



Congregation Temple Israel

- A Voice for All Generations -

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2013
**ANNUAL
REPORT**

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2013 Temple Israel Leadership

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*Membership
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Congregation Temple Israel

- A Voice for All Generations -

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

Our inclusiveness shall be unqualified.

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

Our Judaism shall be living and nourishing to the soul.

We aspire for Judaism to be relevant, meaningful and 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

From Strength to Strength - President's Message

January 10, 2014



Congregation Temple Israel is strong. In that position, we have had and will continue to have choices. As I tell my children frequently, choices can be very challenging, but that sure beats the alternative: no choices. Having choices means we get to consider, influence, and determine our own future. What can be more exciting – and difficult? Sometimes, exercising choice requires a bit of *“holy chutzpah,”* but luckily, we at Temple Israel have always had that, as Rabbi Feder so eloquently reminded us at the High Holidays.

This past year, 2013, has been a perfect example. Because of our strength, Congregation Temple Israel had the opportunity to evaluate whether a merger with Congregation Shaare Emeth was our best future. The process of evaluation was exciting . . . and challenging. As you well know, both congregations concluded that a merger was **not** in our best interests, but in the process, Temple Israel learned about what makes us strong and what could be strengthened further. Those lessons fueled our recent update of Temple Israel's strategic plan.

Simultaneously with merger discussions, we faced another decision. This beautiful, but very large building is also in need of “strengthening.” Is this the building to carry us into the future? We decided that, regardless of the outcome of the merger conversations, we needed to replace the roof over our Gall Family Sanctuary and Isserman Auditorium. Fortunately, the project has come in under budget, which presented us with another decision point. Should we use this opportunity to engage in more *“holy chutzpah”* and renovate the interior of our sanctuary and social spaces? You told us what made the JCC space during the High Holidays appealing to you. It was new, different, fresh, bright, and felt more communal. Our renovation will mean that in addition to being dry, our worship and social spaces will be warmer, more welcoming, and brighter, with improved sound and more flexible and intimate spaces.

Making this aspect of our Rabbis' vision and our strategic plan a reality will make Temple Israel even stronger. It will improve the worship and social experience for our members and will help attract new members. It will give us spaces conducive to worship, learning and community. Please plan to join us late this summer when we re-dedicate our remodeled sanctuary, which will enhance and “strengthen” Temple Israel.

What else does the future of Temple Israel hold? Who knows? I can tell you that our congregation will continue to be strong and we will continue to have choices. I believe there are two keys to our future: We **must** have *“holy chutzpah”* and we **must** have strong leaders. So let me comment for a moment about your leaders.

When David Weinstein first approached me about becoming President of Congregation Temple Israel, I declined. When he approached me again, I declined again. When he approached me a third time (“Third time is the charm,” right?), I hesitated . . . and he was encouraged! Obviously, I ultimately agreed to become President, but you might wonder why I was hesitant. In retrospect, I was unsure if I had the strength for the job, if I could live up to my amazing predecessors, and if I would know how to help Temple Israel along its journey. Whether I **actually** met these expectations is for you to judge, but I am happy that I finally agreed to serve our congregation in this way.

Last year, I started looking for a President-Elect, someone who could guide Temple Israel further along its path. I have no doubt that I identified a strong leader in Dee Mogerman. She has the heart, the brains, and the strength to carry us into the future. Be kind to Dee – this is a hard job; and be supportive of her, for no matter how strong a President is, your **support** is critical.

This brings me to those who provided my support and strength these past three years. First – all of you, our wonderful Temple Israel members. Thank you for attending Temple events and services, for assisting our congregation through your donations of volunteer time and financial resources, for reading my e-mails and letters and our monthly *Dateline* and weekly e-newsletters. Without you, Temple Israel would not be a “family of families.”

Second, the Temple Israel Board of Trustees and Officers. We are so fortunate to have so many smart, caring, and generous congregants serving as Officers and as Board Trustees. During the past three years we have had long meetings, short meetings, contentious meetings, and smooth-flowing meetings... but NEVER boring meetings. At our meetings, questions are asked and leaders and staff are challenged. As a result, the very best decisions are made. I also want to specifically thank David Weinstein, who has set the bar very high for future Immediate Past Presidents.

Third, our Rabbis and staff. Our Rabbis and staff are our congregation's greatest strength. Our Rabbis and staff work hard to connect with all of our members – from our children and teens, our young adults and parents, our adult learners and worshippers, to our most senior of seniors. It has been humbling to serve as President with a new Senior Rabbi, the youngest ever in a congregation our size, and a new Rabbinic team, Temple Israel's first husband-wife team and one of very few in the country. I have gotten strength from them, and I hope they have also received strength from me. Our congregation will continue to be strengthened with Dee as our new President, working hand-in-hand with our Rabbis.

Finally, whatever strength I personally have comes from my family. My family set the example of getting strength and satisfaction from giving back and doing right. My goal was to set that example for my children and step-children. *L'dor v'dor* – from generation to generation. I simply could not have served as President without my husband, Jim, who lived with me through every single aspect of this Presidency, often without knowing many, or even any, details.

He was and is my strength, and I thank him for that.

So here we are – with merger discussions behind us, under a dry roof, with a thriving preschool, a refreshed strategic plan, and an improved financial picture. No more waiting to see if we merge with another congregation or leave this site. We are here. So what does 2014 hold for us? I only know that that 2014 will be exciting – and challenging – and a year in which Temple Israel continues to exert “*holy chutzpah*” and grow stronger.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of Temple Israel's journey from strength to strength.


President, Board of Trustees

Rabbis' Message



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 2013! It will also provide you with insight into our vision for the future of our congregation.

This was a year marked with significant accomplishments – including our incredible High Holy Day services at the JCC and the construction of a beautiful new roof over our Gall Family Sanctuary and Isserman Auditorium. It was also a year in which we took time for introspection -- to reflect on our strengths and our challenges as we engaged in merger conversations with Congregation Shaare Emeth and updated our Strategic Plan and vision for the future. You can be assured that we will continue to embrace the spirit of “*Holy Chutzpah*” as we chart our course for the future and ensure that Congregation Temple Israel continues to go “from strength to even greater strength.”

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

We continued to expand our adult learning offerings in 2013, providing a variety of opportunities to “Feed the Mind.... Nourish the Soul.”

Rabbi Alper continued his popular Lunch and Learn sessions focusing on Torah study and on Interfaith Texts and Topics. He also partnered with crafting maven Jody Chassin to offer a class in *Tallit* Making.

Rabbi Feder introduced Alef-Bet for Adults and an introductory Judaism for Beginners class.

Rabbi Shook presented a book talk and signed copies of his debut novel, *The Ezra Scroll*.

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.

Congregants have proven to be wonderful teachers and leaders as well. Debbie Schultz and Jennifer Patchin organized The Lilith Readers Book Club. Jan Nykin, M.Ed., LCSW, led two popular groups, Life in Transition and Exploring Life's Journey. Jody Chassin continued to lead our Crafting for Community group. Lisi Weinstein helped us limber up with her Yoga Plus class. Congregants continue to enjoy studying with our Rabbis on Sunday mornings during Religious School. Sunday Series offerings in 2013 included:

- The Jewish Response to Evil, led by Rabbi Alper
- God is a Four Letter Word, with Rabbi Feder
- Creating Spiritual Pathways through Music, with Rabbi Feder

Coming up in 2014 are Fact and Fiction in *The Ezra Scroll*, with Rabbi Shook and The Jewish Jesus, with Rabbi Alper.

Co-Chairs: Bob Schnurman and Jeff Wilson

Staff Liaison: Rabbi Michael Alper



Boy Scout Troop 11

The year 2013 has been one of growth and reorganization at Troop 11. We have a new Scoutmaster, Matt Fister, and we officially appointed Mike Hampton as our Director of Outdoor Activities. Joel Schwartz has taken the position of Eagle Coach.

Working with these three gentlemen and our Chartered Organization Representative, Art Silverman, we have expanded and enhanced the scouting experience for all of our boys.

The troop attended three summer camps this year. In addition to attending camps in Illinois and Missouri, a group of nine scouts and three leaders went to Camp Philmont in New Mexico, where they backpacked for 10 days in the wilderness and hiked a total of 83 miles.

We spent eight weekends camping at the Edison Retreat Center (ERC) in Silex, MO, and also camped three times at Beaumont Scout Reservation.

A major service project for Temple Israel was planned and executed by Eagle Scout candidate Jess Rothberg.

We have been working closely with Temple Israel Executive Director Eli Montague to lower the overhead costs at the ERC.

We also continue to make building repairs as necessary to enhance and maintain the facility.

Rank advancement has been exceptional. Three of our scouts will earn the rank of Eagle Scout this year. Membership is strong and we will welcome more boys in February.

We are grateful to Temple Israel for continuing to provide a home for Troop 11.

Committee 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. We pursue projects that support, benefit, and engage our TI community, as well as local charities and Jewish, U.S., and Israeli military personnel. In addition to working on charity projects, members are also free to work on personal projects. We welcome adults of all ages with a wide range of crafting interests and skill levels. Beginners are encouraged to come and need not be shy. We love to teach beginners!

We also happily accepted donations of handcrafted items from people who prefer to work at home.

Our group meets in The Gathering Place at the Temple twice a month - on Sunday mornings from 9:30-11:45 a.m. when Religious School is in session, and on Tuesdays evenings from 7:00-9:00 p.m. when there is no school.

2012 - 2013 Projects

This year, some of our time has been spent knitting and crocheting items, including tiny hats and booties for preemies that will be donated to Newborns In Need, and cuddly teddy bears for Precious Pals, a program for first responders to accidents, fires, etc., whenever children are involved and have been traumatized or injured and are in need of comforting.

We had a booth at the Temple's Purim Carnival for the second year in a row. We provided cute paper plate crowns for kids to make and decorate. Whatever proceeds were made went to support TIFTY.

We operated three stations at the Temple's Mitzvah Day on May 5, 2013:

- **Collage Note Cards** – We helped congregants create 68 note cards. Cards were given to the Temple's Tikkun Olam Committee to distribute to congregants in need of good cheer and to The Card Care Connection, a charity that sends handmade note cards to cancer patients.
- **Origami Station** – Our crafting crew taught adults and children how to make origami birds and fish for hanging mobiles. During several of our subsequent crafting meetings, we created three beautiful mobiles. One has been donated to the St. Louis Crisis Nursery. We are still looking for homes for the other two.
- **Rainbow Mural** - Everyone attending Mitzvah Day was invited to add their handprints to a very large rainbow mural. This mural was donated to Parc Provence to help residents “think happy thoughts.”

This fall, our group requested donations of buttons from TI congregants. We received several donations in response. The buttons will be used in future projects. In addition to facilitating the crafting meetings this past year, I taught a *Tallit* Making class with Rabbi Michael Alper. The six participants in the class each created a beautiful one-of-a-kind prayer shawl. Everyone found the class to be enjoyable, fun, informative, and meaningful.

Chair: Jody Chassin

Staff Liaison: Rabbi Amy Feder

Crafting Group Members: Rita Freed, Susan Goodman, Jan Helfrich, Jackie Schallert, and 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 2007 to oversee the Deutsch Early Childhood Center. Its purpose is to work with the DECC Director to set policy for and to promote the preschool and camps of Temple Israel. In turn, the DECC Parent Committee is then free to focus on its primary roles of fundraising, creating a social community, and coordinating room parents within the school.

The 2013-14 school year marks Leslie Wolf's fifth year as director of the Deutsch Early Childhood Center. Enrollment has increased to 190 students. Although it was determined by the committee last year that the enrollment capacity should be at 180, the preschool is utilizing space on the religious school floor to accommodate special classes such as art, music and Judaics. This has freed up space on the first floor and lower level for 13 classrooms within the preschool, one being a new class for 15-24 month-old children.

Enrollment trends for the past five years:

- 42 students in 2009-2010
- 103 students in 2010-2011
- 145 students in 2011-2012
- 185 students in 2012-2013
- 190 students in 2013-2014

Highlights from the DECC 2013 school year:

- The Brooke Fund, which provided funds for the family of one of our DECC teachers who was undergoing treatment from a serious medical condition, received \$1,700 in donations in January 2013 and \$6,000 in fall 2013. Parents were asked to contribute to this fund in lieu of the school's Annual Giving appeal to support scholarships for DECC.
- The school's Book Fair is now being held at Barnes and Noble, enabling DECC to receive a portion of the proceeds in cash rather than in books. The fair has been well attended the past two years and has provided a social, community-building activity in addition to fundraising. The Book Fair raised \$600.
- DECC's annual big fundraising event in spring 2013 was a Casino Night held at Temple Israel. The event grossed more than \$20,000. These funds are being used to update the nature center at the school, which provides students with a hands-on, experiential mode of learning about science and nature. The funds are also being used to purchase ongoing needed teacher tools and toys.
- Before and After school care continues to be offered by DECC. Care is available from 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.



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- DECC continues to offer flexible programming for all students. Parents have the opportunity to send their child to school as many days and hours as they wish, regardless of their child's age.
 - DECC provides quality, engaging, high-interest activities such as Art, Pre-K Theater, Little Warriors Martial Arts, Science and Cooking, Music, and Hi NRG Gymnastics through its enrichment program from 1:15-3:15 p.m.
 - DECC continues to use the Project Construct curriculum in all classrooms.
 - Several new teachers have been hired to address the growing population of DECC.
 - The Dial 4 Developmental Screenings are administered to all students ages 3 and older. This screening provides valuable information about each student's social, academic, motor, speech and language development. Each child's parents are invited to a conference with Leslie Wolf to discuss the results of the screening.
 - Tot Shabbat, held on the first Friday evening of each month, is promoted and well attended by DECC families. This program gives families a sense of Temple life and worship at Temple Israel, as well as an opportunity to socialize and enjoy Shabbat dinner with other school families.
 - DECC is currently undergoing the re-accreditation process.
 - Leslie Wolf has revitalized the Shabbat Parent program, which affords parents or other special loved ones the opportunity to visit their student's class and be a part of the DECC community for the Friday morning Shabbat celebration.
 - A parent's night was held at Ruth's Chris Steak House in the fall. This event was well attended and enjoyed by many parents.
 - An electronic survey was e-mailed to all DECC parents in May 2013.
The results were extremely favorable, with the vast majority of parents reporting being pleased with staff, curriculum, warmth of environment, and opportunities to get involved within the DECC community.

Chair: Julie Sandler

Executive Committee Liaison: Dee Mogerman

Staff Liaison: Leslie Wolf, DECC Director

Committee Members: Nina Bastow, Lizzie Berman, Jennifer Deutsch, Sarah Falkoff, Gail Kitsis, Lauren Murov, Angela Sandler, Abbey Small, and Amy Weiss



DECC Parent Committee

The Deutsch Early Childhood Center continues to flourish and is currently at capacity as far as the number of students.

In regards to fundraising in 2013, the Parents Committee hosted a Casino Night at Temple Israel in April that was a huge success. The event was attended by close to 100 people and grossed more than \$20,000. The night consisted of music, black jack, poker, roulette, a silent auction and a raffle for a two-night stay in Miami with airfare.

It was decided in the 2012-13 school year that we would do away with smaller fundraisers and focus on one big event each year. With this in mind, we had our first fall annual giving appeal in late 2012 and raised more than \$6,469, which is twice what we anticipated! Each family was asked to donate a minimum of \$18 per student, with different incentives for donors who gave more. Last year's fundraiser, Art Stamps, raised slightly more than \$800 and was significantly more work for parents. Funds raised from the 2012-13 school year went to help build the new DECC Nature Center and to replace flooring in some of the classrooms.

This fall year we held our school book fair at Barnes and Noble instead of having a Scholastic Book fair at DECC. Barnes and Noble donated 10 percent of all proceeds from that week to our school, which amounted to \$600 (more than we made through the Scholastic Fair). The book fair also served as a great community building event. We had crafts and story time for the students on Saturday morning and a Moms' Night during the week that featured author Curtis Sittenfeld discussing her new book, *Sisterland*. Parents and staff enjoyed the new format and thought that it worked well.

We have decided that because our school has grown so much, we would have one parent get together each fall and then smaller events by classroom. In February, we hosted a Moms' Night Out at Immerse, which more than 40 moms attended. Each parent was asked to donate a bottle of wine that was used at our Spring event. We had a school-wide Moms' Night out this past September at Ruth's Chris, which was a fun night for all. We had a turnout of more than 50 moms for this event. Room parents were encouraged to organize class nights out later in the fall, which have been well attended.

Throughout the year, our Teacher Appreciation Committee provides a special breakfast each month for the teachers to show our continued appreciation for them. All parents are asked to help bake and pick up food for these fun, themed breakfasts. The Teacher Appreciation Committee and Parent Committee Chairs also work together to provide breakfast and lunch for the teachers and staff during the December and May parent-teacher conferences.

Room Parents help organize class parties for Chanukah and Purim. We have also resurrected the weekly class Shabbat Parent, which has been well received. Each class asks parents to sign up at least once per semester to come into their child's class on Shabbat and read stories and help say the prayers. All parents are invited to attend the weekly Friday morning DECC Shabbat service with the Rabbis.

Evening Tot Shabbats are held on the first Friday of each month and are open to all families with preschool-age children. Most Tot Shabbats include snacks and/or dinner, wine, and activities.

Chairs: Nina Bastow, Lizzie Berman, Lauren Murov, and Abbey Small

Development Committee

The roof construction project, our High Holy Day services at the JCC, and the merger conversations with Shaare Emeth all presented challenges to our development and special event fundraising efforts in 2013.

Our amazing 125th anniversary year of celebration, which concluded with our Birthday Bash in November 2012, raised nearly \$144,000 for the Temple, far exceeding our goal of \$125,000. With the Birthday Bash taking place so close to year-end, our Temple leadership elected not to hold a major fundraising event in the summer of 2013, as had been our custom. We were fortunate to receive a very generous anonymous gift in 2013 to enable us to achieve our budgeted development goal.

With roof construction commencing over the summer and the High Holy Days arriving right after Labor Day in September, we focused on enhancing our annual High Holy Day Appeal to include a Patron campaign to help cover the cost of conducting our worship services at the JCC. Congregants responded generously and enthusiastically with donations totaling \$46,863.

In January 2013 we introduced a new ongoing fundraiser, the Temple Israel Wish List. In each month's *Dateline* newsletter and on our website we highlight opportunities for congregants to fund specific needs of the Temple. We have received nine donations in 2013 totaling \$4,340 to fund two Confirmation scholarships, two years of emergency phone service for our rabbis, a youth group event chaperone, a Pre-Oneg Shabbat, our Kol Nidre cellist, one year of Temple gifts to our B'nai Mitzvah students, and one month of Internet service.

Another of our ongoing fundraisers is our Temple Israel scrip program. By purchasing gift cards to Dierbergs, Whole Foods, and St. Louis Bread Company, and by obtaining a free eScrip community card for Schnucks, congregants and friends of Temple Israel can support the Temple by simply doing their regular shopping. Congregants can place a standing monthly order for gift cards that will be mailed to them the first week of each month, with the cost automatically charged to the credit card or bank account of their choice. Cards can also be purchased online, by mail, or by dropping by the Temple office during business hours.

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 Board Liaison: David L. Weinstein, M.D., Immediate Past President

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



Facilities Committee

The major work on the facility this year was the construction of a new roof over the Gall Family Sanctuary and Isserman Auditorium. I am pleased to report that the project came in on schedule and under budget. This, along with additional fundraising, will allow us to remodel the interior of both of these spaces during the coming year.

We experienced a significant loss from sewer back-ups in both the main and school building basements resulting from overcharged storm sewers and the creek on our property during an unusually severe storm. We were able to cover our losses through insurance and have finished replacing damaged areas in both facilities.

During the year, the preschool again expanded to meet growing enrollments. This required a moderate investment in lighting, flooring, air conditioning and life safety improvements in these spaces.

Unfortunately, our aging facility continues to experience various mechanical and system failures in addition to normal wear and tear. The Board of Trustees completed a revised strategic plan this past year which requires, in part, that we inventory all facility areas needing attention and set priorities for replacements and improvements in the next three to five years.

Chair: Ted Greenberg

Before



After





Congregation
Temple Israel

- A Voice for All Generations -

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.

2013 Accomplishments:

- Provided legal counsel, recommended modified employment practices, and reviewed Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) and its potential effect on Temple Israel.
- 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.
- Continued to ensure the current Employee Handbook and Supervisor Handbook are updated to reflect necessary changes.

Chair: Rachel Andreasson

Staff Liaison: Eli Montague, FTA, Executive Director

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

Investment Committee

This has been a very productive year for the Temple Israel Investment Committee. We successfully adopted and implemented a Short Term Investment Policy and we have amended our Long Term Investment Policy to allow for a higher allocation to equities. In 2013, the Temple's endowment was positioned for growth, and I am pleased to report to our members that the Endowment's returns exceeded our objectives, and those positive investment returns have contributed to the Temple's budget and construction projects.

As 2013 comes to a close, the Endowment account is up more than 12 percent year-to-date through November. Most of the gains occurred in the first and third quarter of the year with the portfolio up 4.5 and 4.65 percent respectively. In the coming year we are again positioned for growth in the Endowment from the equity markets. We will continue to review the Long Term Investment Policy to ensure that the Endowment investments are aligned with the mission of Temple Israel.

Chair: Joshua Reichman

Staff Liaison: Eli Montague, FTA, Executive Director

Committee Members: Art Auer, Ellen Brin, Jack Deutsch, Doris Fishman, Gary Follman, Milton Fry, Cathy Goldsticker, Ted Greenberg, Neil Handelman, Jerome Levy, Louis Loebner, Albert Melman, Andrew Reiter, Diana Rothbarth, Jeremy Shook, and Neil Wolfman

Israel Engagement Committee

During 2013 the Israel Engagement Committee continued to engage the congregation with the land and people of 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."

In March, we presented our 6th Annual Israel Film Festival where we screened *The Footnote* and *Schwartz Dynasty*. A wonderful light Israeli dinner was served between films. This event was co-sponsored with *Bayit Israeli*.

Mark your calendars for next year's Israeli Film Festival on March 30, 2014 for two more great Israeli films, *The Other Son* and *The Attack*.

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 2013 St. Louis Jewish Film Festival.

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

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 activities of the legal committee for this past year have been primarily the review, revision and approval of various contracts of a substantial nature, which the congregation was considering. These include contracts for the roof repairs, rentals for the High Holy Day services, and various Temple programs. Robert Epstein handled the construction contracts, an area in which he specializes. Burt Garland, Jr. assumed responsibility for employment issues. The committee did some preliminary legal research concerning the possible merger, and conferred with attorneys for Shaare Emeth, but this activity was aborted.

The congregation is involved in a surprising number of contracts from month to month, and Eli Montague, our executive director, is very meticulous about clearing legal issues with our committee.

Chair: Merle L. Silverstein

New Mt. Sinai Cemetery Association

Temple Israel co-owns New Mt. Sinai Cemetery along with Congregations B'nai El and Shaare Emeth. All members of Temple Israel are also members of the New Mt. Sinai Cemetery Association. New Mt. Sinai is located just minutes from the Temple. The cemetery is the final resting place for more than 11,000 people. New Mt. Sinai offers in-ground interment and is the only Jewish cemetery in St. Louis to offer a Community Mausoleum with both crypts for caskets and niches for cremated remains. New Mt. Sinai is the only Jewish cemetery in this area listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Temple Israel members receive significant discounts on pre-need purchases, and the Temple also receives a percentage of all sales of cemetery property to its members. We received more than \$1,100 in 2013. New Mt. Sinai permits the burial of non-Jewish family members and the cemetery also offers burial or entombment of cremated remains. The Community Mausoleum is available for funeral services or memorial services. Each year, a moving Memorial Service is held in the Mausoleum during the High Holy Days recalling those who passed away and were buried at New Mt. Sinai in the preceding year.

New Mt. Sinai has fared well in 2013. Burials were up significantly from the previous year, and investment portfolios increased tremendously over the course of the year. Property sales were sluggish early in the year, so we marketed the cemetery – not only to our owner congregations, but to the entire Jewish community. A promotion in the last quarter of the year resulted in a rush of sales at year-end. We conducted our annual Memorial Day ceremonies with Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts honoring all the veterans interred in the cemetery and our annual High Holy Days Memorial Service in the mausoleum. The moving service included meditative texts as well as vocal and instrumental music.

The following Temple Israel members passed away in 2013 and were interred at New Mt. Sinai: Harry Offenbach, Bella Woolf, Dr. Ervin Lipschitz, Albert Greenblatt, Dr. Ira Gall, Joan Rosenblum, Helene B. Keller, Eric Ross, Bernard Ross, Margaret Londy, Elizabeth Steiner Holden, Marshall Friedman, and John Thompson. They join all the other members of our congregation who have chosen New Mt. Sinai Cemetery to be their *Beit Chayim*.

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

Association Vice President: Neil Handelman

TI Association Members: David Eidelman, James Eiseman, Robert Epstein, Louis Loebner (Treasurer), Norman Roth (Secretary), Randall Scherk, and Sanford Silverstein



Public Relations/Communications Committee

In 2013 we continued to enhance our “brand” and the quality of our print and electronic communications. In January, thanks to generous increased support from *Dateline* advertisers, we were able to introduce a full color “wrapper” (front and back covers) to our monthly print newsletter at no cost to the Temple. Our goal now is to generate enough additional advertising revenue to enable us to print in full color throughout the *Dateline*.

Our deepest thanks go to congregants Donna Wilkerson-Light and Nancy (Wilkerson) Kreinberg of Art-bi-2 Creative Visuals, who generously continue to donate their graphic design talents and time to our *Dateline*, as well as other Temple publications including event invitations, worship service booklets, commemorative event programs, and advertisements.

The merger conversations with Congregation Shaare Emeth, our roof construction project, and our High Holy Day services at the JCC each provided public relations and communications challenges in 2013. We developed strategic communication plans for each, adopting a multi-channeled approach that kept congregants and the greater St. Louis Jewish community informed via our website and weekly e-newsletter, the *Dateline*, special publications such as our “Guide to the High Holy Days,” update letters to the congregation, and the submission of press releases to Jewish and secular media outlets.

We continue to develop our social media presence as a means of connecting with our members. We are grateful to congregant Kathy Ortbals, who does an exemplary job of administering our Temple Israel Facebook page. Her daily posts are keeping congregants up-to-date on the latest Temple happenings and are encouraging interactive dialogue.

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 continues to receive excellent press coverage of its events and programs in the Jewish Light and on the Jewish Federation’s Jewishinstlouis website, and in secular publications including the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, *Ladue News*, *Town & Style*, and *Creve Coeur Patch*.

Live audio streaming of all Shabbat and holiday services continued to be available to homebound congregants this year thanks to generous donations to the Temple’s Broadcast Fund. These broadcasts can be accessed by phone or online through our website.

Chair: Carla Feuer

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



- A Voice for All Generations -

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). Their generous gifts represent more than 44 percent of our annual revenue from synagogue support. On behalf of our entire Temple Israel family, we express our sincere gratitude for the generosity that our Rabbis' Circle and Shofar Society members show year in and year out.

The listing below reflects Rabbis' Circle and Shofar Society members as of October 2013.

RABBIS' CIRCLE

Hillel

Marilyn & Sam Fox

Akiba

Rachel & Thomas Andreasson	Judy & Richard Glassman	Joy & Albert Melman
June Bierman	Joyce & Morton Green	Dee & Cary Mogerman
Pamela & Michael Dern	Esther & Earl Kessler	Madhavi Kandula & Mitchell Platin
Ellen & Jack Deutsch	Howard Lesser	Barbra Horn & Peter Weiss
Hope & Julian Edison	Susan & Irving Levy	
Judy & Ira (z"l) Gall	Judith & Jerome Levy	

SHOFAR SOCIETY

Tekiah Gedolah

Susan & Allan Epstein	Linda Hyken	Hildegard & Herman Rochman
Sandra Greenberg	Frances & Gary Lazaroff	Lynn Wallis

Teruah

Audrey & Leonard Adreon	Ellen & Henry Dubinsky	Natalie & Neil Handelman	Heather & Jay Padratzik
Elaine & Harold Blatt	Lotta & Jeff Fox	Barbara & Norman Hausfater	Maurine & Mahlon Rubin
Terry & Gordon Bloomberg	Esther Frank	Nancy Kalishman	Caryn & Bruce Sandweiss
Marilyn & Donald Blum	Bettie Gershman	Karen & Harry Knopf	Marcelyn & Merle Silverstein
Elaine & Eric Bly	Lois & Alan Goldberg	Joan & Eugene Kraus	Martha & Leonard Weinstock
Monique & Burt Bromberg	Dorette & Edward Goldberg	Jayne & David Langsam	Marlita & Stuart Weiss
Judith & David Capes	Susan K. & Paul Goldberg	Elizabeth & Larry Linkon	Barbara & Norman Wielansky
Rand Dankner	Helen & Kenneth Goldstein	Felice & Michael Lowenbaum	Kimberly & Brett Wolff
Lee & Eugene Deutsch	Karole & Thomas Green	Loren & Kenneth Ludmerer	
Marni & Jeremy Deutsch	Ruth & Walter Gusdorf	Ricki & Neil Marglous	
Jennifer & Jonathan Deutsch	Frieda Handelman	Frala & Aaron Osherow	

Shevarim

Martha & David Aronson
Charline Baizer (*z"l*)
Hui Hua & Keith Bernstein
Susan & Robert Bernstein
Ellen & Robert Brin
Carol & Edward Cohen
Rita Eiseman
Karen Berry Elbert &
Charles Elbert
Robin & Gary Feder
Dorothy & William Firestone
Susan & Edward Fliesher

Mary & Robert Freund
Sheila Stanton &
David Geddes
Abby & Joe Goldberg
Claire Schenck &
Richard Greenberg
Alice & Howard Handelman
Barbara & David Kantrovitz
Linda & Jerome Kraus
Constance Levy
Lynne & Michael Lippmann
Wendy & Mark Ludwig

Leslie & Steven Melnick
Joyce & Jules Pass
Dana & Troy Pohlman
Aileen & Melvin Rabushka
David Raskas
Diana & James Rothbarth
Joanne & Daniel Schwartz
Avery Seidel
Jennifer & Walter Shifrin
Noma Simon
Karen & David Smoller

Nancy & Robert Spewak
Lecie & Richard Steinbaum
Dorothy & Arnold Tepper
JoAnne Levy &
Jim Thomeczek
Susie & Jason Turkin
Sarah & Chad Wallis
Elizabeth & David Weinstein
Linda & Stephen Wielansky
Richard Wolfheim

Tekiah

Anonymous (2)
Stewart Albert
Robin & Scott Alton
Gail & Murray Appelbaum
Faye Beth Baer-O'Byrne
Joy & Fred Balis
Susan & Barry Barber
Charles Baron
Jill & David Belsky
Marcia & Neil Bernstein
Patricia & Robert Bernstein
Patty & Jonathan Bloom
Linda & Ivan Blumoff
Janice & Lawrence Brody
Susan & Mark Bronson
Jody & David Chassin
Cheri & Ronald Chod
Amy Cohen
Kathy & Darryl Cohen
Carolyn & James Eiseman
Pepe & Terrence Finn
Doris Fishman
Barbara & Fred Flegel
Joyce & Gary Follman
Sarijane & Michael Freiman
Elaine & Charles Fremder

Eleanor & Milton Fry
Amy & Burton Garland, Jr.
Susan & Leonard Gaum
Cathy & Robert Goldsticker
Laura & Ted Greenberg
Jan & Ronald Greenberg
Amy Knoblock-Hahn &
Robert Hahn
Gary Handelman
Judy & Harvey Harris
Myrna & Arnold Hershman
Suzanne &
Theodore Hoffman
Linda & Philip Horwitz
Helene & Warner Isaacs
Dale & Marcie Kalina
Eleanor Withers &
Ralph Kalish, Jr.
Jodi & Michael Kaplan
Sally & Jonathan King
Susie & Rik (*z"l*) Knopf
Nancy & Mark Kodner
Lois Levin
Susan & Robert Levin
Alyson & Greg Levine
Karen & Mont Levy

Minette & Joe Liberman
Elayne & David Lieberman
Judith & David Lipsitz
Nancy Rice & Rob Litz
Carole & Louis Loebner
Carolyn & Joseph Losos
Louise Losos
Deborah & Marshall Manne
Shelley Marglous
Joyce & Arthur Margulis
Dorothy Meyerson
Jill Silverstein &
Jonathan Mills
Sallie & Donald Mogerman
Leslie Nackman
Dolores Newport
Jan Offenbach Nykin
Linda & Herbert Palans
Marcia & Robert Pass
Jan & Ronald Pass
Cheryl & Laurence Perlstein
Judith & Paul Putzel
Helen & Raymond Robinson
Mary & Robert Rosenblum
Michele & Norman Roth
Cathy & Marcos Rothstein

James Schiele
Laurence Schiffer
Carol Rubin &
Howard Schlansky
Susie & Robert Schulte
Helen & Julian Seeherman
Deborah & Bradley Shanker
Elizabeth & Jeremy Shook
Joseph Silverman
Sandra & Arnold Spirtas
Helen & Cary Stolar
Lisa Ring & Greg Storch
Jane & Mark Tucker
Tamalyn Martens &
Steven Turner
Rita & Scott Waldman
Jane & Richard Wasserman
Pat & James Wedner
Bobby Sanderson &
David Weiss
Barbara & Edward Weiss
Bonnie & Howard Weiss
Diane & Michael Weiss
Karen & David Weller
Suzanne & Robert Yawitz

Synagogue Community (Membership) Committee

In 2013, the Temple Israel Synagogue Community Committee spent the year focusing on creating a positive buzz about Temple Israel and working to connect with members through a variety of programs.

The past year has been one of many unknowns as we entered and ended merger discussions with Congregation Shaare Emeth. Our goal as a committee was to help our members stay connected to Temple Israel.

We had three lovely summer Shabbat barbecues that brought people together to enjoy services and eat outside during what are traditionally “low-key” attendance months.

Our High Holy Day services were an especially warm and welcoming experience. By not having tickets this year, we were truly open to the whole community and through our amazing ushers, we were able to make sure that everyone who entered our space at the JCC was treated to the warmth that is Temple Israel.

We ended our year with a community-wide program for Thanksgiving. This program had broad-ranging appeal for both adults and children as social action activities were offered along with Hanukkah projects. The highlight of the evening was the fresh, donuts made onsite by Stan the Donut Man!

We are gearing up for a great 2014 with a new name for our Synagogue Community Committee, which will be revealed soon. We will be starting our year off with a brand new Temple Israel Pictorial Membership Directory. Family portrait sessions will start mid-February, so make sure to sign up early to get your spot!

With the help of Rabbi Feder, we have reinvigorated our Caring Corps, which will be looking at ways we, as a whole community, can be there for each other. Also beginning in January, the third Friday of every month will be our Birthday Blessing Shabbat. All ages (adults and children) are invited to receive a special birthday blessing from our wonderful rabbis.

We will be spending the year focusing on relationships and connecting our members to each other, to our amazing rabbis, and to the creative and engaging programs we will be able to offer.

Chair: Carol Cohen

Staff Liaison: Amanda Radman

PrideFest





Bark on the Ark



Thanksgivukkah



Personal Care Item Drive



Purimpalooza



High Holy Days at The J



Ezra Scroll Event
Oneg Shabbat

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 actively participate in projects that benefit our fellow Congregants, as well as the larger community. Below is a summary of our projects for 2013.

New ideas and participants are always welcome. Together, we can make a difference!

Covenant House Groceries:

Each month, volunteer Max Breadman purchases and sorts groceries for several Covenant House residents. A very dedicated group of volunteers -- Linda and Ivan Blumoff, Jeanne Ferman, Ben Manheimer, Caryn Sandweiss and Lois Perryman -- deliver these groceries to Covenant House residents to ensure that they have sufficient food for the month. This project has been funded by a wonderful congregant over many years.

Give A Meal-A-Month:

In an ongoing effort to help stock local food pantries, we publicize to the congregation specific foods needed for a meal. We collect the food donations and distribute them to the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry and to Hosea House. This project is chaired by Louise Levin.

Cooking Meals:

A wonderful group of volunteers provides and prepares meals for Temple Israel to distribute as needed to congregants who are ill or bereaved. We are hoping to expand this activity in 2014 so that we can prepare and freeze meals to meet the needs of others.

St. Louis Crisis Nursery:

As in prior years, Jan Nykin pulled together a group of volunteers to visit the St. Louis Crisis Nursery to comfort the babies who are helped by this wonderful organization.

Community Vegetable Garden:

We maintain a wonderful vegetable garden on the Temple Israel grounds. Our garden was planted and tended by adult volunteers, as well as by the children in our DECC preschool and camp. All vegetables harvested were donated to the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry. Their clients were eager to receive this fresh and healthy produce. A warm thank you goes to Lois Perryman for her dedication and leadership with this project.

PrideFest Parade and Jewish Community Booth:

Again this year a group of individuals walked in the Pride parade and helped to staff the Jewish Community Information Booth to provide festival-goers with information about the Jewish community.

High Holidays Personal Care Item Collection:

Even the construction of our new roof at Temple Israel did not hinder our annual personal care item collection drive to benefit the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry. 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:

May's Mega Mitzvah Day was met with great success again this year. The projects were diverse and meaningful, enabling participation by adults and children of all ages.

Thanksgiving "Pies With A Purpose":

This project was born out of necessity when we were unable to use the Isserman Auditorium for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner for people in need. Pies with a Purpose provided a means for congregants to continue to volunteer their time during the Thanksgiving season to help those in our community who are in need. Thanks to the efforts and passion of Co-Chairs Sarah and Ron Falkoff, this magnificent task was a huge success. Volunteers of all ages signed up for baking sessions at the Temple to make pumpkin pies to donate to the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry. Our amazing volunteers baked 618 pumpkin pies and put smiles on so many faces. It wouldn't have happened without the amazing commitment from our volunteers and dedicated Temple staff.

Chair and Board Liaison: Pamela Dern, Assistant Secretary

Staff Liaison: Rabbi Amy Feder

*Committee Members: Evie and Marvin Bernstein,
Jody Chassin, Vera and Fred Cohen, Susie Fliesher,
Louise Levine, Jan Nykin, Lois Perryman,
Stephanie Rhea, Nancy Solomon,
Rosanne Tessler, and Michael Weiss*



Treasurer's Report – December 2013

The Temple continues to remain financially sound with continuing members, 934 in 2013 (as of October) and 948 in 2012, consistent dues income, fund raising results meeting budget, controlled expenses, and a stable bottom line. Net dues income is projected to be similar to budget and prior year. Revenue would be stronger if more Temple members were not paying below standard level dues. My message last year is still relevant and worth repeating so here it is: "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."

We project to end 2013 with a small loss, which is consistent with our 2013 budget and compares to a \$136,000 surplus for 2012. These results are attributable to increased tuition at the Deutsch Early Childhood Center, with corresponding increased expenses and stable income and expenses in all other categories. Consistency with level income and expenses is the 2013 theme, which is a positive message to share.

In recognition of our Temple's staff's hard work and dedication, our 2013 results include the remaining small salary increase that began in mid-2012 and continued in 2013.

At the Board's direction, to formalize the inter-fund borrowings, \$813,454 was recorded as the remaining loan balance due to the endowments from the general fund as of 2013. There is a receivable and corresponding liability reflected on the Temple's balance sheet.

It is with pleasure that I present this report as I conclude many years of serving as your Treasurer. My term(s) as Treasurer end in 2013 but my efforts in support of the Temple have only just begun. I am leaving our well-managed finances in capable hands.

Cathy Goldsticker, Treasurer

Usher Committee

"The High Holidays will be at the JCC this year" was the announcement that posed a challenge for our committee. Our goal was to create an inclusive sense of community and to greet every congregant with a warm welcome and smile in a location that would be unfamiliar to some. How could we make our Temple Israel community, our family of families, feel at home at The J.

Drawing on the generous, can-do spirit of our congregants, we were able to gather a corps of volunteers to achieve these goals. We conducted a brief training and familiarization meeting at The J to ensure that our volunteers would be familiar with their surroundings and able to guide congregants. We created special name badges with "ask me" ribbons so that congregants and guests would feel comfortable approaching us with questions. We acknowledged our wonderful volunteer ushers in our High Holiday service leaflets and in our *Dateline* newsletter.

For our weekly Shabbat services at the Temple, members of our Board of Trustees serve as greeters on Friday nights and as gift presenters on Saturday mornings when there is a bar/bat mitzvah. Whether at the High Holidays or every Shabbat, our goal is to provide a warm and friendly welcome to all who enter our doors. For 2014, please consider becoming one of the smiling "faces" of TI.

Co-Chairs: Ron and Lylas Chatmon

High Holy Day Ushers: Robert Aisenfeld, Fran Axelbaum, Marvin & Evie Bernstein, Mark & Joelle Biernacki & Family, Max Breadman, Ellen Brin, Jeff Brown & Amy Fenster Brown & Family, David Chassin, Ed & Carol Cohen, Fred & Vera Cohen, Brent & Karen Comensky, Charlie Cook, Scott Davis, Pamela Dern, Marni Deutsch, Charles Elbert & Karen Berry Elbert, Allan Epstein, Sarah Falkoff, Carla Feuer, Mitchell & Jayme Fingerman & Family, Ed & Susie Fliesher, David Geddes, Tom Glick, Dorette Goldberg, Jamie Goldberg, Paul & Susan K. Goldberg & Family, Marvin Goldfarb, Bob & Cathy Goldsticker, Harvey & Judy Harris, Arnold & Myrna Hershman, Marcie Kalina, Joel Kamil, Kelly Kiel, Sally King, Gail Kitsis, Louise Levine, Wendy Lindsay, Larry Linkon, Rob Litz, Loren Ludmerer, Marti & Hannah Maurer, Dee Mogerman, Les Nackman, Jan Offenbach Nykin, Charlie & Sheri O'Gorman, Ken Patzius, Lois Perryman, Ella Raber, Ken & Judy Rosenthal & Family, Diana Rothbarth, Michelle Sass, Stanley Schneider, Jeremy Shook, Jeffrey & Martina Stern & Family, Art & Susan Stiefel, Jim Thomeczek & Family, Adam Wallis & Family, Lynn Wallis, Michael Weiss, and Larry Winner

Doctors on Call: Dr. Stewart Albert, Dr. Mitchell Fingerman, and Dr. David Weinstein



Worship Experience Committee

This year our committee focused on two main aspects of worship at Temple Israel – Shabbat and High Holy Days.

Over the summer the Congregation started using *Mishkan T'filah*, the Shabbat prayer book of the Union for Reform Judaism. The Rabbis have devoted time each Shabbat to guiding worshipers through the various content and reading passages. Adopting the prayer book used by almost all Reform congregations has provided consistency in our services, especially for our Bar and Bat Mitzvah families and also for our youth groupers, who regularly celebrate Shabbat at other places. It also provides our Rabbis with more options in choosing readings and commentaries and creates more flexibility and variety within the service.

The second change was the addition of a High Holy Day choir comprised of Temple members. Choir members volunteered their time for months of rehearsals leading up to their participation in Erev Rosh Hashanah, Kol Nidre, and Yom Kippur afternoon and concluding services. The choir was well received and many commented that the singing added a special spiritual component and was a meaningful aspect of the holidays.

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

Chair: Amy Cohen

Staff Liaison: Rabbi Amy Feder

Committee Members: Rob Aronson, Ellen Deutsch, Ed Goldberg, Karen and Harry Knopf, Nancy Kodner, Jerry Kraus, Amy Lampert, Judy Levy, Larry Linkon, Cary Mogerman, Hildegard Rochman, Barbara Sandmel, Debbie Schultz, Daniel and Joanne Schwartz, Merle Silverstein, Susan Stiefel, Lynn Wallis, and Marlita Weiss.



Youth Activities Committee

The Temple Israel Youth Activities Committee supports our congregation's youth groups, including TIFTY (Temple Israel Federation of Temple Youth for grades 9-12), TI8 (8th graders only), Junior Youth Group (7th and 8th grades), and Club 56 (5th and 6th grades).

2013 was a busy year for our youth groups and committee.

- The combined youth groups schedule, write *kavanot* (interpretations), and play music for the Temple's Learners' Shabbat on the third Friday of every month. All post B'nai Mitzvah students are welcome to participate.
- Cotillion, hosted exclusively by Temple Israel, was attended by many 6th graders from the Jewish community in early 2013. Students learned appropriate B'nai Mitzvah etiquette and enjoyed dance music provided by Utopia.
- The TIFTY-sponsored Temple Purim Carnival in March was well attended, as was the Purimpalooza celebration for DECC families. Our TIFTY members participated as volunteers.
- In April TIFTY hosted the NFTY-MV Spring Chavurah. Temple Israel opened its doors to more than 200 teens from across the Missouri Valley region. They spent the weekend learning, performing social action *mitzvot*, and having fun together. Elections were held for the 2013-14 Regional Board, and our TIFTY President, Tyler Andreasson, was elected as the Regional Membership Vice President.
- Elections for the 2013-14 TIFTY Board were held in April.

President: Kelsey Culp

Programming Vice President: Michelle Stone

Social Action Vice President: Blakely Broder

Religious and Cultural Vice President: Erin Wides

Membership Vice President: Rebecca Bloom

Communication and Visual Vice President: Daniella Kats

Special Projects Coordinator: Aron Tolin

Freshman Representative: Teddy Vincent

Israeli Inclusion: Hannah Snidman



- In May, TIFTY held a bone marrow registration drive during the Temple's annual Mega Mitzvah Day.
- During the summer, 14 of our Temple Israel youth went to Jewish overnight camp. They each received a care package from their Temple family. TIFTY also served dinner at the Ronald McDonald House and held a swim party at the Temple Israel pool.

Youth Activities Committee *continued*

- We continue to connect with our youth, even when they go off to college. Care packages were sent prior to the High Holy Days wishing our college students a sweet new year and again at final exam time prior to winter break.
- TIFTY has been volunteering at International Dinners hosted by Memorial Presbyterian Church on the second Friday of every month.
- TIFTY members volunteer frequently in the community. They have already accumulated more than 300 community service hours during the 2013-2014 school year.
- The combined youth groups of Temple Israel donated more than 30 bears created at Build-a-Bear Workshop to the Harvey J. Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry for their Hanukkah Helper program.
- TIFTY also sponsored a BouTique on November 3 that raised almost \$1,700 for Camp Rainbow.

We look forward to the coming year, and will continue to provide the support for the youth of Temple Israel. There are many more activities scheduled for the rest of the school year. Look for the events to be posted on TIFTY's Facebook page.

Committee Chair: Marti Maurer

Advisor: Stephanie Rhea

Board Liasons: Pamela Dern and Rob Litz

Staff Liason: Rabbi Michael Alper

Committee Members: Evie Bernstein, Mark Biernacki, Carol Cohen, Jennifer Culp, Susan Kempainen, Amanda Packman, Diane Packman, and Matt Silies



Youth Education Committee

The second half of our 2012-13 school year was full of energy and events. We completed the first year of our partnership with the Institute of the Southern Jewish Life (ISJL), utilizing their unique spiraled curriculum to give our students a more complete Jewish background. Students participated in Tu B'Shevat seders, chocolate seders for Passover, an Israeli street fair in honor of Israel's 65th birthday, and a collaborative program with the Religious School students at Congregation Shaare Emeth. The school year ended with the annual Mitzvah Day program, where each grade participated in a social justice project to benefit the community.

With one year of our ISJL partnership under our belt, this fall we were able to implement many changes to enhance the curriculum. We have a new ISJL Education Fellow, Sam Kahan, who has brought a wealth of creativity and knowledge and has helped us tweak the program to work even better for us.

We have enhanced our Hebrew program by implementing an online component. Students in grades 2-6 are now using the Behrman House Online Learning Center (OLC), a private and secure online educational platform that provides a safe way to support learning outside of the classroom.

This school year we also introduced a new 7th grade program. Students attend class on Tuesday evenings rather than Sunday mornings. Our program is designed to foster a sense of community among our students and to give them an opportunity to explore Judaism in ways that are most appropriate and relevant for their development and enjoyment. Rabbi Alper is teaching both 6th and 7th grades this year to strengthen the relationships he is building with these pre-B'nai Mitzvah students. Our hope is that this will lead to greater retention rates for our post-B'nai Mitzvah students.

As we continue to refine our curriculum, teaching positions, and activities, the energy has become more evident every week. We look forward to the second half of the 2013-14 school year and beyond with eager anticipation of what is possible for our Religious and Hebrew Schools.

Chair: Susan K. Goldberg

Board Liaison: Dee Mogerman

Staff Liaison: Marisa Reby, Religious School Director



Confirmation Class
Trip to NYC



Tallit Making Class



Deutsch Early Childhood Center



High Holy Days at The J



Pies with a Purpose





Congregation Temple Israel

- A Voice for All Generations -

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