



Congregation Temple Israel

- A Voice for All Generations -

Annual Report 2012

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WELCOME TO OUR 126th ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 10, 2013

PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR CONTINUING EXCELLENCE

Carol Cohen and Marcie Kalina

PILLAR OF THE TEMPLE AWARDS

Michele Steinberg, Nancy Wilkerson-Kreinberg and Donna Wilkerson-Light

SLATE OF NOMINEES

Officers

JoAnne Levy, President
Dee Mogerman, Vice President, President-Elect
David Chassin, Vice President, Facilities
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Harvey Harris, Vice President, Community Relations
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Neil Marglous, Secretary, Tikkun Olam
Pamela Dern, Assistant Secretary, Tikkun Olam
Cathy Goldsticker, Treasurer
Diana Rothbarth, Assistant Treasurer

Nominees for a first, three-year term

David Aronson
Amy Fenster Brown
Marni Deutsch
Carla Feuer
Jayme Fingerman
David Geddes
Sally King
Greg Levine
David Rosenberg
Adam Wallis

Nominee for a first, one-year term

Jeffrey Stern

Nominees for a second, three-year term

Ron Chatmon
Dorette Goldberg

Outgoing Officer and Trustees

Jonathan Bloom, Vice President
Amy Cohen
Jennifer Deutsch
Ted Greenberg
Bryson Hartranft
Dr. Jerry Levy
Dr. Eric Mann
Tami Martens
Jan Offenbach Nykin
David Victor

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

February 10, 2013

Welcome to the 126th annual meeting of Congregation Temple Israel. The year 2012 was one of celebration – a celebration of our 125 years as a Reform Jewish congregation in St. Louis, a celebration of our core values, a celebration of our future, and a celebration of our “family of families.” When I deliver the announcements during Shabbat services, I always begin by stating: “Here at Temple Israel, we consider ourselves a family of families and our families come in all shapes, sizes and types.” Yes, I know some of you are probably tired of hearing me say this, but “family of families” is an apt phrase to describe Congregation Temple Israel. It refers to a sense of belonging, a sense of community, a sense of home, all of which we hope to instill and nurture in our members.



In 2012, we focused on strengthening this sense of belonging by introducing new learning and community-building opportunities for children and adults, by continuing to put the Temple's financial house in order, and by engaging every demographic of our congregation in our 125th anniversary events.

In the area of education, Temple Israel was fortunate to be selected as the first congregation outside of the southern United States to partner with the Institute for Southern Jewish Life (ISJL) in piloting an innovative religious and Hebrew education curriculum. Last summer, our new religious school director, Marissa Reby, along with Rabbi Alper and several of our religious school teachers, attended an ISJL training program so that we could implement this new curriculum for the 2012-13 school year. Under their guidance, and with the active support of our teachers and *madrichim* (teaching assistants), the school year has been an exciting adventure in change as we adapt the ISJL curriculum to meet Temple Israel's needs.

This year, we also vastly expanded our adult education offerings, providing a variety of opportunities for congregants to learn together in relaxed, informal settings. Rabbi Shook continues to teach his extremely popular Saturday morning Bible Study class. Rabbi Alper introduced weekday classes on beginning and advanced Hebrew, Torah study, and interfaith texts. Some of our talented congregants took the initiative to launch a Jewish book club for women, teach a Jewish holiday cooking class, and even provide yoga instruction! In addition, all of our Rabbis regularly offer short seminars and lectures on topics of interest throughout the year. I encourage you to take advantage of these educational opportunities!

Our youngest children continue to thrive in our wonderful Deutsch Early Childhood Center (DECC), which continues to grow and now serves 180 preschool-age children. Our community-wide Jewish Parents as Teachers (JPAT) program, administered by DECC, currently serves 31 Jewish families throughout the St. Louis area and was highlighted at a national Parents as Teachers conference. Our Rabbi Mark and Carol Shook Preschool Camp attracted almost 200 campers last summer, a record enrollment. Under the leadership of DECC Director Leslie Wolf, in just a few short years our preschool has become one of the largest and most successful Jewish early childhood programs in St. Louis. Our focus in 2013 will be on motivating unaffiliated DECC, camp and JPAT families to become part of our Temple Israel “family of families.”

Fiscal strength and stability is another key to building and sustaining our “family of families.” In 2012, our Board of Trustees passed a motion mandating a balanced operating budget going forward. I am pleased to report that Temple Israel finished our 2012 fiscal year “in the black.” We accomplished this in large part thanks to the receipt of several generous bequests, the continued support of our Shofar Society and general membership, financial assistance from the Union for Reform Judaism, and management by our Temple staff of our 2012 operating expense at its lowest level since 2002. To ensure future balance across all annual synagogue support levels, we adjusted our Shofar Society levels for 2013. I’m proud to say that our Shofar Society members heeded the call to help ensure that Temple Israel can continue its tradition of welcoming all who wish to be part of our “family of families” regardless of their ability to pay.

We also took steps in 2012 to ensure the long-term financial stability of our “family of families.” We conducted a review of Temple Israel’s endowment and tribute funds to ensure that we have full documentation and understanding of our donors’ intentions and that we are in compliance with recent state law changes pertaining to endowments. While still in process, this effort has clarified Temple Israel’s financial picture and will enable us to update our endowment policies and practices.

These educational and financial improvements help support our congregation, but Temple Israel cannot truly be a “family of families” until each of our members feels a sense of belonging. In planning our five major 125th anniversary events, our primary goal was to connect with and engage every member of our Temple Israel community. Co-chaired by Temple Israel Board members Carol Cohen and Marcie Kalina, with the help of our fabulous staff and many congregants, our anniversary events included a Family Fall Festival in late 2011 and then in 2012, a moving Interfaith Shabbat on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday weekend honoring Malachi Award recipient Reverend Earl E. Nance, Jr.; an “Honoring our Past” Shabbat that paid homage to our founders, long-time members, and past Rabbis and presidents; an enormous Mega Mitzvah Day, and our fun “Voices of the Future” Shabbat and Big Birthday Bash. Supported by generous donations, these events were centered on Temple Israel’s core values of family, interfaith relations and music, worship and learning, *tikkun olam* (repair of the world), and fun and celebration. These are the core values that have sustained our “family of families” for 125 years.

Even in the midst of the 125th anniversary celebrations, our Temple leadership was busy during 2012 laying groundwork for our future. Led by Board Vice President Michael Weiss, we engaged in a strategic planning process to chart our course for the next five years and beyond. The process included a review of our progress in achieving the goals outlined in the last five-year strategic plan, as well as an assessment of our current needs and priorities. The new strategic plan, adopted this year by our Board, includes a series of action plans focusing on four areas of priority – the Value of Membership, Education, Organizational Structure, and Facilities and Capital needs. We have been sharing these action plans with the congregation through articles in our *Dateline* and we have already made a lot of headway in implementing them.

Of the four priority areas outlined in the new strategic plan, the biggest challenge is addressing our facility and capital needs. You only have to look upward to see the challenges of our facility. This building has served as our congregation’s home for more than 50 of our 126 years and is in

serious need of numerous infrastructure repairs to its electrical systems, plumbing, HVAC, windows, insulation, and phone and computer systems. We have convened a task force of congregants with expertise in real estate and construction, explored their recommendations, and are still weighing several options. It is not for lack of trying that we continue to struggle to achieve the best, most cost-effective solution to our complex facility issues. I wish the solution was as simple as fixing the roof over the Gall Sanctuary and Isserman Auditorium. Over the past few years, we have replaced the roofs over the school building and the outer perimeter of this building. Tackling the last and most expensive roof replacement project would still leave us facing millions of dollars in additional infrastructure repairs and replacements. The reality is that there are no easy or quick solutions. You can be assured that our leadership will act after thorough and thoughtful study with care and due diligence.

We accomplished a great deal in 2012 – from our final 125th anniversary events, to our new strategic plan, to our new and expanding educational offerings. By joining together, as one united “family of families,” we will address the challenges, facility and others, and seize the opportunities that await us in 2013 and beyond. As I also say during announcements at Shabbat services: Thank you for being part of our Temple Israel “family of families.”

JoAnne Levy

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 2012! It will also provide you with insight into our vision for the future of our congregation.

We have spent the past year celebrating our congregation's 125th anniversary. This amazing milestone provided us with the opportunity to look back on who we have been as a congregation, and who we wish to be in the future as we move ahead. We look forward to embarking on the next chapter in the history of our congregation with you.

B'shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Amy Feder".

Rabbi Amy Feder

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael Alper".

Rabbi Michael Alper

Adult Education Committee

This year was unprecedented in terms of adult education at Temple Israel. We have many continuing classes, as well as a full schedule of new classes and learning opportunities.

The biggest increase in adult education has come from Rabbi Alper's goal of having learning opportunities at the Temple nearly every day of the week. For those interested in learning Hebrew, he has offered both an advanced Hebrew course and a beginner's class. Bible scholars and those wanting to explore the Torah in a casual, weekday setting have joined Rabbi Alper's lunch and learn group called "From the Beginning" that studies the weekly Torah portion. At the beginning of 2013, he also began a new class on Interfaith Texts and Topics.

Rabbi's Roundtable, the monthly opportunity for lunch and discussing engaging topics with the rabbis, continues to be a success. Thanks, as always, to Evie Bernstein for her delicious desserts!

Rabbi Shook's weekly Saturday morning Bible study class continues to be a popular draw every Shabbat morning during the school year. The focus for 2012-2013 is women in Scripture.

Following her maternity leave, Rabbi Feder began a class called "The Spirituality of Motherhood: The Early Years" for mothers with infants.

Sundays provide congregants with a variety of new classes taught by both rabbis and lay leaders. We have continued with our Sunday Series taught by each of the three rabbis.

- In January, Rabbi Alper taught a class in Biblical Archeology.
- In April, Rabbi Shook led an exploration of the successes and failures in Holocaust theology.
- In anticipation of the November Presidential election, Rabbi Feder lectured on the topic of "A Mormon in the White House?"
- In the weeks before Halloween, Rabbi Alper taught a class called "The Walking Dead - Tales of Resurrection in Judaism."
- Rabbi Shook taught a November Sunday Series class titled "From Saul to St. Paul: Pharisees and the Beginnings of Christianity."
- Upcoming in 2013, Rabbi Alper will lead a class on "The Jewish Response to Evil" and Rabbi Feder will conduct a class titled "God is a Four Letter Word."

Our lay leaders have been wonderful teachers this year as well.

- In the fall of 2012, Diane Packman began teaching a monthly cooking class called Ess and Fress that invited people of all ages to try their hand at cooking Jewish holiday recipes.
- Lisi Weinstein introduced Yoga classes that meet twice a week, offering an opportunity for people to flex their physical and mental muscles in the safety of the Temple community.
- Debbie Schultz and Jennifer Patchin created the Lilith Readers, a monthly women's book club that has attracted a wide range of women each month to read and review books with a Jewish bent.

Co-Chairs: Bob Schnurman and Jeff Wilson

Staff Liaison: Rabbi Michael Alper

Boy Scout Troop 11

This was a banner year in many ways for Boy Scout Troop 11. In 2012, 64 percent of our scouts achieved advancement, while 40 percent is the norm for most troops. Four of our scouts achieved the rank of Eagle, the highest rank a scout can attain. At our fall Court of Honor, the scouts earned a total of 108 merit badges. The Boy Scout Council has told us that this is a record number of badges for a troop of our size. We will end the year with 25 scouts and anticipate five joining in February 2013.

All of our adult leaders have completed Youth Protection Training and other training required for their respective positions in the Troop.

We conducted 11 short-term campouts, nine of them at the Edison Center in Silex, Missouri and two long-term camps, one in Illinois and one in Missouri.

The troop participated in four service projects this year, including assisting with the annual Thanksgiving Dinner at Temple Israel.

We are grateful to Temple Israel for providing us a home and for the support we receive from the congregation's leadership.

Chair: James Rothberg



Crafting For Community

Mission Statement

We are an adult crafting group that strives to:

- Provide a casual, fun, supportive and stimulating environment for creativity and friendship to thrive.
- Pursue craft projects that support and benefit our TI community (e.g. participate in the TIFTY Purim Carnival with our own booth, involve a Religious School class's help with a craft project benefiting needy kids or animals; making cards for our Rabbis to leave with patients in the hospitals they visit or send to our young adult children away at college, or for Pamela Dern to send to congregants who are sick at home and needing an emotional boost).
- Work on craft projects to support some of our area's local charities and needy populations.

In 2012, Crafting for Community met two Sunday mornings per month, Sept.-May, and two Tuesday evenings per month, June-Aug. We welcome people with all levels of experience to our group and teach anyone interested in learning a new craft (e.g. basic knitting, crocheting, needle pointing, weaving, origami, card making techniques, etc.), so they can create an item for charity along with us. We also welcome donations of handmade items from congregants who prefer to work at home. These items are added to those made at our group sessions and are given to the charities selected by our group.



Additionally, we work on our own personal projects for ourselves, our families and friends.

It's truly exciting and rewarding to see the many beautiful things that we've created together and to think about the large number of people whose lives we've touched in a positive way this past year!

2012 Projects:

January: We focused on making cards for cancer patients at Barnes-Jewish Hospital by donating ours to Card Care Connection.

February: We prepared for our "Make Your Own Crown" booth at TIFTY's Purim Carnival on March 4. At the carnival, we helped children become Kings and Queens for the day by helping them craft origami crowns to be folded and decorated with gems and markers.

September-April: We sponsored a Temple-wide used T-shirt drive. The many shirts we collected were upcycled to create fashionable, fun scarves at our Mega Mitzvah Day on May 6. TIFTY donated some particularly awesome tie-dyed shirts that lent their bright rainbow colors to many cheerful scarves! Cutting the t-shirts into strips to create scarf-making kits was a monumental job – well beyond the scope of our twice a month crafting meetings. We added additional meeting times and recruited Religious School students and other volunteers to complete this project.

May: The Gathering Place was buzzing with activity on Mega Mitzvah Day as individuals and families alike created two styles of scarves made from the T-shirts. By the end of the day 37 scarves were completed! The scarves, each with a hand-crafted gift tag, were donated to The Kathy J Weinman Shelter for victims of domestic violence. Additional scarves made by our group were donated to Lydia's House, a shelter for abused women, and the Jewish Family & Children's Service.



June, July and August: Our Tuesday evening summer meetings were devoted to mostly working on personal projects and gifts.

September: We resumed our Sunday morning sessions and focused on knitting and crocheting quilts, hats and booties for babies, with an emphasis on preemies.

October-November: We created delicate, contemporary, paper-cut holiday note cards, inspired by the traditional European Jewish paper-cuts that are so exquisite. We created 66 Chanukah cards that were distributed to U.S. Jewish military serving in three locations in Afghanistan. We were very touched when we received a thank you e-mail from one of these soldiers via TI's website!



December: We continued making items for babies and preemies. We also received a donation of several adorable hats from a congregant knitting at home. The two quilts, 11 hats, and 10 pairs of booties we created will be donated to Newborns In Need in 2013.

Chair: Jody Chassin

Staff Liaison: Rabbi Amy Feder

Committee Members: Rose Ann Feldman, Carla Feuer, Rita Freed, Susan Goodman, Jan Helfrich, Amy Lampert, Betsy Mehlman, Nancy Nix-Rice, Jackie Schallert, Rosanne Tessler.

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 to set policy for and to promote the preschool and camps of Temple Israel. This leaves the DECC Parent Committee free to focus on its primary roles of fundraising, volunteering in the school, coordinating room parents, and creating a social bond within the DECC community.



The 2012-13 school year marks Leslie Wolf's fourth year as director of the Deutsch Early Childhood Center. We saw additional growth this year with our current enrollment at 179 students. With the addition of even more preschool space in the building and new staff to support the growth, the DECC committee has concluded that we are at capacity (approximately 180 students) for our current space. In the past, we had predicted 150 as our maximum capacity. Enrollment trends for the last four years were 42 for the 2009-2010 school year, 103 for the 2010-2011 school year, 145 for the 2011-2012 school year, and 179 for the 2012-2013 school year.

Additional program highlights and achievements this year:

- The DECC continues 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 15 children who utilize these extended hours fulltime.
- DECC offers unique flexibility in the hours and programs available to our students. This flexibility continues to be a huge draw for the parents and students. Several area early childhood centers have looked to our model to implement changes at their preschools.
- DECC continues to promote our Project Construct curriculum to the parents and staff and has an in-service training scheduled for teachers second semester.
- Rabbi Feder began teaching Torah to our preschool students.
- There have been several new teachers hired to address the growing population at DECC, including a new music enrichment teacher beginning second semester.
- Afternoon enrichment opportunities offered this year include Hi NRG Gymnastics, theater, art, karate, science, cooking and music.
- The Dial 4 Developmental Screenings are ongoing for children 3 years 2 months and older.

- To accommodate our growing enrollment, a new office, several new classroom spaces, a shared art room with the religious school and a teacher resource area have been added. DECC now occupies the majority of the main floor of the education building, the lower level, and a shared art room on the second floor.
- DECC added new touch screen computers to the classrooms this year. Teachers and students are using and enjoying them.
- Tot Shabbats continue to be well attended by DECC families on the first Friday night of each month.
- The DECC office manager, director, and committee are in the process of choosing and updating our billing software to meet the needs of the school.
- A new classroom for 18-24 month-old children will open second semester and occupy the old art room.
- The Rabbi Mark and Carol Shook Camp had nearly 200 preschool-age campers in the summer of 2012. The camp offered more programming and flexibility including four, two-week sessions and the option of Dynamite Days during the weeks between school and camp for our fulltime students.
- Leslie Wolf continues to oversee the Jewish Parents as Teachers (JPAT) program. JPAT 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) 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. JPAT is made possible, in part, by grants from the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), the Gladys K. Crown Foundation and Rich Fund of the Jewish Federation of St. Louis, and the Kranzberg Foundation.
- Leslie Wolf presented on JPAT at the National Parents as Teachers Conference in November at St. Louis Union Station.

DECC statistics for 2012:

179 students enrolled (136 families)
 35 teachers and 12 classrooms plus a Parent/Child class of 16
 33 families (24%) are TI members; compared to 26% in 2011-12.
 64 families (47%) are unaffiliated; compared to 49% in 2011-12
 39 families (29%) are affiliated elsewhere; compared to 25% in 2011-12
 10 families (7%) are not Jewish

Chair: Jennifer Deutsch

Executive Committee Liaisons: Carol Cohen and Dee Mogerman

Staff Liaison: Leslie Wolf, DECC Director

Committee Members: Mindi Loebner (Teacher Representative), Susan Kemppainen, Gail Kitsis, Angela Sandler, Julie Sandler, Emily Wallis, Rabbi Amy Feder and Rabbi Michael Alper.

Development Committee

125th Anniversary Fundraising

Our fundraising efforts for 2012 centered on our 125th anniversary commemoration. Thanks to the generosity of our 125th anniversary year sponsors and donors, and our Birthday Bash Weekend advertisers, underwriters, and guests, we raised \$143,761 for the Temple, far exceeding our goal of \$125,000. Many dedicated volunteers devoted countless hours to make this year so successful. Special thanks go to Carol Cohen and Marcie Kalina, 125th Anniversary Co-Chairs; Natalie Handelman, Judy Harris, and Marcia Pass, Birthday Bash Co-Chairs; Evie Bernstein, Hui Hua Bernstein, and Karen Comensky, Voices of the Future Shabbat Co-Chairs; and Judy Lewis, Birthday Bash Advertising and Underwriting Chair.

Capital Fundraising / Livnot Campaign

Addressing our aging facility remains a priority. The economy and the need to raise additional substantial capital funds present major challenges. Pledge payments are still being received for the Livnot Campaign and continue to be set aside in a segregated account to be used for facility needs.

Ongoing Fundraising

Both congregants and non-members have been using our Temple Israel website to send tributes, purchase scrip, and make other donations online. From October 2011-September 2012, our first year with online giving capabilities, we have received 93 separate donations via our website. Almost half of the donations came from non-members. A total of \$4,867 was received through online giving, representing an average gift of \$52.33. We continue to market our online giving capability.

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 and Executive Committee Liaison: David L. Weinstein, M.D., Immediate Past President
Staff Liaison: Carol Wolf Solomon, Director of Development & Communications



Facilities Committee

Our aging facility continues to need mechanical replacements, and like many facilities of this age, it is showing more signs of wear each year. This past year we have had numerous leaks within our heating system and made repairs to the heat exchangers, supply, and return lines as well as repairing valve problems. We also had repairs to the air handlers and chillers over the summer.

Within the kitchen we have had to repair the dishwasher, its water heater booster and the ice machine. We have repaired windows, roofs, drains, pumps, signs and numerous other smaller items which tend to break continually.

One positive note in our maintenance budget was the additional need to renovate several underutilized classrooms, including adding some additional air conditioning units, to accommodate our expanding Camp and Preschool enrollment.

We are lucky to have Derrick Bryant and his fine maintenance team. Their kind, courteous and attentive actions help to make our facility useful for the multiple varied programs we are pleased to present.

Chair: Ted Greenberg

Executive Committee Liaison: David Chassin

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



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 to protect our reputation in the community.

2012 Accomplishments:

- Provided legal counsel and recommended modified employment practices.
- Ensured job descriptions and the organizational chart are updated to reflect changes.
- Followed up with Eli Montague regarding completion of annual performance reviews for all full time employees.
- Developed a Supervisor Handbook and distributed it to supervisors.
- Conducted training sessions for supervisors on:
 - Constructive Feedback
 - Use of Supervisor Handbook
 - Best practices in interviewing applicants for open positions and ending employment

In 2013 we will continue to ensure that the current Employee Handbook is updated to reflect necessary changes and will schedule additional supervisor training.

Chair: Rachel Andreasson, Chair

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

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

Investment Committee

The role of the Investment Committee is to safeguard the investable assets of the Temple, provide income for current Temple services and needs, and to provide growth of the portfolio. To achieve these objectives, the Investment Committee of Temple Israel has delegated the investment of the funds of the endowment to a Professional Investment Advisor. I am pleased to report that all of the stated objectives of our current investment policy were met in 2012. In addition, in 2012 the Investment Committee began a review process of the current adopted Investment Policy Guidelines. We ended the year with by initiating a review of the investment policies and procedures of the operating funds of the Temple.

As 2012 comes to a close, the Endowment account has had close to an 11% return. Most of the gains occurred in the first and third quarter of the year with the portfolio up 6.5% and 4.5% respectively. With the elections over, the markets are now focusing on the budget battle, the European Debt crisis and the changing Middle East. On top of this, the Federal Reserve has promised to keep interest rates low for the foreseeable future. We should expect this to continue to be a very volatile climate for investments, both good and bad.

To help limit some of the risk, our current Investment Policy caps the Equity (Stock) part of our portfolio to no more than 60% of assets invested. Bonds make up the remaining 40% of the portfolio with a small portion of this in money markets.

The current allocation of the portfolio is as follows:

- 1.50% Cash and money markets
- 52.00% Equities (Stocks)
- 43.50% Fixed Income (Bonds)
- 3.00% Alternatives (Gold and Commodities)

Chair: Joshua Reichman

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

Committee Members: Dr. Arthur Auer, Ellen Brin, Jack Deutsch, Rabbi Amy Feder, Doris Fishman, Gary Follman, Milton Fry, Cathy Goldsticker, Ted Greenberg, Neil Handelman, Jerry Levy, Lou Loebner, Al Melman, Andrew Reiter, Diana Rothbarth, Jeremy Shook, and Neil Wolfman

Israel Engagement Committee

During 2012 the Israel Engagement Committee continued to engage the congregation with the land and people of Israel.

In March, we presented our 5th Annual Israeli Film Festival. There was an outstanding discussion 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 films. This event was co-sponsored with *Bayit Israeli*. Mark your calendars for the 2013 Israeli Film Festival on March 10, where we will screen two more great Israeli films, *Footnote* and *Schwartz Dynasty*.

The committee also sponsored a program on December 11, 2012, when Rabbi Nir Barkin from Congregation YOZMA in Modi'in Israel presented a talk on modern day Reform (Progressive) Judaism in Israel.

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 2012 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 Israel related activities and events within the greater St. Louis Jewish community.

Chair: Rob Litz

Staff Liaison: Rabbi Michael Alper

Committee Members: Patty Bloom, 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, Ron Scharff, Bob Schnurman, Audrey Shanfeld, and Adam Wallis.

Legal Committee

The legal committee reviews various miscellaneous contracts submitted to the Temple for services, equipment, and purchases. In 2012 the primary focus of the committee was working with the Endowment Task Force to review the Temple's Endowment Fund and its restricted components. Recent Missouri statutes provide requirements for the administration of special and restricted funds which are established as endowments. The legal committee provided the research and recommendations to make certain that these statutes, as well as the Temple's constitution, are followed. Jeremy Shook was particularly helpful and provided careful and extensive research on these issues. The result was revisions to the Endowment Fund, approved by the Board, which complied with all applicable laws.

Chair: Merle Silverstein

New Mt. Sinai Cemetery Association

New Mt. Sinai Cemetery is co-owned by Congregations Temple Israel, B'nai El and Shaare Emeth. All Temple Israel members are members of the New Mt. Sinai Cemetery Association. The cemetery is conveniently located at 8430 Gravois Road. More than 11,000 people are interred in single graves, family lots, and in the Community Mausoleum at New Mt. Sinai. The cemetery is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Members of Temple Israel are entitled to significant discounts on pre-need sales of property, and the Temple receives a percentage of all sales of cemetery property to its members. (The Temple received more than \$1,000 in 2012). New Mt. Sinai permits the burial of non-Jewish family members at the cemetery and also offers burial or entombment of cremated remains. The Community Mausoleum is available for funeral or memorial services.

Each year, a Memorial Service is held in the Mausoleum during the High Holy Days, remembering those who passed away and were buried at New Mt. Sinai during the past year. We also hold annual ceremonies with Cub and Boy Scouts honoring all the veterans interred in the cemetery.

On a sad note, Bill Eiseman, Jr., a beloved member of Temple Israel who served for more than 40 years on the Board of New Mt. Sinai, including as President from 1983-1990, died this year and was entombed at New Mt. Sinai. Bill was a fervent supporter of New Mt. Sinai, and his passion for the cemetery was well known. Bill's son, Jim, has agreed to join the Board of the cemetery association.

The following Temple Israel members passed away in 2012 and were interred at New Mt. Sinai: Helen Goldsticker, Anna Brown, Leigh Strassner, Zella Esrock, Irene Rifkind, and Bill Eiseman, Jr.

If you wish to discuss purchasing property at New Mt. Sinai, or want to arrange a private tour, contact the Executive Director Daniel Brodsky at 314-353-2540 (office), 314-504-3302 (cell) or danielbrodsky@newmtsinaicemetery.org.

Cemetery Association Chair: Neil Handelman

Association Members: Jim Eiseman, Robert Epstein, Louis Loebner (Treasurer), Norman Roth (Secretary), Randall Scherck, and Sanford Silverstein

Temple Israel Life Members: Robert Meyer, Robert Wegusen (z"l) and William Eiseman, Jr. (z"l).

Public Relations / Communications

Most of our PR/Communications efforts for 2012 were devoted to promoting Temple Israel's 125th anniversary events and activities. Our deepest thanks go to congregants Nancy Wilkerson-Kreinberg and Donna Wilkerson-Light of Art-bi-2 Creative visuals, who graciously donated their graphic design talents to create our 125th anniversary logo, as well as all event invitations, service booklets, commemorative programs, and advertisements.

Congregants and visitors are taking advantage of our interactive website, www.ti-stl.org, to make tribute donations, update contact information, register for events, and more. We continue to promote the website in our monthly *Dateline* newsletter, in our weekly e-newsletter, and on Facebook. We are grateful to congregant Kathy Ortals, who recently volunteered to administer our Temple Facebook page. Her daily posts are keeping congregants up-to-date on the latest Temple happenings. If you haven't done so already, be sure to "Like Us" at www.facebook.com/templeisraelstlouis.

Thanks to the continued efforts of our Director of Development and Communications, Carol Wolf Solomon, the Temple received excellent press coverage in 2012 for our 125th anniversary events, Deutsch Early Childhood Center, Jewish Parents as Teachers program, and more in the *Jewish Light* and in secular publications including the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, *Ladue News*, *Town & Style*, and *Creve Coeur Patch*.

Thanks to a generous donation to the Temple's Broadcast Fund, we continued to provide 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 listen to worship services by phone or online through our website, www.ti-stl.org.

At the end of 2012 we mourned the loss one of our dedicated volunteers, Susan Irgang. Susan took great pride in assembling impressive scrapbooks of press clippings and photos of Temple programs. She could also be counted to pitch in and work on any Temple event. She will be missed by all of us at the Temple.

Chair: Carla Feuer

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 228 families and individuals represent more than 44% 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.

Rabbi's 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 - \$3,960; Teruah - \$3,440; Shevarim - \$2,990, and Tekiah - \$2,600. For the coming year, Shofar Society levels were re-aligned to represent a 15% differential above standard dues, with each subsequent level adjusted to be 15% above the one below.

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 October 2012. 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 October 2012)

RABBIS' CIRCLE - HILLEL

Marilyn & Sam Fox

RABBIS' CIRCLE - AKIBA

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

Rita Eiseman
Judy & Ira Gall
Judy & Richard Glassman
Joyce & Morton Green
Esther & Earl Kessler
Howard Lesser

Susan & Irving Levy
Judith & Jerome Levy
Joy & Albert Melman
Dee & Cary Mogerman
Barbra Horn & Peter Weiss

TEKIAH GEDOLAH

Elaine & Harold Blatt
Terry & Gordon Bloomberg
Susan & Allan Epstein
Dorothy & William Firestone
Helen & Kenneth Goldstein
Sandra Greenberg
Natalie & Neil Handelman

Linda Hyken
Joan & Eugene Kraus
David & Jayne Langsam
Frances & Gary Lazaroff
Madhavi Kandula &
Mitchell Platin
Lisa Ring & Gregory Storch

Hildegard & Herman
Rochman
Maurine & Mahlon Rubin
Lynn Wallis
Kimberly & Brett Wolff

TERUAH

Audrey & Leonard Adreon
Marilyn & Donald Blum
Monique & Burt Bromberg
Judith & David Capes
Carol & Edward Cohen
Rand Dankner
Lee & Eugene Deutsch
Marni & Jeremy Deutsch
Ellen & Henry Dubinsky
Lotta & Jeff Fox
Esther Frank
Bettie Gershman

Lois & Alan Goldberg
Dorette & Edward Goldberg
Abby & Joel Goldberg
Susan K. & Paul Goldberg
Karole & Thomas Green
Ruth & Walter Gusdorf
Alice & Howard Handelman
Frieda Handelman
Barbara & Norman Hausfater
Nancy Kalishman
Karen & Harry Knopf
Susan & Richard Kofkoff

Linda & Jerome Kraus
Constance Levy
Elizabeth & Larry Linkon
Loren & Kenneth Ludmerer
Wendy & Mark Ludwig
Ricki & Neil Marglous
Heather & Jay Padratzik
Lynne Kipnis & Steven
Rothman
Marcelyn & Merle Silverstein
Martha & Leonard Weinstock
Barbara & Norman Wielansky

SHEVARIM

Anonymous
Martha & David Aronson
Charline Baizer
Joy & Fred Balis
Hui Hua & Keith Bernstein
Patricia & Robert Bernstein
Susan & Robert Bernstein
Elaine & Eric Bly
Ellen & Robert Brin
Jennifer & Jonathan Deutsch
Karen Berry Elbert &
Charles Elbert
Robin & Gary Feder
Pepe & Terrence Finn
Doris Fishman
Susan & Edward Fliesher
Eleanor & Milton Fry
Sheila Stanton &
David Geddes
Laura Kipnis &
Sidney Goldstein

Claire Schenck &
Richard Greenberg
Dolores Heller
Mary & Morris Joftus
Marcie & Dale Kalina
Eleanor Withers &
Ralph Kalish Jr.
Barbara & David Kantrovitz
Susie & Rik Knopf
Nancy & Mark Kodner
Minnette & Joe Liberman
Lynne & Michael Lippmann
Felice & Michael Lowenbaum
Deborah & Marshall Manne
Joyce & Arthur Margulis
Leslie & Steven Melnick
Sallie & Donald Mogerman
Jean Schaffer & Daniel Ory
Frala & Aaron Osherow
Joyce & Jules Pass
Marcia & Robert Pass
Jan & Ronald Pass

Dana & Troy Pohlman
Judith & Paul Putzel
Aileen & Melvin Rabushka
Karen & David Raskas
Caryn & Bruce Sandweiss
Avery Seidel
Jennifer & Walter Shifrin
Noma Simon
Karen & David Smoller
Nancy & Robert Spewak
Lecie & Richard Steinbaum
Dorothy & Arnold Tepper
JoAnne Levy &
Jim Thomeczek
Sarah & Chad Wallis
Elizabeth & David Weinstein
Marlita & Stuart Weiss
Linda & Stephen Wielansky
Joan & Howard Wittner
Richard Wolfheim
Bella Woolf
Bonnie & Myron Zwibelman

TEKIAH

Anonymous
Sandra & Robert Aisenfeld
Stewart Albert
Robin & 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
Beth & David Deutsch
Carolyn & James Eiseman
Jody & Preston Fancher
Barbara & Fred Flegel
Joyce & Gary Follman
Sarijane & Michael Freiman
Elaine & Charles Fremder
Mary Ellen & Robert Freund
Amy & Burton Garland, Jr.
Susan & Leonard Gaum
Janis & Rand Goldstein
Cathy & Robert Goldsticker
Laura & Edward Greenberg
Jan & Ronald Greenberg
Amy Knoblock-Hahn &
Robert Hahn
Gary Handelman
Judy & Harvey Harris
Laura & David Herman
Myrna & Arnold Hershman
Suzanne & Theodore
Hoffman
Linda & Philip Horwitz
Cindy & Shep Hyken
Helane & Warner Isaacs
Jodi & Michael Kaplan

Emily Evans Kline & Lee
Kline
Barbara & Ira Kodner
Lisa & Richard Kraner
Anita & Kenneth Kraus
Alyson & Greg Levine
Lois Levin
Susan & Robert Levin
Karen & Mont Levy
Judy & Arthur Lewis
Elayne & David Lieberman
Judith & David Lipsitz
Nancy Rice & Rob Litz
Melanie & Tom Litz
Carole & Louis Loebner
Carolyn & Joseph Losos
Louise Losos
Shelley Marglous
Dorothy Meyerson
Jill Silverstein &
Jonathan Mills
Leslie Nackman
Dolores Newport
Jan Nykin
Linda & Herbert Palans
Cheryl & Laurence Perlstein
Helen & Raymond Robinson
Anne & David Rosenberg
Mary & Robert Rosenblum
Michele & Norman Roth
Diana & James Rothbarth
Cathy & Marcos Rothstein
James Schiele
Laurence Schiffer
Carol Rubin &
Howard Schlansky
Susie & Robert Schulte
Lauren & John Schwab
Joanne & Daniel Schwartz
Helen & Julian Seeherman
Deborah & Bradley Shanker
Elizabeth & Jeremy Shook
Joseph Silverman
Nancy & Richard Singer
Sandra & Arnold Spirtas
Helen & Cary Stolar
Jane & Mark Tucker

Susie & Jason Turkin
Tamalyn Martens &
Steven Turner
Rita & Scott Waldman
Jane & Richard Wasserman
James Wedner
Bobby Sanderson &
David Weiss
Barbara & Edward Weiss
Bonnie & Howard Weiss
Diane & Michael Weiss
Karen & David Weller
Suzanne & Robert Yawitz

Strategic Planning

In early 2012 we embarked upon a process to update Congregation Temple Israel's strategic plan. Our prior plan had been the result of two to three years of work culminating in the strategic plan that was adopted in August 2005.

I am pleased to report that a new strategic plan was drafted by June and was unanimously approved and adopted by the Board of Trustees at its retreat in August 2012. Creating the plan in such a short period of time was due to the incredible effort and dedication of many congregants who participated in the project, the hard work of Rabbi Feder, Rabbi Alper, Eli Montague, Carol Wolf Solomon and the guidance of Brian Hayden, our outside consultant and facilitator from Collaborative Strategies, who kept us focused and on-task. The strategic plan core team members were:

- Rob Aronson
- Jennifer Deutsch
- Carla Feuer
- David Geddes
- JoAnne Levy
- Merle Silverstein
- David Weinstein
- David Chassin
- Ron Falkoff
- Milton Fry
- Susan Goldberg
- Liz Linkon
- Adam Wallis
- Michael Weiss

From our initial work we developed a picture of a desired future and identified four principal areas on which we need to focus to get us there. These priorities were Value of Membership to ensure that we are providing our members and prospective members with the programming and services that they need and desire; Re-invigorating the Religious and Hebrew Schools; Evaluating and Updating our Organizational Structure for enhanced efficiency and sustainability; and Addressing our Facility Needs and their related costs. More than 30 congregants worked to develop action plans to address these priorities. These action plans formed the substance of our strategic plan, which will provide us with a road map for the next five years.

Articles on each priority will be published in the *Dateline* to provide our congregants with insight into the strategic plan, and implementation committees are being formed to keep us moving in the right direction far into the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Weiss
Vice President – Strategic Planning

Synagogue Community (Membership) Committee

In 2012, the 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.

The 125th anniversary of the congregation and the associated events celebrating this milestone provided an excellent catalyst for engaging new members. Membership Committee members each volunteered to contact new member families, welcome them to Temple Israel and invite them to upcoming events.

In February, Darcy and Ron Scharff hosted an interfaith discussion group to engage this important constituency in our community. It was very successful and hopefully will be a catalyst for things to come in 2013.

In August, the Membership Committee hosted the first open house that Temple Israel has had in a long time. Friday evening was more adult focused with a special pre-election sermon by Rabbi Feder on how to “vote Jewishly,” while Saturday was more family oriented with a pool party, grilled picnic-style food, and fun inflatable activity centers including a “jumpy-jump” and obstacle course. Committee members helped both in planning the weekend and in attending the events to engage prospective members young and old.

The addition of Membership and Development Coordinator Amanda Radman to the Temple staff was certainly a significant event for the Membership Committee. While Judy Lewis left big shoes to fill, Amanda has stepped in and brought not only her enthusiasm and engaging personality, but also creativity and new ideas, including the suggestion to have the aforementioned open house event. She has already contributed greatly to our congregation and our community and we are glad to have her on our team!

Chair: Jonathan Bloom

Staff Liaison: Amanda Radman, Membership and Development Coordinator

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

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. Below is a summary of our projects for 2012. We welcome new ideas and believe that together we do make a difference!

COVENANT HOUSE GROCERIES: Each month a volunteer purchases and sorts groceries for several Covenant House residents. Volunteers deliver these groceries to residents to ensure they have sufficient food for the month. We extend a heartfelt thank you to our team of fabulous and trusted volunteers led by Max Breadman.

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 are given to the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry and Hosea House.

COOKING MEALS: Volunteers brought prepared meals to the Temple to distribute to congregants who are ill or bereaved. We are hoping to expand this activity to cook meals and put them in our freezer to meet the needs of others.

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. Our garden was lovingly tended by adult volunteers, as well as children attending our preschool and camp. All vegetables harvested were donated to the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry and distributed to clients eager to receive this healthy produce. A warm thank you goes to Lois Perryman for her dedication and leadership with this project.

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. The very hot summer day didn't stop the walkers as our numbers grew from last year. Our Temple Israel volunteers also helped staff the Jewish Information Booth to provide festival-goers with information about the Jewish community.

FALL FESTIVAL: Our 125th Anniversary Fall Family Festival was enjoyed by all. The support of so many volunteers gave our festival an amazing array of activities.

HIGH HOLIDAY PERSONAL CARE ITEM COLLECTION: Our annual collection drive to benefit the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry was very successful. The Religious School, DECC and TIFTY all 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. A special thank you goes to Nancy Solomon for her passion and time, generously given year after year, to coordinate this special collection.

MEGA MITZVAH DAY: Last May's Mega Mitzvah Day held in conjunction with our 125th Anniversary year of celebration was such a tremendous success that we are already in the process of planning another Mitzvah Day this spring.

THANKSGIVING DINNER: Once again on the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving, we provided a traditional meal, entertainment and camaraderie for people in need, many of whom are elderly and need a place to celebrate the holiday. This year's dinner served 430 members of our community. Our sincere thanks go out to Sarah and Ron Falkoff for their passion in making this magnificent event a huge success. It couldn't happen without the amazing commitment from all the volunteers and dedicated Temple staff.

Chair: Pamela Dern, Vice President-Tikkun Olam

125th Anniversary Co-Chairs: Carol Cohen and Marcie Kalina

Staff Liaison: Rabbi Amy Feder

Committee Members: Rabbi Michael Alper, Martha Aronson, Evie and Marvin Bernstein, Linda and Ivan Blumoff, Max Breadman, Jody Chassin, Andy Cohen, Jeanne Ferman, Susie Fliesher, Bryson Hartranft, Adam Kalina, Louise Levine, Judy Lewis, Ben Manheimer, Jan Nykin, Lois Perryman, Stephanie Rhea, Caryn Sandweiss, Nancy Solomon, Rosanne Tessler, and Sandy Wasserman



Treasurer's Report – December 2012

The Temple continues to remain financially sound with continuing members (959 in 2011 and 948 in 2012), consistent dues income, strong fundraising results, controlled expenses, and healthy bottom line income. Net dues income is projected to be below budget by 3.4% but slightly higher than the previous year. Revenue could be stronger if more Temple members were not paying below standard level dues. We urge all members to contribute as much as they can to lessen the burden on those members paying standard dues or above. 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 belong to our Temple regardless of ability to pay.

Net income is projected to be \$48,000, as compared to \$37,000 for 2011 and to a 2012 budgeted deficit of \$35,000. These positive results are attributable to restructuring the tuition at the Deutsch Early Childhood Center and Rabbi Mark and Carol Shook Camp, which modified the scholarship program and revenue structure; strong results from our 125th Anniversary celebration, which continued from 2011; and a 9% decrease in 2012 projected expenses. Other positive changes include an increase in total assets, projected to be 6% higher than last year, and a decrease in liabilities projected to be down 34%, based upon October results. The 2012 total expenses are expected to be 8% less than prior year and 7% below the 2012 budget amount.

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

At the Board's direction, in partial repayment of inter-fund borrowings, \$2,313,454 was transferred from the Unrestricted Endowment Fund balance (Fund 4-001) to the General Fund at 3/31/2012.

It is with pleasure that we present this Treasurer's report which reflects strong finances. Be assured that our finances are being well managed to continue a strong tradition of fiscally responsible management.

Cathy Goldsticker
Treasurer

Diana Rothbarth
Assistant Treasurer

Worship Experience Committee

The Worship Experience Committee continued to work this year to provide a variety of meaningful services for our diverse congregation. On most Friday evenings Shabbat services begin at 6:30 p.m. with a pre-service Oneg Shabbat at 6:00 p.m. On the first Friday of each month, we have our Tot Shabbat at 6:00 p.m. and then conduct a more Classical-style service beginning at 7:30 p.m.

On Saturday mornings when our congregation is celebrating a Bar/Bar Mitzvah, which is most weeks, our Shabbat morning service takes place at 11:00 a.m. This fall we tried a new 9:00 a.m. service time on those Saturdays when there was no B'nai Mitzvah. This shorter, earlier service was well received and became a great transition to Rabbi Shook's 9:45 a.m. Bible Study Class. We are continuing to hold this earlier service on weeks when there is no B'nai Mitzvah.

The committee also implemented a few changes to the Yom Kippur afternoon service. In lieu of a responsive reading service in the Sanctuary, two study sessions were held in the May Chapel, led by Rabbi Shook and Jan Nykin. The congregation then returned to the Sanctuary and used the *Gates of Repentance* for the remainder of the Yom Kippur services.

Thank you to the Rabbis and the following committee members for their dedication and support of Temple Israel.

Chair: Amy Cohen

Executive Committee Liaison: Mike Weiss

Staff Liaison: Rabbi Amy Feder

Committee Members: Rob Aronson, Ellen Deutsch, Ed Goldberg, Karen Knopf, Harry Knopf, Nancy Kodner, Jerry Kraus, Amy Lampert, Judy Levy, Larry Linkon, Harry Offenbach (ז"ל), Barbara Sandmel, Debbie Schultz, Daniel Schwartz, Joanne Schwartz, Susan Stiefel, Lynn Wallis and Marlita Weiss.



Youth Activities Committee

The Youth Activities Committee oversees the activities of our congregation's youth, including Temple Israel Federation of Temple Youth (TIFTY), 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 creating and leading monthly Learner's Shabbats for the congregation, hosting family movie nights to benefit Camp Rainbow, and a membership recruitment program at Forest Park. TIFTY members also participated in Regional Chavurot in Denver, St. Louis, and Peoria, IL. More high school youth participated in TIFTY events this year, a great trend!

Leadership development is an integral part of TIFTY. Under the guidance of youth advisor Stephanie Rhea, the members of TIFTY are given the opportunity and support to initiate and lead the program events 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 (the theme this past January was a Beatles Shabbat) and monthly Learner's Shabbat services, TIFTY members participated in the High Holy Day services and led the Havdalah service at the conclusion of Yom Kippur. During the Mega Mitzvah Day last May, TIFTY held a blood drive through the American Red Cross that collected 39 units for local hospitals. TIFTY also hosts the Temple's annual Purim Carnival. All of the TI youth groups (5th-12th grade) came together for their annual November *mitzvah* program at Build-A Bear Workshop. The 32 participants made bears to donate to the Jewish Family and Children's Service. A special highlight of our fall programming was a trip to the City Museum with the other Reform youth groups in the St. Louis area.

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

TIFTY Board 5773: Tyler Andreasson, President; Alex Jacks, Programming Vice President; Michelle Stone, Social Action Vice President; Megan Dern, Religious and Cultural Vice President; Andy Cohen, Membership Vice President; Lee Goodman, Communications and Visuals Vice President; Kelsey Culp, Special Projects Coordinator; Emma Rehfeld and Rebecca Bloom, Song Leaders.

TI8

TI8, a youth program exclusively for 8th graders from St. Louis area Reform congregations, is in its second year. This program started as a direct result of the concern to keep our post-B'nai

Mitzvah youth engaged in Jewish life. The focus is on fun, informal Jewish activities that build identity, community, and learning. Our Temple Israel 8th graders hosted an event at Sports Fusion that attracted more than 60 participants. There are three other events planned with the other Reform Temples in the St. Louis community for this coming school year.

JYG

Our Junior Youth Group for students in grades 7 and 8 has also been successful. These post-B'nai Mitzvah kids welcomed the opportunity to participate in the monthly Learner's Shabbats and then go out to dinner together after the services. In November, JYG joined the other TI youth groups for the annual *mitzvah* program at Build-A-Bear workshop. JYG will participate in the upcoming NFTY Chavurah that will be hosted by United Hebrew in March 2013.

CLUB 56

Club 56 is our youth group for 5th and 6th grade students. Lounge nights after Hebrew Lab are a big hit this year for this age group. Each month a dozen or so kids enjoy hanging out together in the youth lounge over a pizza dinner. In November, our 5th and 6th graders also participated in the *mitzvah* program at Build-A-Bear workshop. More events are planned for the remainder of the 2012-2013 school years.

Chair: Jill Silverstein

Executive Committee Liaison: Carol Cohen

Staff Liaison: Rabbi Michael Alper

Youth Advisor: Stephanie Rhea

Committee Members: Carrie Goldwasser and Judy Jacks



Youth Education Committee

A highlight of the 2011-2012 school year was a Tu'B'Shevat and National Ice Cream for Breakfast Seder. Parents, students and guests were able to celebrate the seasons seder-style – winter with oranges and vanilla ice cream, spring with mango and mint chocolate chip ice cream, summer with grapes and strawberry ice cream, and fall with apples and chocolate ice cream. A good time was had by all. After the seder, parents attended special classes while their children completed their religious school schedule. The day also included a book fair with Passover Haggadahs and cookbooks and Jewish children's books.

March brought the always fun Purim carnival and celebration. In May we celebrated Education Shabbat with a special service and Oneg Shabbat honoring our volunteers, teachers and students. A special thank you goes to last year's Interim Education Coordinator, Adele Lewis, who tirelessly guided our Religious School during the 2011-12 school year.

The school year ended with a Mega Mitzvah Day celebrating the Temple's 125th anniversary. This event provided our Religious School community with an opportunity to give back to the Jewish community.

Over the summer, Marisa Reby was hired as our new Religious School Director. Additionally, the strategic planning education team approved the purchase of a new curriculum from the Institute for Southern Jewish Life (ISJL). Several teachers and staff members attended the ISJL's annual conference to jump start our implementation efforts. Temple Israel is the first congregation outside the South to use it. Our Religious School teachers have done a great job implementing this curriculum, and it has been enthusiastically received by teachers, students and parents.

Hours were revised for Religious School this year, allowing for more Hebrew to be taught on Sunday mornings. Additionally, a new "Hebrew Lab" was initiated on Tuesdays. Teachers are really noticing a difference in the students who attend Hebrew Lab.

The Religious School came together for an all-school Chanukah celebration on December 9 to make creative dreidels and Chanukah menorahs, sing songs, taste latkes, make cards for soldiers, play a trivia game and more. It was a great way to celebrate the holiday!

Co-chairs: Susan K. Goldberg and Sheri O'Gorman

Executive Committee Liaison: Dee Mogerman

Staff Liaison: Marisa Reby

Committee Members: Jeffrey Brown, Lauri Cearley, Carol Cohen, Charlie Cook, Beth Deutsch, Jennifer Deutsch, Julie Devine, Pepe Finn, Stephanie Greenberg, Brian Goldberg, Cary Goldwasser, Kerri Hartmann, Sally Heller, Judy Jacks, Kelley Keisch, Jonathan King, Liz Linkon, Loren Ludmerer, Dee Mogerman, Lori Ortals, Carol Rubin, Jill Silverstein, Sheri O'Gorman, Ron Scharff, Victoria Shuchart, Lael Simon, Karen Smoller, Linda Wielansky, and Stacy Wilson.