that does not end with the installation of a successor as rabbi. Rather, it continues for at least 18 months thereafter, as the congregation takes stock of all that it gained from the faithful guidance of its retiring rabbi, and as the new rabbi settles into her new role, and as the congregation rededicates itself not only to her spiritual leadership and guidance, but also re-dedicates itself, member by member and family by family, to a renewal of commitment to our future – a renewal of love and affection for our temple community – and a re-dedication to ensuring that the enduring purposes of Temple Israel continue to be met.

I feel certain I speak for the entire Rabbinic Transition Committee when I say that it has been a great honor and privilege to serve our congregation in this capacity for the past two years. It has been a labor of love for all of us, and we hope the recommendations we made, and the action that the Board took in managing the transition of spiritual leadership of Temple Israel, will be of considerable benefit to our members for many, many years.

Cary J. Mogerman, Chair

Committee members: Jonathan Bloom, Ellen Deutsch, Sarah Falkoff, Natalie Handelman, Yale Hollander, Karen Knopf, Ken Kraus, Larry Linkon, Carol Rubin, Karen Smoller, Lynn Wallis, and David Weinstein.



Rabbis' Circle and Shofar Society

In 2010, we established the Rabbis' Circle to provide our congregants with additional opportunities to make visionary annual gifts to the Temple. Rabbis' Circle levels are Maimonides - \$25,000; Rashi - \$18,000; Hillel - \$10,000, and Akiba - \$5,000 (formerly called Patron level of Shofar Society). These giving circles are in addition to our Shofar Society levels of Tekiah Gedolah - \$3,700; Teruah - \$3,150; Shevarim - \$2,600, and Tekiah - \$2,350.

The Rabbis' Circle and Shofar Society of Temple Israel are comprised of families and individuals who heed the call of the shofar and sustain our congregation with generous annual contributions that exceed our standard levels of synagogue support (dues). The annual gifts received from these 226 families and individuals represent more than 44 percent of our annual revenue from synagogue support. On behalf of our entire Temple Israel family, we express our sincere gratitude for the generosity that our Rabbis' Circle and Shofar Society members show year in and year out.

The names of Shofar Society members are prominently displayed at the main entrance to Temple Israel in the Kriegshaber Foyer and are published annually in our *Dateline* newsletter and in our Annual Report. The listing below reflects Rabbis' Circle and Shofar Society members as of September 2010. We invite you to heed the call of the shofar and join these dedicated members of our Rabbis' Circle and Shofar Society.

Avery Seidel, Chair Eli Montague, Staff Liaison

Rabbis' Circle (as of September 2010)

AKIBA

Charlotte Brodsky Ellen & Jack Deutsch Judy & Richard Glassman Judith & Jerome Levy Pamela & Michael Dern Marilyn & Sam Fox Howard Lesser Caroline & Eric Mann

Shofar Society (as of September 2010)

TEKIAH GADOLAH

Rachel & Thomas Andreasson Judy & Ira Gall Esther & Earl Kessler Jeanne Pass June Bierman Helen & Kenneth Goldstein Jayne & David Langsam Lisa Ring Terry & Gordon Bloomberg Joyce & Morton Green Frances & Gary Lazaroff Lynn Wallis Hope & Julian Edison Sandra Greenberg Susan & Irving Levy Barbra Horn & Peter Weiss Rita & William Eiseman, Jr. Natalie & Neil Handelman Lester Miller Barbara & Norman Wielansky Dee & Cary Mogerman Dorothy & William Firestone Linda Hyken

TERUAH

Ruth & Walter Gusdorf Audrey & Leonard Adreon Susan & Allan Epstein Lois Levin Elaine & Harold Blatt Esther Frank Frieda Handelman Constance Levy Marilyn & Donald Blum Joyce Gartenberg Barbara & Norman Hausfater Elizabeth & Larry Linkon Geraldine & Jerry Chod Bettie Gershman Nancy Kalishman Heather & Jay Padratzik Rand Dankner Susan & Paul Goldberg Karen & Harry Knopf Hildegard & Herman Rochman Lee & Eugene Deutsch Karole & Thomas Green Joan & Eugene Kraus Maurine & Mahlon Rubin Martha & Leonard Weinstock

SHEVARIM

Anonymous
Sandra & Robert Aisenfeld
Martha & David Aronson
Charline Baizer
Joy & Fred Balis
Jill & David Belsky
Patricia & Robert Bernstein
Elaine & Eric Bly
Judith & David Capes
Marni & Jeremy Deutsch
Ellen & Henry Dubinsky
Elmer & Zella Esrock
Doris & Harold Fishman
Susan & Edward Fliesher

Dorismae & Harvey Friedman Susan & Leonard Gaum Abby & Joel Goldberg Dorette & Edward Goldberg Lois & Alan Goldberg Laura Kipnis & Sidney Goldstein Alice & Howard Handelman Delores & Melvin Heller Eleanor Withers & Ralph Kalish, Jr Susie & Rik Knopf Linda & Jerome Kraus Lynne & Michael Lippmann Loren & Kenneth Ludmerer Wendy & Mark Ludwig
Ricki & Neil Marglous
Frala & Aaron Osherow
Joyce & Jules Pass
Marcia & Robert Pass
Madhavi Kandula & Mitchell Platin
Dana & Troy Pohlman
Aileen & Melvin Rabushka
Karen & David Raskas
Lynne Kipnis & Steven Rothman
Susie & Robert Schulte
Avery Seidel
Jennifer & Walter Shifrin

Marcelyn & Merle Silverstein
Harlan Steinbaum
Dorothy & Arnold Tepper
JoAnne Levy & Jim Thomeczek
Elizabeth & David Weinstein
Marlita & Stuart Weiss
Joan & Howard Wittner
Kimberly & Brett Wolff
Richard Wolfheim
Bella Woolf

TEKIAH

Stewart Albert Gail & Murray Appelbaum Barbara & Jerome Bader Faye Beth Baer-O'Byrne Susan & Barry Barber Charles Bates Baron Sandra & David Becker Linda & Fred Berger Hui Hua & Keith Bernstein Susan & Robert Bernstein Patricia & Jonathan Bloom Sandy and Max Breadman Robert & Ellen Brin Janice & Lawrence Brody Susan & Mark Bronson Jody & David Chassin Cheri & Ronald Chod Kathy & Darryl Cohen Carol & Edward Cohen Lynne Cole Thelma Davidson & Marvin Davidson Jennifer & Jonathan Deutsch James Eiseman Karen Berry Elbert & Charles Elbert Beverly Faber Jody & Preston Fancher Robin & Gary Feder Barbara & Fred Flegel Joyce & Gary Follman Lotta & Jeff Fox

Elaine & Charles Fremder Mary Ellen & Robert Freund Eleanor & Milton Fry Steven Gall Amy & Burton Garland, Jr. Jane & Alvin Gold Holly & Marc Goldfarb Janis & Rand Goldstein Cathy & Robert Goldsticker Claire Schenck & Richard Greenberg Laura & Edward Greenberg Jan & Ronald Greenberg Carol & Paul Gusdorf Robin & David Gutmann Amy Knoblock-Hahn & Robert Hahn Ronni & Gary Handelman Judy & Harvey Harris Myrna & Arnold Hershman Suzanne & Theodore Hoffman Linda & Philip Horwitz Cindy & Shep Hyken Helane & Warner Isaacs Mary & Morris Joftus Marcie & Dale Kalina Barbara & David Kantrovitz Harry Katz Marjorie & Milton Katz Nancy & Mark Kodner Susan & Richard Kofkoff Diana & Andrew Kohn

Anita & Kenneth Kraus

Martha & David Kreipke Joelyn Knopf Levy & Edward Levy Judy & Arthur Lewis Minnette & Joe Liberman Elayne & David Lieberman L. Lippman, Jr Judith & David Lipsitz Melanie & Tom Litz Carole & Louis Loebner Felice & Michael Lowenbaum Joyce & Arthur Margulis Shelley Marglous Julie & Steve Mathes Joy & Albert Melman Leslie & Steven Melnick Dorothy Meyerson Jill Silverstein & Jonathan Mills Sallie & Donald Mogerman Joan & Leslie Nackman Evelyn & Eric Newman **Dolores Newport** Jan Nykin Jean Schaffer & Daniel Ory Linda & Herbert Palans Jan & Ronald Pass Cheryl & Laurence Perlstein Judith & Paul Putzel Anne & David Rosenberg Michele & Norman Roth Diana & James Rothbarth

Jean Sachs Caryn & Bruce Sandweiss James Schiele Carol Rubin & Howard Schlansky Helen & Julian Seeherman Deborah & Bradley Shanker Sammy & William Shoss Noma & Arthur Simon Nancy & Richard Singer Barbara Goldberg & Alan Skop Karen & David Smoller Nancy & Robert Spewak Sharon & Melford Spiegelglass Sandra & Arnold Spirtas Jill & Steven Starr Patricia & Frederic Steinbach Lecie & Richard Steinbaum Helen & Cary Stolar Gerti Strauss Jane & Mark Tucker Rita & Scott Waldman Sarah & Chad Wallis James Wedner Barbara & Edward Weiss Bonnie & Howard Weiss Diane & Michael Weiss Linda & Stephen Wielansky Carolynn & Stephen Wolff Suzanne & Robert Yawitz Bonnie & Myron Zwibelman

Sisterhood

As in years past, our Temple Israel Sisterhood supported our congregation in many ways throughout 2010. Our Sisterhood covered the cost of the complimentary babysitting that is provided for our congregants at each Friday night Shabbat service and on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Sisterhood also furnished *bimah* flowers for our Shabbat worship on those occasions when they were not sponsored by a family for a special occasion. Sisterhood also enhanced our worship on the holidays of Sukkot and Simchat Torah by furnishing and installing decorations in the Gall Family Sanctuary and May Chapel.

We support our young families at the Temple by distributing Hanukah candles to our Religious School, Hebrew School and DECC students. We also gave Bar and Bat Mitzvah gifts (a Jewish star necklace), and confirmation gifts (a Bible) to all of our students.

Our Passover Mitzvah Project again this year was to collect Passover food for the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry in St. Louis.

Sisterhood programs this year included a "Dessert and Discussion" Book Club, featuring discussions led by Rabbi Shook and Rabbi Feder, and our annual Hanukah lunch. Each year we also have a Sisterhood Shabbat where our members lead the service.

Sisterhood is a sponsor of the St. Louis Jewish Film Festival and the St. Louis Jewish Book Festival. Authors we have sponsored have included Rabbi Harold Kushner, Dr. Ruth Westheimer, Naomi Ragen, Rona Jaffe, Evan Handler, and Jan Goldstein.





Synagogue Community (Membership)

In 2010, the Temple Israel Synagogue Community program continued its efforts to update and improve its ability to reach out to new members, retain and energize our active members and engage existing members who may not have previously been involved with congregational programming.

We ushered in Purim with an adults-only, "Mad Men" themed PURIM POUR 'EM party complete with music, cocktails and finger foods reminiscent of the early 1960s. Members got into the festivities by participating in spirited competitions for the best costumes and the best homemade hors d'oeuvres. The party was such a success that some of the proceeds from the admission fees were used to purchase six new high-top cafe tables which have become fixtures for a number of Temple functions, including Onegs.

During the summer we put on a Saturday night "Family Drive-In Movie" night featuring a picnic dinner and Havdalah service in the Kirk Nackman Garden and then showed a double feature in the Isserman Auditorium. The event brought out multiple generations of TI members, all of whom enjoyed the variety of entertainment options.

The Synagogue Community program has been further strengthened on the professional staff side with the return of Judy Lewis to the position of Director of Membership and Programming. Additionally, Rabbis Feder and Alper have taken up very active roles in the development of programming that will appeal to many different demographics within our congregation and which will further TI's commitment to be more than just a house of worship.

This past year Synagogue Community operated in a slightly different fashion than in prior years. Rather than one standing committee managing all functions, a few different steering committees were assembled on a per project basis. This type of flexibility ensured that nobody felt overburdened by committee responsibilities and everyone was fully committed to the tasks at hand. As a result, each of our major events in 2010 was rousing successes.

Many thanks go out to Judy Lewis for her tireless efforts, her spirited attitude, her creative mind and for drafting her husband, Art, to assist us with event planning and execution. I would also like to thank Joelyn Knopf Levy, Stephanie Rhea, Bryson Hartranft, Ron Chatmon, Becky Goldberg, Susan Irgang, David Irgang and Robbie Irgang, Joy Bassett, Jerry Thomeczek, Diana Rothbarth and David Golde for their most valuable time and efforts to make our programming a success this year.

It has been my honor and privilege to be involved with this program over the past two years. I wish incoming Vice President for Membership Jonathan Bloom all the best as he takes over the program in 2011.

Yale L. Hollander, Vice President – Membership Judy Lewis, Staff Liaison

Tikkun Olam Committee

Our Tikkun Olam Committee strives to provide year-round opportunities for Temple Israel members and their families to participate in *tikkun olam* (repair of the world). We plan and participate in activities that benefit our fellow congregants as well as the larger community. We welcome new ideas and believe that together we do make a difference!

Events and activities in 2010 included:

Covenant House Groceries: Twice each month, volunteers purchase groceries for several Covenant House residents. Volunteers also deliver these groceries to residents to ensure they have sufficient food.

Give a Meal-a-Month: In an ongoing effort to help stock local food pantries, we publicize to congregants specific food items each month. We collect and divide the food donations that benefit the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry and Hosea House.

Cooking Meals: Committee members came together to prepare meals for congregants at various times in 2010. The food is delivered to ill or bereaved individuals who accept our offer of a meal. We also gathered to make frozen dinners for distribution through the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry.

St. Louis Crisis Nursery: As in prior years, a group of volunteers visited the Crisis Nursery to comfort the babies being helped by this wonderful organization.

Community Vegetable Garden: This garden was planted and tended throughout the growing season on the Temple grounds. All vegetables harvested were donated to the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry and distributed to clients eager to receive these healthy items.

Purim: We prepared *Mishloach Manot* and delivered these Purim treats to the residents of Covenant House.

Pride Fest Parade and Jewish Booth: New this year, we formed a team of parade walkers for the annual weekend festival in Tower Grove Park to support the LGBT community. We joined with other Jewish congregations and organizations for a total of 100 walkers. We also volunteered at the Jewish Information Booth, working with other congregations to provide festival-goers with information about the Jewish community.

High Holiday Personal Care Item Collection: Our annual event to benefit the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry was our most successful drive yet. We began the drive on Slichot, continued our collection at each High Holiday Service, and ended the drive at the end of October. The Religious School, DECC and TIFTY participated in the toiletry collection. We also added some new elements, including a donation table at the Schnucks store at Ladue Crossing that yielded many donations from shoppers and congregants. We collected thousands of toiletry items that filled more than 120 barrels.

CROP Hunger Walk: Temple Israel recruited a team of walkers to participate in the fourth annual interfaith walk in Forest Park. Our confirmation students, rabbis and other congregants gathered with teams from many other Jewish congregations for a group total of approximately 100 walkers. CROP means Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty.

Diabetes Walk: For the first time this year we participated in the American Diabetes Association Walk in Creve Coeur Park. Tikkun Olam members joined with other Temple Israel families living with diabetes to fight this disease.

Thanksgiving Dinner: This annual holiday dinner served approximately 350 members of our community. Each year, on the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving Day, we provide a traditional meal, entertainment and camaraderie for people in need, many of whom are elderly and need a place to celebrate the holiday. Special thanks go out Sarah and Ron Falkoff, who chaired this year's event, and to our many dedicated volunteers and Temple staff who made this program such a success.

Pamela Dern and Judy Jacks, Co-chairs JoAnne Levy, Executive Committee Liaison Rabbi Amy Feder, Rabbinic Liaison

Committee members: Rabbi Michael Alper, Pam Brinkmeyer, Megan Dern, Susie Fliesher, Betsy Gleijeses, Myrna Hershman, Shari Hollander, Mary Joftus, Morrie Joftus, Harlan Levitt, Lea Levitt, Wendy Lindsay, Jacki Moore, Joan Moscowitz, Jan Nykin, Lois Perryman, Debbie Schultz, Nancy Solomon, Michele Steinberg, Sandy Wasserman, Amy Stiefel Weinhaus, Frank Wasserman, Eva Wilde, and Ken Wilde.



Treasurer's Report January 2011

This has been our final year as your Treasurers and we would like to highlight several items:

Revenue from annual membership support (dues) is now more predictable thanks to a small group of very dedicated volunteers who have made many phone calls to reach out and communicate with members about their dues commitments. With that in mind, our write-offs for uncollected dues were larger than expected but should be more foreseeable in the future. Unfortunately, only 50 percent of our members pay dues at the standard level or above. This is not a good statistic and is hurting the financial condition of Temple Israel.

Fundraising was very successful this year due to our weekend honoring Rabbi Shook. We look forward to another successful fundraising opportunity when we celebrate TI's 125th Anniversary in the coming year!

We have had a general staff wage freeze for the past three years. This was at the same time that many of our employees absorbed additional work-related responsibilities over the past few years as we have reduced staff and hours. Our staff has also incurred higher out-of-pocket medical expenses in our continuing effort to cut costs by reducing benefits in our health insurance plan. In recognition of our staff's hard work and dedication, our budget for 2011 includes a small percentage pay raise.

In addition to controlling the personnel costs noted above, we have worked very hard to control and reduce expenses in all areas of the Temple's operations, including property and general liability insurance, maintenance and landscaping costs.

As we reported in our letter to the congregation last year, we proposed and passed a balanced budget for 2010. However, we did not achieve these results almost exclusively because we did not collect as much dues income as we projected. However, actual expenses in 2010 were slightly lower in total than budgeted amounts. Unfortunately, our income, which is predominately from dues, is not enough to keep up with our expenses and we are expecting a deficit in 2011 of approximately \$150,000. This budgeted 2011 deficit is slightly less than the deficit we incurred in 2010.

We hope you are comforted by the fact that the Board of Trustees is constantly working to insure both the short-term and long-term financial health of TI with help from our Investment, Financial Controls, Fundraising and Budget Committees.

We are happy to meet with any TI member to discuss our financial condition, to explain the budget process, or to hear your comments and suggestions.

Thank you for your continued support of Temple Israel.

Ellen Brin and Michael Weiss, Treasurers

Usher Committee

We hope everyone is enjoying a happy and healthy 5771 and want to thank all of our dedicated ushers during the past year. Ushering is a wonderful *mitzvah* that is appreciated by the entire congregation. One of our greatest joys is seeing families all ushering together. We are grateful for our dedicated corps of ushers and always welcome regular or occasional participation by others. To usher on Friday nights, Saturday mornings or High Holy Days, call Thelma Davidson, 314-993-2063.

Our ushers arrive on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings one-half hour before services begin. Each usher receives a name tag. Duties include greeting and welcoming members and visitors, distributing the Shabbat announcement leaflets, and assisting worshipers with seating.

Thank you in advance for volunteering and remember...

"A Shabbat without Temple is like a day without sunshine."

Thelma Davidson & Marvin Davidson, Co-chairs

Ushers: Robert Aisenfeld, Fran Axelbaum, Joelle Biernacki, Mark Biernacki, Jessica Brown-Billhymer, Lylas Chatmon, Ron Chatmon, Linda Cherrick, Frederic Cohen, Jim Cohen, Vera Cohen, Brent Comensky, Karen Comensky, Megan Dern, Pamela Dern, Allan DeSimone, Jennifer Deutsch, Allan Epstein, Susie Epstein, Carla Feuer, Ed Fliesher, Susie Fliesher, Jamie Goldberg, Jessica Goldberg, Jordan Goldberg, Marvin Goldfarb, Lee Goodman, Lili Goodman, Laura Greenberg, Michael Greenberg, Ted Greenberg, Bryson Hartranft, Arnold Hershman, Myrna Hershman, David Irgang, Robbie Irgang, Susan Irgang, Alex Jacks, Andy Jacks, Hannah Jacks, Judy Jacks, Joel Kamil, Dr. Larry Kiel, Dr. Harry Knopf, Linda Koenig, Marilyn Krinsky, Herman Leibovich, Louise Levine, Dr. Jerry Levy, JoAnne Levy, Judy Levy, Art Lewis, Judy Lewis, Lizzy Mills, Morris Mills, Joan Moscowitz, Jan Nykin, Lois Perryman, Ella Raber, Adrienne Rosen, Mickey Rosen, Ian Rothbarth, Stan Schneider, Robert Schnurman, Donna Shanfeld, Jill Silverstein, Joel Spirtas, Jerry Thomeczek, Jim Thomeczek, Josh Thomeczek, Mari Thomeczek, Lynn Wallis, Frank Wasserman, Kenneth Wilde, and Larry Winner.

Doctors on Call: Dr. Stewart Albert, Dr. Keith Bernstein, Dr. Burt Bromberg, Dr. Darryl Cohen, Dr. Barbra Horn, Dr. Robert Spewak, Dr. Leonard Weinstein, and Dr. Peter Weiss.

High Holy Day Messengers: Frederic Cohen, Myrna Hershman, Linda Koenig, Marilyn Krinsky, and JoAnne Levy.

Presenting Bar/Bat Mitzvah Gifts: Patty Bloom, Betty Bridge, Carol Cohen, Thelma Davidson, Rabbi Amy Feder, Marvin Goldfarb, Yale Hollander, Anita Kraus, Adele Lewis, and Dr. Howard Schlansky.

Youth Activities Committee

The Youth Activities Committee oversees a variety of activities involving our congregation's youth including Cotillion, Club 56, Junior Youth Group, Temple Israel Federation of Temple Youth and College Outreach.

TIFTY

The Temple Israel Federation of Temple Youth, which serves teens in grades 9-12, had a wide range of programming again this year. Some of the events include TIFTY Shabbat, a Spring Lock-In, and a membership recruitment program called "Down and Dirty." TIFTY members also participated in the Regional Chavurot in Denver, Kansas City, and Peoria.

Once again this year, TIFTY did an incredible job with its fourth annual Trivia night fundraiser and auction. The evening raised nearly \$4,000, which will benefit TIFTY programming in 2011.

Leadership development is an integral part of TIFTY. Before the school year began, our executive board spent time at the Sheraton Westport to bond as a group and set individual and group goals for the year. The board holds monthly meetings to plan the business of TIFTY and work on programming and membership recruitment.

As one of the Temple auxiliaries, TIFTY is devoted to giving back to the Temple. In addition to leading the annual TIFTY Shabbat service, TIFTY members also participated in the High Holy Day services and led the Havdalah service at the conclusion of Yom Kippur. TIFTY also hosts the Temple's annual Purim Carnival.

All of the TI youth groups (5th-12th grade) came together for their annual Mitzvah Day program at Build-A Bear Workshop. Participants made bears to be donated to the Jewish Family and Children's Service's Hanukkah Hugs program. Our youth groups made and donated 27 bears this year.

A special highlight of our fall programming was hosting a city-wide event for all middle school and high school students in the St. Louis area. More than 40 kids attended the event, which featured Ronnie Baras, "the Kosher Hypnotist." The evening included a pizza dinner and concluded with a special Havdalah service. The event was very successful!

TIFTY maintains its own website, www.tifty.org, to keep our members and their parents current on TIFTY happenings. Additionally, TIFTY has two Facebook groups – TIFTY is NFTY for all current TIFTY members and TIFTY Board 5771 for TIFTY Board members. These mechanisms serve as the primary communication means for our membership.

TIFTY Board 5771

Jerry Thomeczek, President; Ellie Morosohk, Programming Vice President; Shira Morosohk, Social Action Vice President; Healy Slakman, Religious and Cultural Vice President; Andy Cohen, Membership Vice President; Presley Culp, Communications and Visuals Vice President; Alex Jacks, Special Projects Coordinator.

JYG

Our Junior Youth Group for students in grades 7 and 8 has really taken off this year with a large increase in participation. We started the year with an information meeting that was attended by about 10 potential JYGers. Their parents also attended a meeting to hear all about what fun activities were planned for the year and to learn about youth groups at TI.

Our year continued with fun events such as a trip to Swing-A-Round Fun Town and a lounge hang out day where we played games and ate pizza. JYG also participated in two joint programs with TIFTY. First, we went to Build-a-Bear Workshop for our annual *mitzvah* project. In December, nine JYGers joined with TIFTY members to attend the city-wide hypnotist event.

JYG participation is steadily growing, and we look forward to fun programs to come.

CLUB 56

Club 56 is our youth group for 5th and 6th grade students. The program has been revised a bit this school year to include several more activities throughout the school year.

Everyone who attended our end of the year picnic to celebrate Lag B'Omer last spring had a lot of fun and collected many cans for the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry.

Our kick-off event for the 2010-2011 school year was a Slichot program. A dozen students designed their own targets based on some of their goals for the upcoming year. We then went outside and learned how to shoot archery with real bows and arrows. The kick-off program concluded with us helping the Rabbis change the Torah covers during the Temple's Slichot service.

In October, Club 56 families got together to serve dinner to the residents at the new West County Ronald McDonald House. About 25 people participated in this event.

Informal get-togethers took place during the month of October to create a special gift for our Rabbis in honor of their installation. TIFTY Board members presented the gift on behalf of all of the Temple youth groups at the installation Shabbat service on November 5. The *hamsa* we created is currently on display in Rabbi Alper's study.

Also in November, six 5th and 6th graders joined the older youth groups for the annual Mitzvah Day program at Build-A-Bear Workshop. Participants went to the mall to make bears that were donated to the Hanukkah Hugs program.

More events are planned for the remainder of the 2010-2011 school year.

Lynne Lippmann and Diane Packman, Co-chairs Rabbi Michael Alper, staff liaison

Committee members: Judy Jacks, Jill Silverstein, Jennifer Patchin, JYG Advisor; Stephanie Rhea, Club 56 Advisor; and Debbie Schultz, TIFTY Advisor.

Youth Education Committee

Mission Statement

Temple Israel's education programs strive to provide an understanding of Reform Judaism and instill pride in our Jewish heritage. Our programs seek to engage our community, promoting an enduring relationship with God and the Jewish people through worship, Torah study, and the performance of acts of loving-kindness. We encourage individuals to develop their unique Jewish identities through life-long learning.

In 2010, the Youth Education Committee, under the leadership of Sheri O'Gorman, continued to work with the Director of Education to review and make recommendations concerning our Religious School, Hebrew School, and Bar/Bat Mitzvah programs.

The committee spends its time assuring that we are working toward living both the mission of the congregation and the mission of the Youth Education programs. To that end, the following actions were taken. The hours of the TI Academy (grades 7 and 8) were changed to coincide with the morning religious school program. It now meets from 10:00-11:30 a.m. The position of Special Needs Consultant was added to our faculty. This position is funded by a School Enhancement Grant from the Central Agency for Jewish Education in St. Louis and is filled by Shari Hollander, who works with our teachers to make sure that the needs of all our children are being met.

Thanks, in part, to some fundraising done by a committee of parents, the school building got a new roof in the summer of 2010. This allows us to have full use of all of our classrooms.

We continue to be extremely proud of our amazing faculty. At Jewish Education Shabbat services each spring, we honor teachers who have been teaching for a multiple of 5 years. In May 2010, we honored Dr. Harry Offenbach for an undetermined, but very long tenure teaching at Temple Israel (probably 60 years)! A classroom is being dedicated in his honor.

Our committee meets five times a year to consult with the Director of Education and to help set the policies for our school programs. Our agenda is determined in large part by our Mission Statements as well as by feedback from our families.

Sheri O'Gorman, Chair Carol Cohen, Executive Committee Liaison Deborah Morosohk, RJE, Staff Liaison

Committee members: Brian Goldberg, Sally Heller, Loren Ludmerer, Lori Ortbals, Victoria Shuchart, Lael Simon, and Stacey Wilson.

