



# Annual Report

## 2011

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## WELCOME TO OUR 125<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, December 9, 2011

Election and Installation of Board Officers and Trustees ♦ President's Report

♦ Presentations of Pillar of the Temple Awards

♦ Special Screening of 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary DVD

### SLATE OF NOMINEES

JoAnne Levy, President  
Jonathan Bloom, Vice President, Membership  
David Chassin, Vice President, Facilities  
Pamela Dern, Vice President, Social Action  
Harvey Harris, Vice President, Community Outreach

Michael Weiss, Vice President, Strategic Planning  
Carol Cohen, Secretary  
Dee Mogerman, Assistant Secretary  
Cathy Goldsticker, Treasurer  
Diana Rothbarth, Assistant Treasurer

#### ***Nominees for a first, three-year term***

Karen Berry Elbert  
Allan Epstein  
Pepe Finn  
Thomas Glick  
Susan Goldberg  
Dr. Morton Green  
Gail Kitsis  
Neil Marglous  
Les Nackman  
Susan Stiefel

#### ***Nominees for a second, three-year term***

Fred Cohen  
Sarah Falkoff  
Loren Ludmerer

#### ***Retiring Board members***

Dr. Keith Bernstein  
Carla Feuer  
Marvin Goldfarb  
Nancy Kodner  
Joelyn Knopf Levy  
Adam Wallis  
Neil Wolfman

### PILLAR OF THE TEMPLE AWARDS

Pamela Dern  
Carla Feuer  
Judy Jacks  
Leslie Wolf



## **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 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 their 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 central 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

### December 9, 2011

Happy birthday! Happy 125<sup>th</sup> birthday to Temple Israel! This is an incredible milestone and a momentous year for our congregation.



At about this time last year, I was elected President of Congregation Temple Israel, following in the footsteps of so many wonderful Presidents before me. To become President of this congregation – the congregation my grandparents joined – the congregation where so many members of my family were confirmed and where two of my children, and even my father – just last week – became B’nai Mitzvah, is an amazing milestone for me. As for so many of you, Temple Israel has been a voice for multiple generations of my family.

To be a part of the first full year under our new rabbinic leaders (the first rabbinic couple to lead Temple Israel) and to be part of the first female Senior Rabbi/female President leadership team at Temple Israel is another tremendous milestone. My grandmothers – especially – would have been proud!

So what have we accomplished this past year? Well, at last year’s Annual Meeting, I told you that our leadership would focus on Our Future, Our Financial Status, our Members, our Educational Programs, and our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary....And your Board, the Executive Committee, Rabbis, Temple staff, and many dedicated volunteer congregants did just that!

Our Future – We convened an Alternate Options Task Force led by Temple Israel Past President Leonard Adreon, which was charged with analyzing the facts and identifying a recommendation to address our property and facility needs. They diligently completed their work and presented their recommendation to our Board of Trustees. Their proposal will be a key component of our new five-year Strategic Plan. You may recall that our current Strategic Plan was adopted in 2005. It is customary for non-profit organizations, including synagogues, to update their strategic plan every five years. Our strategic planning process, led by Vice President Michael Weiss, will begin in January and will be completed within four months. If you’re interested in participating in this process, let Michael, the rabbis, our Temple staff or me know. We welcome and need your input to help shape the future of Temple Israel.

Our Financial Status – This year, we continued to refine and tighten our financial controls. We will finish 2011 with a deficit that is lower than last year's. Our 2012 budget includes further reductions in expenses, with the goal of achieving a balanced budget in the very near future. At the same time, we are continuously looking at ways to maximize our revenue while still keeping membership at Temple Israel accessible to all. I am pleased to report that thanks, in large part, to personal outreach by our rabbis, participation in our Shofar Society and Rabbi's Circle increased in 2011. This year, we also embarked on an extensive project to review and update our congregation's endowment and tribute funds to ensure that we are optimizing our use of those contributions and are providing congregants with meaningful ways to support Temple Israel. The results of that review will be shared very shortly.

Our Members – It has been heartwarming to see so many new families join our congregation this year. Many of these new members are young families who are excited to have their children in our schools, who want to worship with our young rabbis, and who want to learn and be with us. Last Friday's Tot Shabbat service filled the sanctuary, and the dinner afterwards was downright crazy – the Isserman Auditorium was alive with youth and community. To help engage our members we launched a new, interactive website where our congregants can make donations online, update their contact information, and stay up-to-date on the Temple's many events and programs. We are currently in the midst of creating new membership and marketing materials that communicate the value of being a congregant of Temple Israel. And, thanks to a generous contribution from some of our congregants, we are again broadcasting our worship services over the Internet and the phone.

Our Educational Programs – The big story of 2011 has been the phenomenal growth of our Deutsch Early Childhood Center and our Rabbi Mark and Carol Shook Preschool Camp. Under the leadership of Leslie Wolf, our Early Childhood Director, preschool enrollment has grown to 146 children, and our camp served 130 preschool-age children last summer. Both are now just about at maximum capacity. Best of all, this is translating into new Temple Israel members! Many preschool families are unaffiliated when they enroll at DECC. They are now learning about Temple Israel, getting to know our rabbis, and when their children "graduate," they are joining the Temple to send their children to our religious school. This fall, we also introduced JPAT, a Jewish Parents as Teachers program, which is the first of its kind in St. Louis. More than 20 families from throughout the community are participating in this program and again, getting to know Temple Israel. Our education programs are not limited to children. We have hosted some wonderful speakers on a variety of topics and seen an increase in participation in many of our adult education classes this year. Rabbi Shook's weekly Shabbat Bible Study class is usually standing room only!

Our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – As many of you know, during the High Holidays we kicked off our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary as "A Voice for All Generations" with the fabulous slideshow that you saw this evening during dinner. We also announced five celebratory events scheduled to occur throughout our anniversary year. Our first event, a Family Fall

Festival held in October, focused on our core value of “family” and was a big hit for all ages – I hope you took a look at the banner created during that event, which is hanging on the wall leading from the Chapel Foyer to the Isserman Auditorium. You can see “a hand for all generations” – the handprints of the many individuals from multiple generations that make up the community of Temple Israel.

Our remaining four events focus on our core values of worship, education, interfaith relations, and *tikkun olam* (repair of our world). You will want to be sure to attend our next event, “An Interfaith Celebration of Freedom and Social Justice honoring the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.” on Friday evening, January 13. This will be an incredible evening of music and prayer centered on the themes of freedom and justice. Our special guests will be the Rev. Earl E. Nance, Jr. and the Greater Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church Choir. We will also be hosting a discussion group for those interested in interfaith issues. Rounding out our year of celebration will be a special “Honoring our Past” Shabbat on April 20; a Mega Mitzvah Day on May 6, that will include a Red Cross Blood Drive sponsored by our TIFTY youth groupers, and our big 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala celebration on November 3, 2012.

You will notice 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary sponsorship forms and envelopes on your tables that advertise ways that you can support Temple Israel in this important birthday year. We are seeking anniversary year sponsors to help defray the costs for the special anniversary events and to provide essential support for the Temple. This replaced our annual High Holiday appeal this past fall and will serve as our primary fundraising effort for the year. Please take a look at these materials. If you are not able to become a formal sponsor of our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, please consider a smaller contribution to help celebrate this milestone year. All gifts, large and small, will have a meaningful impact and are very much appreciated.

As we move into 2012, our focus will continue on our future, our finances, our members, and our educational programs – as well as on the core values of our congregation – family, worship, education, interfaith relations, and *tikkun olam*. We know that 2012 will be another year where we will be asked to make difficult decisions, to manage through tough times, and to adapt to the needs of our congregants. You are fortunate – you have had, and in 2012 will again have, a strong Board, rabbis, staff and volunteers, all of whom work hard, care a great deal, and strive to make Temple Israel a special place for each of us.

This 125<sup>th</sup> year of our congregation is a year to celebrate and to honor the enduring legacy of Congregation Temple Israel as “A Voice for All Generations.”

Happy Birthday! And thank you for being a member of our Temple Israel community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JoAnne Levy". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "JoAnne" and last name "Levy" clearly distinguishable.

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 2011! 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 this year, we kicked off our year-long celebration of our congregation's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This amazing milestone is providing us with the opportunity to look back on who we have been as a congregation and who we wish to be in the future. 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 2011, the Adult Education Committee, under the leadership of Sarijane Freiman, worked with the rabbis to review and make recommendations concerning all of the adult education programs of our congregation.

Programming for the 2011-2012 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** – Rabbi Alper conducts two classes, Continuing Hebrew and Biblical Hebrew.
- **Sunday Series** – During the course of the year, each of our rabbis offer a three-week course that meets on Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 11:15 a.m.
- **Talmud on Training Wheels** – Rabbi Alper conducts a weekly class for beginning Talmud students.
- **The Spirituality of Motherhood** – Rabbi Feder conducts a weekly class for mothers to talk about parenthood through the lens of Jewish texts
- **Speaker Series** -The Temple hosted multiple speakers in the fall, including authors Harlan Steinbaum and Jennifer Rosner. Additional speakers are planned for the winter and spring, including Neil Marglous.

In an effort to recognize our adult students who engage in Jewish learning, the committee continued its “Chai-er Learning” program that honors all congregants who attend at least one adult education course during the academic year, with special recognition going to those who attend 18 hours or more of programming. At our Chai-er Learning Shabbat service on June 18, 2011, we honored 85 participants in our classes and an additional 35 people who had engaged in 18 or more hours of Jewish learning.

**Chair:** Sarijane Freiman

**Executive Committee Liaison:** Carol Cohen

**Staff Liaison:** Rabbi Michael Alper

**Committee Members:** Jessica Billhymer, Frederic Cohen, Stephen Edison, Rabbi Amy Feder, David Geddes, Rebecca Goldberg, Jim Goldwasser, Jennifer Hartranft, Mary Joftus, Karen Knopf, JoAnne Levy, Neil Marglous, Michael Steinberg and Jeffrey Wilson

## Boy Scout Troop 11

Troop 11 celebrated its 91st anniversary in February with a Family Dinner at Temple Israel. Now in its 92nd year as one of the oldest, continuously active Boy Scout Troops in the St. Louis area, Troop 11 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, the Scouts also participate in service projects and community activities in conformance with Scouting's objectives of citizenship and character building.

The troop experienced continued growth in membership during 2011, with the number of registered Scouts reaching 36. With the quality program presented by Temple Israel's Troop 11, membership in the troop has become most desirable. While Troop 11 is the only one in the Greater St. Louis Area Council that is sponsored by a Jewish institution, its membership is diverse, with boys from a variety of faith traditions including Catholic, Protestant, Buddhist and Muslim. 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 with Temple Israel's Fall Festival and Thanksgiving Dinner.

In addition to its 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).

Four scouts attained the rank of Eagle, the highest award in scouting. They are Alex Lyss, Jack Lyss, Ben Berson, and Josh Aroesty. Each completed a very commendable service project, in addition to a number of merit badges.

Venture Crew 2011 also had a successful year, continuing its scouting program of recreational and social activities 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 the Troop in several service projects, including Scouting for Food, and the Fall Festival and Thanksgiving Dinner at the Temple.

Troop 11 meets every Tuesday evening from 7:30-9:00 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.

**Scoutmaster Emeritus:** Sandy Silverstein

**Committee Chair:** Marvin Goldfarb

**Scoutmaster:** Joel Schwartz

**Co-Scoutmaster:** Mike Hampton

## **Challah Brigade**

The Challah Brigade was created last spring to bring congregants together to bake fresh challahs to be distributed to those in our Temple community who might benefit from some loving TLC. Our wonderful group of women and men of all ages enjoy coming together periodically to bake challah using different recipes. During the past year we have enjoyed challah baking sessions led by Marcia Mermelstein, Amy Ferman Slackman, and Naomi Landis.

**Co-Chairs:** Susan Stiefel and Mary Friedman

**Executive Committee Liaison:** Jonathan Bloom

**Staff Liaison:** Rabbi Amy Feder

**Committee Members:** Marc Braun, Rose Ann Feldman, Amy Fenster Brown, Sarah Eidelman, Susan Fliesher, Naomi Forseter, Liz Kruvand, Amy Lampert, Barbara Lowenbaum, Amy Ferman Slackman, Nancy Solomon, Amy Stiefel Weinhaus, and Ken and Eva Wilde.

## **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. Since June 2009, this committee has also provided oversight to the Rabbi Mark and Carol Shook Camp program. The purpose of this committee is to work with the DECC Director to promote and set policy for 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 2011-2012 school year marks Leslie Wolf's third year as director of the Deutsch Early Childhood Center. We saw another increase in growth this year with our current enrollment at 146 students. With the addition of new preschool space in the building and new staff to support the growth, the DECC committee has concluded that we are close to capacity (approximately 150 students) for our current space. Enrollment trends for the last three years were 42 for the 2009-2010 school year, 103 for the 2010-2011 school year, and 146 for the 2011-2012 school year.

Additional program highlights and achievements this year include:

- The unique flexibility of the hours and programs available to our students, which is a huge draw for the parents.
- We continue to offer before and after care programs to accommodate parents who need a more flexible schedule. Care is available from 7:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m., if needed. Currently, we have 11 children who utilize these extended hours fulltime.
- DECC continues to promote our Project Construct curriculum to parents and staff and to educate them about the program.
- A beginning Hebrew program was added to the curriculum.
- Several new teachers have been hired to address the growing population at DECC, including classroom teachers and a new music teacher.
- The DECC director continues to improve existing programs and add new ones, such as a 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. The preschool now occupies almost all of the main floor of the education building and a majority of the lower level.
- A new, fresh logo was created along with new welcome materials.
- The DECC office manager, director, and committee are currently in the process of updating our billing software to meet the needs of the school.
- The committee created new scholarship guidelines and application forms for the school and camp.
- The DECC Committee administered an online parent survey in May 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 130 preschool age campers in the summer of 2011. We offered more programming and flexibility, including four, two-week sessions and added Dynamite Days offered during the weeks between school and camp.
- A new Jewish Parents as Teachers program was created, developed and launched in August. J-PAT is a parent education and family support program serving Jewish families with children from birth to age 3. It is based on the national Parents as Teachers (PAT) research-based model, which was created to assist parents with support and information about their developing child and to foster nurturing, loving relationships between parents and their children. J-PAT is made possible, in part, by grants from the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), the Gladys K. Crown Foundation honoring the Memory of Shirlee Green, and the Rich Fund of the Jewish Federation.
- The DECC Committee continuously discusses the ways to bridge the gap from our preschool into religious school. Of the 118 families (145 students) enrolled at DECC, only 31 families (26 percent) are Temple Israel members.

**Chair:** Jennifer Deutsch

**Executive Committee Liaison:** Carol Cohen

**Staff Liaison:** Leslie Wolf, DECC Director

**Committee Members:** Rabbi Michael Alper, Rabbi Amy Feder, Susan Kemppainen, Joelyn Knopf Levy, Art Lewis, Mindi Loebner (Teacher Representative), Laura Reichman, Angela Sandler, Julie Sandler, and Emily Wallis.

## Deutsch Early Childhood Center Parents' Committee

This past year has brought about many wonderful changes at our Deutsch Early Childhood Center. As our enrollment continues to increase, so does the size of our DECC family. This year we welcomed several new babies into our community.

In regards to fundraising in 2011, the DECC Parents' Committee hosted a trivia night at Temple Israel in May 2011 that was a huge success. We raised more than \$6,000 and had an unbelievable turnout of new and old faces, as well as members of the community who came out to have a fun night and support our preschool.

We also participated in several other fundraising events this past year. DECC teacher Karen Lucy organizes a Community for Critters event every year, with the profits going towards the preschool. This past spring, Community for Critters was held in the Isserman Auditorium and was another successful fundraiser for the school. Many families of the preschool and the Temple came to see all the animals and take part in the fun activities.

The preschool also partook in a fundraiser with Oberweis Dairy, where a certain percentage of Oberweis sales went back to the school. This fundraiser entailed signing up for milk delivery and had limited success, raising just a few hundred dollars, so we decided to try a different fundraiser this fall.

We recently conducted a Scholastic Book Fair, which opened the night of our DECC Open House and continued throughout that week in October. This year, the Book Fair raised more than \$1,000 from the support of the teachers and families at our school. By offering books online as well as at the Book Fair, we were able to capture a larger audience and sell a record number of books.

We are currently in the midst of our final fall fundraiser called Art Stamps. Art Stamps is a program that enables our children's artwork to be made into items such as postage stamps, pads of paper, and various other gifts. The artwork has been shipped to the company, and we are very excited to see the final masterpieces that should be delivered in time for the holidays.

During this past year our DECC Parents' Committee also purchased new outdoor play equipment to meet the needs of the younger children in the preschool. This new playground equipment was a wonderful investment for the future of DECC.

The Parents' Committee organizes *tzedakah* each Friday at DECC. This year we are collecting food and pet items that will be donated to the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry. After receiving a grant this year, we were also able to provide each student in the school with a *tzedakah*-specific tote bag to use in transporting donations to school. So far, the children have been doing a fantastic job of remembering to bring their items each week.

The tremendous growth in preschool enrollment led us to revamp our parent get-togethers this year. This fall we had a single get-together, broken down by classroom. We also had a school-wide Mom's Night Out event this past September at Hacienda Restaurant, which was a fun night for all. We had a turnout of more than 35 moms for this event.

This year, we are providing a special monthly breakfast for the teachers to show our continued appreciation for them. All the parents are helping to organize these fun-themed breakfasts. At the end of the year, we will provide an appreciation lunch for the teachers. DECC truly has the best staff and wonderful families. Our DECC Parents' Committee continues to grow as our numbers keep increasing.

**Co-Chairs:** Angela Sandler and Emily Wallis

**Executive Committee Liaisons:** Carol Cohen and Dee Mogerman

**Staff Liaison:** Leslie Wolf, DECC Director

**Committee Members:** All DECC Parents



## **Development Committee**

### **Livnot Campaign**

Pledge payments received for the Livnot Campaign during 2011 continued to be set aside for use in addressing our facilities needs. As 2011 draws to a close, our Board of Trustees is in the process of launching a new strategic planning process to update the five-year plan that was adopted in 2005. The new strategic plan will provide the framework for implementing the facilities recommendations of the special task force that was convened to analyze the condition and value of Temple Israel's current property and facilities.

### **Special Event Fundraising**

The Temple's fundraising efforts were very successful in 2011, a testament to our congregation's dedicated leaders and members who continue to demonstrate their support in these uncertain economic times. Temple Israel's annual big fundraising weekend – our Blues After Dark evening with Kim Massie and our Temple Israel Golf Classic Tournament – combined to raise \$68,990, an increase of almost \$9,000 from 2009, the last time both events were held. Blues After Dark Co-Chairs Dorette Goldberg and Liz Weinstein, Golf Tournament Co-Chairs Jim Eiseman, Rob Epstein, and Jeremy Shook and their respective committees put together a spectacular weekend to support the Temple's operating budget. This year's events also benefited from the work of Young Adult Co-Chairs Sarah and Ron Falkoff and Irina and Scott Sandler, who helped to encourage attendance and participation by our younger families.

More than 100 congregants and guests attended our 3rd Annual Fruit of the Vine wine tasting in April. Attendees sampled a wide variety of fine wines and were also treated to samples of Kakao Chocolate, Grandma's Nuts, and Baetje Farms goat cheese. The event, co-chaired by Dr. Keith and Dr. Hui Hua Bernstein, Sarah and Ron Falkoff, Claire Schenk and Richard Greenberg, and Betsy and Jeff Schechter, netted \$2,470. We view our annual wine tasting event as more of a community building "fun-raiser" than a large revenue producer and as such, it was once again very well received.

### **Ongoing Fundraising**

We are excited to report that congregants have already started using our new and improved Temple Israel website to send tributes, purchase scrip, and make other donations online. We will continue to market our online giving capability aggressively.

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.

**Chair:** David L. Weinstein, M.D., Immediate Past President

**Staff Liaison:** Carol Wolf Solomon, Director of Development & Communications

## Facilities Committee

This year's largest project for the building was the replacement of the service elevator at a cost of \$103,000. This work was paid for with funds saved from the main building's lower roofing project and by a generous gift from the Edith and Kurt Linder Endowment Fund. Other facility repairs included replacements to correct several boiler failures, which interrupted heat last winter for a few brief periods. We paid for parking lot driveway patching in a number of locations and were able to have additional portions of the north parking lot paved and re-stripped by Metropolitan Sewer District as compensation for allowing them to use our lot to stage equipment during their creek erosion prevention project. We had to make repairs/replacements to our commercial dishwasher, water fountains and to our cleaning equipment. Continuing temporary repairs are being made to the roof over the Gall Family Sanctuary and the Isserman Auditorium until a permanent long-term solution can be determined. Repairs were also made to other major HVAC systems, including replacement of sections of the steam heating pipes that had sprung several leaks.

The DECC and Shook Camp operations at the school building spent more than \$45,000 on facilities improvements to accommodate the significant enrollment growth of these programs. These improvements included the installation of additional mandated smoke, fire and CO2 detectors. We also purchased new playground equipment for the south and north play areas for our youngest children. Additional work was done to meet the electrical needs for computer cabling and computers due to the expansion of preschool classrooms, which required us to relocate some Religious School rooms. We also remodeled three new classrooms needed for DECC. The majority of the funding for the DECC and Camp expansion projects came from the DECC Parent Committee's fundraising efforts as well as from the DECC Tribute Fund, for which we are extremely grateful.

Our facility manager, David Mills, retired after the High Holy Days. We were fortunate to be able to promote Derrick Bryant, our assistant facility manager, to fill that position. Derrick brings his many years of knowledge of our facilities and our operational needs to this new role. We have also reorganized our maintenance staff slightly. We did not refill the assistant facility manager position, and we have reduced the number of full-time maintenance staff and added several part-time staff members, thus lowering our overall personnel cost.

The Technology Committee is looking into options for the replacement of our outdated phone system and updating our Internet service and servers, including much of our software. These costs will likely come from the building budget unless we can find favorable lease arrangements or a special donor. If anyone would like to assist with the funding of these new systems, it would be most appreciated. Updating these communication systems is more important each day as both our staff operations and the learning experiences of our Religious and Hebrew School students will benefit from better technology.

**Chair:** Ted Greenberg

**Executive Committee Liaison:** David Chassin

**Staff Liaison:** Eli Montague, F.T.A., Executive Director

**Committee Members:** Ron Chatmon, Robert Epstein, Melvin Greene, Sandy Silverstein, Eric Spirtas, and Stephen Wolff



## Financial Controls Committee

The Financial Controls Committee was established to develop and monitor internal controls, review and comment on financial statements issued by the Temple's independent auditors, and to review the interim internal financial statements. This group of experienced financial executives continuously reviews existing procedures and internal controls in order to safeguard the Temple's assets.

The committee held meetings during the year to discuss financial information and statements generated by the Temple's financial department before the information was presented to the Board of Trustees. The committee also supervises the work of our internal auditor who reviews certain transactions on a monthly basis.

The committee met with the Temple's independent auditors to review the scope of the engagement and then, upon completion of the engagement, reviewed the annual audited financial statements and their findings and recommendations.

**Chair:** Allan Epstein

**Executive Committee Liaisons:** Cathy Goldsticker and Diana Rothbarth

**Staff Liaison:** Eli Montague, F.T.A., Executive Director

**Committee Members:** Scott Alton, Ellen Brin, and Michael Weiss



## 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.

### 2011 Accomplishments:

- ✓ Provided legal counsel and recommended better employment practices.
- ✓ Updated job descriptions and the organizational chart to reflect changes.
- ✓ Created a development feedback form for full-time employees and held a training class for supervisors.
- ✓ Scheduled a Constructive Feedback course for supervisors.

### In Progress:

- ✓ Completing the Supervisor Guidebook and distributing it to supervisors.
- ✓ Conducting training for supervisors on interviewing skills, termination procedures and the orientation process.

**Chair:** Rachel Andreasson

**Executive Committee Liaison:** Michael Weiss

**Staff Liaison:** Eli Montague, F.T.A., Executive Director

**Committee Members:** Burt Garland, Susan Frager, and Martha Kreipke



## 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 risks with ample investment returns.

The Temple's 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 to other specific purposes. For 2012, the committee voted to approve a one percent spending rate for the restricted funds only. 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, 2011 was a negative 5.5%. The total value of the investments at September 30, 2011 was approximately \$4,054,166.

As required by our Statement of Investment Guidelines and Objectives, the committee undertook the task of conducting an outside review of our investment manager. Four firms, including our current investment advisor, responded to our request for proposals (RFP) and were given the opportunity to make a presentation to the committee. After review, the committee decided to continue its relationship with our current investment advisor.

**Chair:** Cathy B. Goldsticker, Treasurer

**Staff Liaison:** Eli Montague, F.T.A., Executive Director

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

## Israel Engagement Committee

During 2011, our Israel Engagement Committee continued with our efforts to engage the congregation with the land and people of Israel.

In March, we presented our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Israel Film Festival. The films *Lemon Tree* and *Champagne Spy* were shown. There was an outstanding discussion after the showing of the *Lemon Tree* with a group of Israelis from *Bayit Israeli* (Israel House), which included their observations of life in Israel today with the new security fence. A wonderful light Israeli dinner was served between both film screenings. This event was co-sponsored with *Bayit Israeli*. Mark your calendars for next year's Israeli Film Festival on March 11, 2012, for two more great Israeli films.

Our committee sponsored a booth at the Fall Family Festival and gave "tours" of Israel on a huge interactive map of the Holy Land furnished by the Central Agency for Jewish Education. In addition, we set up tables for our guests to write wishes and prayers to take to Israel. Rob Litz is personally delivering these wishes and prayers to the *Kotel* (Western Wall) during a visit to Israel this December.

In November, we worked with *Bayit Israeli* in presenting a memorial service for former Israel Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in the May Chapel. The event was another wonderful example of the partnership between the Israel Engagement Committee and *Bayit Israeli*.

Our committee continues to submit weekly "Israel Facts" for the Friday night Shabbat service leaflets and was a co-sponsor of a film at the 2011 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.

**Chair:** Rob Litz

**Executive Committee Liaison:** Harvey Harris

**Staff Liaisons:** Rabbi Amy Feder and Rabbi Michael Alper

**Committee Members:** Patty Bloom, Pam Brinkmeyer, Jody Chassin, Amy Cohen, Fred Cohen, Vera Cohen, Jennifer Culp, Pamela Dern, Mary Friedman, 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, and Adam Wallis

## **New Mt. Sinai Cemetery Association**

New Mt. Sinai Cemetery, conveniently located minutes from Temple Israel, 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. In 2011, New Mt. Sinai marked the 161<sup>st</sup> anniversary of its founding. 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 Temple Israel. Members of Temple Israel are entitled to significant discounts on pre-need sales of property, and now the Temple receives a percentage of all sales of cemetery property to congregants. Through October of this year, \$3,360 has been donated to Temple Israel through this program. New Mt. Sinai offers burial or entombment of cremated remains and permits non-Jewish family members to be buried at the cemetery. The Community Mausoleum features the beautiful stained glass panel titled "Window of Truth," designed by the celebrated artist Sol Nodel. New Mt. Sinai is the only Jewish cemetery in St. Louis to offer public mausoleum space.

This was a challenging and busy year at New Mt. Sinai. The economy definitely impacted sales at the cemetery. We had several important events over the year. In May, we conducted a guided bus tour of the cemetery and for Memorial Day, we once again had Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts conducting flag ceremonies at the graves of all veterans interred in the cemetery. In October, we held our annual Memorial Service in the mausoleum. Cantor Seth Warner of Shaare Emeth led the service again this year. Musical selections were chanted by Cantor Warner and Linda Blumenthal, with instrumental music provided by musicians from the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra.

The following Temple Israel members passed away in 2011 and were interred at New Mt. Sinai: Robert Wegusen, Alice Riezman, Moisey Samoylovich, Juanita Yawitz, Dr. Jack Zuckner, Samuel Riezman, Joan Nackman, Adam Milton, Robert Rothbarth, Ronni Handelman, Gerti Strauss and Marvin Heller. They join all the other members of our congregation who have chosen New Mt. Sinai Cemetery to be their final resting place.

We hope that our new arrangement between the cemetery and the Temple will result in renewed interest from congregants in purchasing property at New Mt. Sinai Cemetery in 2012. If you wish to discuss purchasing property at New Mt. Sinai or want to arrange a tour of the cemetery, contact Executive Director Daniel Brodsky, 314-353-2540 (office) or 314-504-3302 (cell), or by e-mail, [danielbrodsky@sbcglobal.net](mailto:danielbrodsky@sbcglobal.net).

**Chair:** William Eiseman, Jr., 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 (ז"ל)

## Public Relations/Communications Committee

This was a very busy year for public relations and communication at Temple Israel. Our biggest accomplishment for 2011 was the successful launch of our new Temple Israel website in September. The new website, [www.ti-stl.org](http://www.ti-stl.org), is very robust and has many interactive features. Congregants and visitors to the site can now view the Temple's events calendar, register and pay for events, add events to their personal calendars, make tribute donations and purchase scrip online, and much more. The website also has a members-only section where congregants can go to update their contact information, view their account history, and pay dues and other billed Temple fees. Coinciding with the launch of our new website, we updated our Temple Israel Facebook page. We are grateful to Art Lewis for volunteering his time to administer our Facebook page. You can become a fan of Temple Israel by liking us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/templeisraelstlouis](http://www.facebook.com/templeisraelstlouis).

In 2011 we continued to update our promotional materials with our new Temple Israel color scheme and logo. Our Temple stationery, publications, website, and other promotional materials all now feature our new look. We also created a new look and logo for our Deutsch Early Childhood Center and our new Jewish Parents as Teachers program. At the High Holy Days, we launched our year-long commemoration of Temple Israel's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To mark this milestone anniversary, we created a special 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary version of our Temple logo that is being used on Temple publications and materials throughout the year. Finally, we are in the process of working with Membership Director Judy Lewis to update the Temple's prospective member packet of materials. Our special thanks go to congregants Nancy (Wilkerson) Kreinberg and Donna (Wilkerson) Light, the talented owners of Art-bi-2 Creative Visuals, for creating all of these new designs.

Thanks to a generous donation to the Temple's Broadcast Fund, we were able to resume the audio broadcasts of Shabbat and holiday services this year. Congregants who are homebound or family members and friends of Temple Israel who live out of town can now listen to all of our worship services by phone or online through our website.

We continue to promote the Temple and its events and programs to the greater St. Louis Jewish community through the placement of advertisements, press releases and calendar listings in the *Jewish Light*, the *jewishinstlouis* community website, and in secular publications. We are very appreciative of volunteer Susan Irgang, for her ongoing efforts to maintain Temple Israel's books of press clippings. If you would like to take a peek at these impressive scrapbooks, they are housed in the Development and Communications office at the Temple.

**Chair:** Carla Feuer

**Executive Committee Liaison:** Jonathan Bloom

**Staff Liaison:** Carol Wolf Solomon, Director of Development & Communications



## **Rabbis' Circle and Shofar Society**

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 229 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.

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.

During the past year, Rabbis' Circle and Shofar Society members were invited to attend one of three informal gatherings with our rabbis and lay leaders to share their personal stories about their connection to Congregation Temple Israel. Thanks are due to Natalie and Neil Handelman, Anne and David Rosenberg and Pamela and Michael Dern for hosting these wonderful events.

This year we also made a special effort to reach out to our Rabbi's Circle and Shofar Society members through monthly letters highlighting a special program, event or activity taking place and extending a personal invitation for them to join with the entire congregation to share in these special moments.

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 November 2011. We invite you to heed the call of the shofar and join these dedicated members of our Rabbis' Circle and Shofar Society.

## **RABBIS' CIRCLE and SHOFAR SOCIETY MEMBERS**

(As of November 2011)

### **RABBIS' CIRCLE - HILLEL**

Marilyn & Sam Fox

### **RABBIS' CIRCLE - AKIBA**

Rachel & Thomas  
Andreasson  
June Bierman  
Pamela & Michael Dern  
Ellen & Jack Deutsch

Hope & Julian Edison  
Rita & William Eiseman, Jr.  
Judy & Richard Glassman  
Joyce & Morton Green

Howard Lesser  
Susan & Irving Levy  
Judith & Jerome Levy  
Joy & Albert Melman

Lester Miller  
Dee & Cary Mogerman  
Barbra Horn & Peter Weiss

## TEKIAH GEDOLAH

Terry & Gordon Bloomberg  
Dorothy & William Firestone  
Judy & Ira Gall  
Helen & Kenneth Goldstein

Sandra Greenberg  
Natalie & Neil Handelman  
Linda Hyken

Esther & Earl Kessler  
Joan & Eugene Kraus  
Frances & Gary Lazaroff

Lisa Ring & Gregory Storch  
Hildegard & Herman Rochman  
Lynn Wallis

## TERUAH

Audrey & Leonard Adreon  
Elaine & Harold Blatt  
Marilyn & Donald Blum  
Judith & David Capes  
Geraldine & Jerry Chod  
Carol & Edward Cohen  
Rand Dankner  
Lee & Eugene Deutsch  
Ellen & Henry Dubinsky

Susan & Allan Epstein  
Lotta & Jeff Fox  
Esther Frank  
Joyce Gartenberg  
Bettie Gershman  
Lois & Alan Goldberg  
Dorette & Edward Goldberg  
Susan & Paul Goldberg  
Karole & Thomas Green

Ruth & Walter Gusdorf  
Frieda Handelman  
Barbara & Norman Hausfater  
Nancy Kalishman  
Karen & Harry Knopf  
Susan & Richard Kofkoff  
David & Jayne Langsam  
Constance Levy  
Elizabeth & Larry Linkon

Heather & Jay Padratzik  
Lynne Kipnis & Steven Rothman  
Maurine & Mahlon Rubin  
Marcelyn & Merle Silverstein  
Martha & Leonard Weinstock  
Barbara & Norman Wielansky  
Kimberly & Brett Wolff

## SHEVARIM

Martha & David Aronson  
Charline Baizer  
Joy & Fred Balis  
Hui Hua & Keith Bernstein  
Patricia & Robert Bernstein  
Susan & Robert Bernstein  
Elaine & Eric Bly  
Robert & Ellen Brin  
Marni & Jeremy Deutsch  
Jennifer & Jonathan Deutsch  
Karen Berry Elbert & Charles Elbert  
Elmer & Zella Esrock  
Robin & Gary Feder  
Doris & Harold Fishman  
Susan & Edward Fliesher  
Dorismae Friedman

Eleanor & Milton Fry  
Susan & Leonard Gaum  
Sheila Stanton & David Geddes  
Abby & Joel Goldberg  
Laura Kipnis & Sidney Goldstein  
Alice & Howard Handelman  
Delores Heller  
Mary & Morris Joftus  
Marcie & Dale Kalina  
Eleanor Withers & Ralph Kalish Jr  
Susie & Rik Knopf  
Nancy & Mark Kodner  
Linda & Jerome Kraus  
Anita & Kenneth Kraus  
Martha & David Kreipke  
Minnette & Joe Liberman  
Lynne & Michael Lippmann

Loren & Kenneth Ludmerer  
Wendy & Mark Ludwig  
Ricki & Neil Marglous  
Joyce & Arthur Margulis  
Frala & Aaron Osherow  
Joyce & Jules Pass  
Marcia & Robert Pass  
Madhavi Kandula & Mitchell Platin  
Leslie & Steven Melnick  
Sallie & Donald Mogerman  
Jan & Ronald Pass  
Dana & Troy Pohlman  
Judith & Paul Putzel  
Aileen & Melvin Rabushka  
Karen & David Raskas  
Mary & Robert Rosenblum  
Caryn & Bruce Sandweiss

Susie & Robert Schulte  
Avery Seidel  
Jennifer & Walter Shifrin  
Noma Simon  
Karen & David Smoller  
Nancy & Robert Spewak  
Harlan Steinbaum  
Dorothy & Arnold Tepper  
JoAnne Levy & Jim Thomeczek  
Sarah & Chad Wallis  
Elizabeth & David Weinstein  
Marlita & Stuart Weiss  
Joan & Howard Wittner  
Richard Wolfheim  
Bella Woolf  
Bonnie & Myron Zwibelman  
Anonymous

## TEKIAH

Sandra & Robert Aisenfeld  
Stewart Albert  
Sandra & Scott Alton  
Gail & Murray Appelbaum  
Barbara & Jerome Bader  
Faye Beth Baer-O'Byrne  
Susan & Barry Barber  
Charles Bates Baron  
Jill & David Belsky  
Elaine Berger  
Linda & Fred Berger  
Marcia & Neil Bernstein  
Patricia & Jonathan Bloom  
Linda & Ivan Blumoff  
Janice & Lawrence Brody  
Susan & Mark Bronson  
Jody & David Chassin  
Cheri & Ronald Chod  
Amy Cohen  
Kathy & Darryl Cohen  
James Eiseman  
Beverly Faber  
Jody & Preston Fancher  
Barbara & Fred Flegel  
Joyce & Gary Follman

Elaine & Charles Fremder  
Mary Ellen & Robert Freund  
Amy & Burton Garland, Jr.  
Jane & Alvin Gold  
Janis & Rand Goldstein  
Cathy & Robert Goldsticker  
Claire Schenck & Richard Greenberg  
Laura & Edward Greenberg  
Jan & Ronald Greenberg  
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  
Barbara & David Kantrovitz  
Harry Katz  
Emily Evans Kline & Lee Kline  
Barbara & Ira Kodner  
Diana & Andrew Kohn  
Lisa & Richard Kraner  
Lois Levin

Joelyn Knopf Levy & Edward Levy  
Karen & Mont Levy  
Judy & Arthur Lewis  
Elayne & David Lieberman  
Judith & David Lipsitz  
Melanie & Tom Litz  
Rob Litz  
Carole & Louis Loebner  
Louise Losos  
Felice & Michael Lowenbaum  
Deborah & Marshall Manne  
Shelley Marglous  
Dorothy Meyerson  
Jill Silverstein & Jonathan Mills  
Leslie Nackman  
Dolores Newport  
Jan Nykin  
Jean Schaffer & Daniel Ory  
Linda & Herbert Palans  
Cheryl & Laurence Perlstein  
Helen & Raymond Robinson  
Anne & David Rosenberg  
Michele & Norman Roth  
Diana & James Rothbarth  
Cathy & Marcos Rothstein

Joanne & Daniel Schwartz  
James Schiele  
Laurence Schiffer  
Carol Rubin & Howard Schlansky  
Helen & Julian Seeherman  
Deborah & Bradley Shanker  
Elizabeth & Jeremy Shook  
Nancy & Richard Singer  
Sandra & Arnold Spirtas  
Jill & Steven Starr  
Lecie & Richard Steinbaum  
Helen & Cary Stolar  
Jane & Mark Tucker  
Susie & Jason Turkin  
Tamalyn Martens & Steven Turner  
Rita & Scott Waldman  
James Wedner  
Barbara & Edward Weiss  
Bonnie & Howard Weiss  
Diane & Michael Weiss  
Karen & David Weller  
Linda & Stephen Wielansky  
Carolynn & Stephen Wolff  
Suzanne & Robert Yawitz  
Anonymous



## Strategic Planning

In August 2005, the Board of Trustees adopted the Congregation Temple Israel Strategic Plan titled *L'dor V'dor – From Generation to Generation*. The 2005 plan was the result of a two-to-three year process and focused on six key areas: education, facilities, finance, membership/public relations, programming and worship. This plan was intended to be a working document that would (and ultimately did) provide guidance to Temple Israel for a five-year period.

In early 2011, a review of the 2005 plan was undertaken to determine those aspects of the plan which had been implemented and those which had not. The results of this review were presented to the Board of Trustees in April 2011. The review found that we had accomplished a number of the 2005 plan's recommendations, but it also showed that we have significant "unfinished business."

One of our most obvious issues (all you have to do is look at the ceiling in the Gall Family Sanctuary) is the poor state of our aging building complex. A special task force was formed to review the present status of our facilities and needs, to identify options worth considering and to recommend a viable action plan for the immediate and long-term future of Temple Israel. The task force's in-depth and analytic report was presented to and adopted by the Board of Trustees in June 2011.

We are now embarking on a formal process to update our strategic plan that we will use to chart our course for the future. In addition to providing concrete actions to guide us and setting out a means to measure our progress along the way, the renewed plan will provide support to the committees charged with the responsibility of developing the funds necessary to carry out the recommendations of the facility options task force.

The good news is that we will not take two to three years to develop this new plan. We have obtained the funds necessary to engage a professional firm to facilitate the planning process and keep us focused on completing this project in the relatively short time frame of four or five months. We are currently in the process of forming our core planning team of 12-15 members to help drive this project. We hope to have this roster assembled in the next several weeks and to begin the process in December or early January 2012.

We will look to our members-at-large to help us in this planning process. We will be forming action planning teams in the areas of worship and education. If you are interested in serving on one of these teams, please contact Michael Weiss or Rabbi Feder.

**Chair:** Michael Weiss

**Staff Liaison:** Carol Wolf Solomon, Director of Development & Communications

## Synagogue Community (Membership) and Programming

### Membership

In 2011, the Temple Israel Synagogue Community Committee continued to update and improve our efforts to reach three important audiences:

1. Welcome and integrate new members.
2. Retain and energize our active members.
3. Engage existing members who may not have previously been involved with congregational programming.

An important part of our strategy for growing our community is to engage our membership better. A happy and enthusiastic membership is our best avenue for attracting new members. This year has shown an increase in membership among younger families. To encourage Temple Israel membership among unaffiliated families whose children are enrolled in our Deutsch Early Childhood Center we have taken a two-tiered approach in 2011:

1. We continued to offer one free year of membership to families who are unaffiliated with other temples and who have a student graduating from our preschool. All of the families who were extended this offer in 2011 accepted the free year of membership and have enrolled their children in our Religious School.
2. Rather than waiting until DECC graduation, we have now extended our offer of one free year of membership at Temple Israel to all unaffiliated preschool families. By making this offer earlier in their relationship with our congregation, we are working to welcome our preschool families “across the bridge” to join the rest of our community.

We encourage prospective members to have one-on-one meetings with the rabbis to develop more personal relationships. In addition, we introduce prospective members to our staff in case they want to contact us in the future. After the initial contact, we continue to reach out to make them feel welcome to the congregation.

We have held Family Movie Nights designed to help us build a multi-generational community. Bringing young families and older members together to enjoy non-religious activities has reinforced our new approach to fostering community.

We know every member cannot attend every Temple event. When congregants do come into the building, we want to create a memorable experience for them. We are working to increase awareness of Temple events by posting photographs in the weekly *connecTion* e-newsletter, in the *Dateline*, in the photo gallery on our new TI website, and on the digital picture frame in the foyer outside from the Temple office.

## Programming

This has also been a very busy year for programming:

- In August, our annual fundraiser, “**Blues After Dark**” featuring local jazz artist Kim Massie, was a huge success and enjoyed by many. Our **Golf Classic Tournament** followed two days later on what could not have been a more perfect day to play a round.
- This summer we began planning our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. During the High Holy Days we gathered more contact information from our non-member guests so that we can invite them to join us again for our festivities throughout the year. Our 125th year of celebration includes five events:

The first anniversary event was the Fall Family Festival. More than 400 people enjoyed an afternoon of fun on the “front lawn” of Temple Israel.

Be sure to mark your calendar for Friday, January 13, 2012, for our second celebratory event, an interfaith service featuring the Reverend Earl E. Nance, Jr. and the Greater Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church choir.

Check your *Dateline* throughout 2012 for details about the three additional events to come.

- Rabbis Feder and Alper have taken very active roles in the development of programming that will appeal to many different groups within our Temple community and that will further our congregation’s commitment to being more than a house of worship.

Many thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers who have helped make this year’s events such a huge success. We can’t thank you enough for your valuable time and your commitment to making Temple Israel so special.

**Chair:** Jonathan Bloom

**Staff Liaison:** Judy Lewis, Director of Membership and Programming

**Committee Members:** Eli Montague, Diana Rothbarth, Julie Sandler, Darcy Scharff, Jeremy Shook, Lael Simon, and Adam Wallis



## Technology Committee

The Technology Committee is responsible for the oversight of the technical infrastructure for the congregation that is required for daily operations, programs and special events. The committee monitors the status of a wide range of technology in use on the campus, sets strategic goals and takes action to maintain our systems and advance the technical infrastructure when possible.

The physical scope of our oversight includes the entire campus from the religious school building across the bridge to all areas of the sanctuary and office complex. The technology scope includes these broad areas: sound systems, computer network, phone system, security system, and building access system. We are involved in such items as what microphones are best for the rabbis to use to what server and software the congregation runs on.

We strive to have members on our committee with diverse technical background in order to provide the knowledge and experience required to maintain our technology. We currently have a facility manager, sound engineer, network administrators, computer support personnel, technical sales people and several other disciplines represented. We are always looking for new members to join our committee and expand our knowledge base and progress with the ever evolving technology.

We just completed a technology review, including a risk assessment for our congregation. The most at risk system is the phone system. The present phone system was installed in the early 1990s. It is now very difficult to find replacement parts or technicians qualified to work on it. This is the highest priority due to the fragile technology and the high dependency on this system by our employees and members. Unknown to most members is how complex this system really is. In addition to having the common phone features the system also: 1) allows for individual and group voice mail boxes; 2) connects to the walkie-talkie system for the maintenance crew; 3) allows activation of the building access locks on the entry doors; and 4) provides public address capability across our campus as well as several other features. There are other features that the system lacks due to the age of the technology used. Options we are currently exploring include voice over internet protocol (VOIP), integrated voice mail to e-mail, external call forwarding and notifications, and caller I.D. We are striving to stay on top of these needs before our system finally gives out.

**Chair:** Art Lewis

**Executive Committee Liaison:** David Chassin

**Staff Liaison:** Eli Montague, F.T.A., Executive Director

**Committee Members:** Mark Biernacki, Ron Chatmon, Ron Falkoff, Sarah Falkoff, David Geddes, Dave Kreipke, Aaron Linder, Ian Schraier, Scott Weinstein, and Neil Wolfman

## 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 2011 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 2011. The food was delivered to ill or bereaved individuals who accepted 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 this healthy produce.

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

**Pride Fest Parade and Jewish Booth:** Again 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 S'lichot, 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 continued to provide 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. Special thanks go to Nancy Solomon for coordinating our personal care item drive again this year.

**Thanksgiving Dinner:** This annual holiday dinner served approximately 380 members of our community. Each year, on the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving, 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. Our sincere thanks go out to 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.

**Mega Mitzvah Day:** We are already collecting items and preparing for the Mega Mitzvah Day this on May 6 that will be a part of our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of celebration. This event will bring together the entire congregation and greater St. Louis community for a wide variety of service projects for all ages.

**Co-Chairs:** Pamela Dern and Judy Jacks

**Staff Liaison:** Rabbi Amy Feder

**Committee Members:** Rabbi Michael Alper, Linda Blumoff, Ivan Blumoff, Max Breadman, Pam Brinkmeyer, Megan Dern, Susie Fliesher, Jeanne Ferman, Betsy Gleijeses, Myrna Hershman, Shari Hollander, Susan Irgang, Mary Joftus, Morrie Joftus, Louise Levine, Harlan Levitt, Lea Levitt, Wendy Lindsay, Ben Manheimer, Jacki Moore, Joan Moscovitz, Jan Nykin, Lois Perryman, Nancy Nix-Rice, Caryn Sandweiss, Debbie Schultz, Martina Stern, Nancy Solomon, Michele Steinberg, Frank Wasserman, Sandy Wasserman, Amy Stiefel Weinhaus, Eva Wilde and Ken Wilde



## **Treasurer's Report - December 2011**

(Based on September 30, 2011, annualized)

While the Temple has had a strong surge of new members in 2011, dues income is 8 percent less than budgeted and 6.2 percent below the prior year. The drop in dues income is primarily from lower than anticipated dues collections. Unfortunately, this is especially tough for our Temple finances since a significant portion of our members pay dues below our standard level. I urge all members to contribute as much as they can. We need to be mindful that the Temple and its resources are available all year round, regardless of how often we avail ourselves of them. It is our communal obligation, and truly a *mitzvah* to support this strong Jewish place of worship and to ensure that we can continue to welcome all who seek to join our Temple, regardless of their ability to pay.

Revenues from our Deutsch Early Childhood Center and Rabbi Mark and Carol Shook Preschool Camp soared this year, as a result of tremendous enrollment increases that can be attributed to the strong effort of our amazing teachers and the outstanding leadership and innovative changes initiated by DECC Director Leslie Wolf. Revenue is up 25 percent from the 2011 budget and 108 percent from the prior year. We look forward to continued growth and success with our camp and early childhood programs.

In recognition of our Temple staff's hard work and dedication, our 2011 results include a small salary increase. A similar increase is budgeted for 2012.

Fundraising income is down because the 2011 Golf/Gala event, although quite successful, generated \$50,000 less than the Rabbi Shook retirement weekend in 2010. Income receipts from the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, which began in October 2011 and will be of greatest benefit in 2012.

Our 2011 operating expenses are expected to be down \$57,000 from the previous year and down \$76,000 from the budget, reflecting reduced expenses for religious programs (primarily salaries and benefits) and salary reductions due to the transition from three to two rabbis. Utility costs, however, were \$5,000 higher than the previous year.

The projected 2011 net loss from the general fund is \$188,000, which is similar to the 2010 results and the 2011 budgeted amount. Factors other than the operating results discussed above include the lack of a High Holy Day Appeal (in deference to the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary fundraiser) and lower receipts for the Livnot Capital Campaign.

The 2012 general fund budget, which projects a loss of \$111,000, has been approved by the Board of Trustees. Overall, investment income to date is a slight loss as compared to investment gains of 2010. Non-general fund expenses are significantly down, primarily due to fewer building repairs.

Thank you for your continued support of Temple Israel. We are trying to achieve a balanced budget and with the help of our members we will get there.

Cathy Goldsticker  
Treasurer

Diana Rothbarth  
Assistant Treasurer

## **Usher Committee**

We hope everyone is enjoying a happy and healthy 5772 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. Make your ushering experience even more meaningful by having your spouse or children help you. To usher on Friday nights, Saturday mornings or at the High Holy Days, please call Thelma Davidson, (314)993-2063.

Ushers arrive on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings one-half hour before services begin. Ushers welcome members and visitors, distribute Shabbat announcements and assist worshipers with seating.

Thank you in advance for volunteering and remember...

“A Shabbat without Temple is like a Day without Sunshine.”

**Usher Co-Chairs:** Thelma Davidson & Marvin Davidson

**High Holy Day Usher Co-Chairs:** Ron and Lylas Chatmon

**Ushers:** Robert Aisenfeld, Fran Axelbaum, Mark and Joelle Biernacki, Katherine Biernacki, Eric Biernacki, Olivia Biernacki, Max Breadman, Linda Cherrick, Carol Cohen, Fred and Vera Cohen, Brent and Karen Comensky, Blake Coulter, Brian Coulter, Dane Coulter, Maddie Coulter, Sheryl Coulter, Quinn Coulter, Megan Dern, Pamela Dern, Ed and Susie Fliesher, Burt Garland, Dorette Goldberg, Jamie Goldberg, Jessica Goldberg, Jordan Goldberg, Marvin Goldfarb, Laura and Ted Greenberg, Bryson Hartranft, David Irgang, Robbie Irgang, Susan Irgang, Marcie Kalina, Joel Kamil, Dr. Harry Knopf, Nancy Kodner, Marilyn Krinsky, Herman Leibovich, Louise Levine, Dr. Jerry and Judy Levy, Art and Judy Lewis, Larry Linkon, Neil Marglous, Jon Mills and Jill Silverstein, Lizzy Mills, Mo Mills, Joan Moscovitz, Jan Nykin, Bob and Lori Orbals, Lois Perryman, Dr. Mitch Platin, Ella Raber, Adrienne and Mickey Rosen, Julie Sandler, Stan Schneider, Robert Schnurman, Donna Shanfeld (z”l), Brad and Debbie Shanker, Hannah Snidman, Leah Snidman, Liz and Robert Snidman, Jeffrey and Martina Stern, Jordan and Leona Stern, Joshua Stern, Susan Stiefel, Jerry Thomeczek, Jim Thomeczek, Josh Thomeczek, Mari Thomeczek, David Victor, Adam Wallis, Dr. Barbra Horn and Dr. Peter Weiss, Ken Wilde, and Larry Winner.

**Doctors on Call:** Dr. Stewart Albert, Dr. Burt Bromberg, Dr. Ed Fliesher, Dr. Shanon Forseter, Dr. Howard Schlansky, Dr. David Weinstein, and Dr. Leonard Weinstock

**High Holy Day Messengers:** Bryson Hartranft, Marilyn Krinsky, Larry Linkon, Lois Perryman, Ella Raber, Julie Sandler, and Adam Weiss

**Presenting Bar/Bat Mitzvah Gifts:** Jonathan Bloom, Betty Bridge, Ron Chatmon, Carol Cohen, Pamela Dern, Jennifer Deutsch, Burt Garland, Dorette Goldberg, Nancy Kodner, Anita Kraus, Adele Lewis, Larry Linkon, Rob Litz, Cary Mogerman, Dr. Mitch Platin, and Adam Wallis



## Worship Experience Committee

The Worship Experience Committee, with the support of the rabbis, has had a very productive year making adjustments to the types of worship offered at Temple Israel.

In the spring we had a trial period of starting Friday night services at 6:30 p.m. Based on attendance during the trial period and feedback from a congregational survey, the decision was made to have Shabbat services begin at 6:30 p.m. with a pre-service Oneg at 6 p.m. On the first Friday of each month, we have our Tot Shabbat at 6 p.m. and then conduct a more traditional service beginning at 7:30 p.m.

In the spring we also created some opportunities for the congregation to enjoy a Shabbat meal together following services. There was a pizza party after one service and an evening where congregants went to local restaurants following another Friday night Shabbat service. In April, a Passover Shabbat dinner held following a Shabbat service was a big success.



The committee was also very involved in the changes regarding High Holy Day services. Children's services were moved to the main sanctuary and started at an earlier time. Families were then able to stay for the inter-generational service while younger children were engaged in activities provided by some of the DECC staff. A highlight of this new format was having all the children return to the sanctuary and join the congregation in song to close our service on Rosh Hashanah morning.

I extend my thanks to the following committee members for their time and insight as well as their dedication to Congregation Temple Israel:

**Chair:** Amy Cohen

**Executive Committee Liaison:** Michael Weiss

**Staff Liaison:** Rabbi Amy Feder

**Committee Members:** Rob Aronson, Ellen Deutsch, Bill Eiseman Jr., Sarah Falkoff, Gary Follman, Ed Goldberg, Rob Hahn, Karen Knopf, Nancy Kodner, Jerry Kraus, Amy Lampert, Judy Levy, Larry Linkon, Cary Mogerman, Harry Offenbach, Laura Reichman, Hildegard Rochman, Barbara Sandmel, Debbie Schultz, Daniel and Joanne Schwartz, Merle Silverstein, Susan Stiefel, Lynn Wallis, Marlita Weiss, and Kevin Zeldin.

## Young Adults/Young Professionals Committee

New at Temple Israel this year was the Young Adult Committee. The mission of this committee is to create and cement ties and relationships between the Temple and people in their 20s and 30s. Most of the people in this age demographic are young professionals, singles, newly-married, and people with young children or young families. Many of them are also currently unaffiliated.

We have many ideas for events in the future that will bring these groups of people together to the Temple. We took part in the planning of the Blues After Dark: An Evening with Kim Massie event, which was a huge success at drawing adults of all ages. We are currently looking forward to helping plan the culminating gala event for the Temple's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

If you know of any young adult who would like to become more involved and be members of this committee, please let us know. We had a great first year and we look forward to seeing great things from this new committee in the future!

**Co-Chairs:** Sarah and Ron Falkoff and Scott and Irina Sandler

**Executive Committee Liaison:** Jonathan Bloom

**Staff Liaisons:** Rabbi Amy Feder, Rabbi Michael Alper, and Judy Lewis, Director of Membership and Programming



## Youth Activities Committee

The Youth Activities Committee oversees a variety of activities involving our congregation's youth including Temple Israel Federation of Temple Youth, TI8 and Junior Youth Group, Club 56, Cotillion, 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 included TIFTY Shabbat, a Fall Lock-In, and a membership recruitment program at Forest Park. TIFTY members also participated in Regional Chavurot in Denver, St. Louis, and Bloomington, IL. There are currently 29 members of the senior high youth group – an increase from last year!

Leadership development is an integral part of TIFTY. Under the guidance of our new Youth Advisor, Stephanie Rhea, the members of TIFTY are given the opportunity and support to initiate and lead the programs for the year. This begins with an Executive Board meeting to set individual and group goals for the year, followed by monthly meetings to work on programming and membership recruitment.

As one of the Temple Israel auxiliaries, TIFTY is devoted to giving back to our TI community. In addition to leading the annual TIFTY Shabbat service, TIFTY members also participated in 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* program at Build-A Bear Workshop. Participants made bears to be donated to the Jewish Family and Children's Service's Hanukkah Helpers program. A special highlight of our fall programming was a trip to Mizzou for a football game with the other Reform youth groups in the St. Louis area. Go Tigers!

TIFTY started its own Facebook page this year, NFTY TIFTY. Friends have access to pictures of events, an events schedule, invitations to events, and posts about what is happening while on Chavurot (very helpful for the parents who are friends with NFTY TIFTY). This serves as our primary communication with members, supplemented by e-mails, phone calls, and letters.

**TIFTY Board 5772 (2011-2012):** Andy Cohen, President; Jerry Thomeczek, Programming Vice President; Adam Kalina, Social Action Vice President; Presley Culp, Religious and Cultural Vice President; Alex Jacks, Membership Vice President; Sydney Kitsis, Communications and Visuals Vice President; Tyler Andreasson, Special Projects Coordinator; Megan Dern, Song Leader. TIFTY member Healy Slakman was elected Regional Song Leader for NFTY-MO- Valley.

### **TI8**

TI8 is new this year. This program has been started to address the need to keep our post-B'nai Mitzvah youth engaged in Temple life. This youth group is exclusively for 8<sup>th</sup> graders and focuses on fun, informal events that foster Jewish identity, community, and learning. This year TI8 hosted an all-St. Louis 8th grade event called J8M (Jewish 8th grade Mixers), where dozens of Reform Jewish 8<sup>th</sup> graders came to Temple Israel for games, entertainment by a comedic magician, and dancing. There are three more community-wide events planned for this coming school year.

## **JYG**

Our Junior Youth Group for students in grades 7 and 8 has also been successful this year, with a large increase in participation. JYG had a kick-off program on S'lichot where students helped to change the Torah covers for the High Holy Days and learned to blow the shofar. Our year continued with fun events, such as a trip to NASCAR Speedway with Club 56 and an all youth group social action project at Build-a-Bear Workshop. JYG participation is steadily growing. We look forward to fun programs to come.

## **CLUB 56**

Club 56 is our youth group for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Our kick-off event for the 2011-2012 school year was a trip to NASCAR Speedway with JYG. The students had a great time racing each other and playing laser tag. Also in November, our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders joined the older youth groups for the annual *mitzvah* program at Build-A-Bear workshop. More events are planned for the remainder of the 2011-2012 school year.

**Chair:** Jill Silverstein

**Executive Committee Liaison:** Carol Cohen

**Staff Liaison:** Rabbi Michael Alper

**Youth Advisor:** Stephanie Rhea

**Committee Members:** Carrie Goldwasser, Susan Irgang, and Judy Jacks



## 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 G-d 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 lifelong learning.

Our committee spends its time assuring that we are working toward living both the mission of the congregation as well as the mission of the Youth Education programs. To that end, the following actions were taken:

The hours of Sunday Hebrew School were changed to 11:50 a.m. -1:30 p.m., which results in a more efficient use of everyone's time. Tuesday Hebrew School hours were also changed to 4:20-6:00 p.m. to accommodate the Parkway and Ladue school district bus schedules.

In August 2011, Adele Lewis joined the Temple staff as Interim Education Coordinator. One of the new programs she put into place at the start of Religious School is Boker Tov TI, a family worship experience that allows parents and the entire TI community to join together with our Religious School students in song and prayer. Boker Tov TI, along with TGIS (Thank Goodness It's Shabbat) grade level family Shabbat dinners, expand the children's Religious School experience.

Our school doors are always open to the entire TI community. We now have a "Leave a Seat" program that encourages any parent, teacher or rabbi to pop in and participate in a Religious School class.

A new weekly *TI Times* e-newsletter is now in place providing more frequent and vibrant communication to the TI Religious School community.

Our annual Book Fair took place in mid-November. The Youth Education Committee has chosen to use the proceeds from the sale for technology upgrades in the Religious School.

With increased enrollment, we look forward to a dynamic school year!

**Chair:** Sheri Elias O'Gorman,

**Executive Committee Liaison:** Carol Cohen

**Staff Liaison:** Rabbi Michael Alper

**Committee Members:** Jeffrey Brown, Lauri Cearley, Charlie Cook, Julie Devine, Brian Goldberg, Sally Heller, Kelley Keisch, Loren Ludmerer, Lori Ortvals, Victoria Shucart, Lael Simon, Linda Wielansky, and Stacey Wilson