



Congregation Temple Israel

- A Voice for All Generations -

# FROM STRENGTH TO *Strength*

## 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

**INSIDE:**  
LEADERSHIP & AWARD RECIPIENTS  
MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT & TREASURER  
COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

# 2016 LEADERSHIP

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## OFFICERS

**Dee A. Mogerman**, President  
**David Chassin**, Vice President  
**Harvey A. Harris**, Vice President  
**Neil Marglous**, Vice President  
**Jeremy Shook**, Vice President  
**Michael Weiss**, Vice President

**Carol Cohen**, Secretary  
**Pamela Dern**, Assistant Secretary  
**Debbie Schultz**, Treasurer  
**Jeffrey Stern**, Assistant Treasurer  
**JoAnne Levy**, Immediate Past President

## TRUSTEES

**Rachel Andreasson**  
**David Aronson**  
**Ellen Brin**  
**Jeff Brown**  
**Hope Edison**  
**Allan Epstein**  
**Carla Feuer**  
**Jayne Fingerman**  
**Pepe Finn**

**Milton Fry**  
**Thomas Glick**  
**Susan K. Goldberg**  
**Cathy Goldsticker**  
**Dr. Morton Green**  
**Ted Greenberg**  
**Dr. Barbra Horn**  
**Philip Horwitz**  
**Amy Lampert**

**Louise Levine**  
**Dr. Jerry Levy**  
**Lawrence Linkon**  
**Rob Litz**  
**Louise Losos**  
**Jan Offenbach Nykin**  
**Andrew Olschansky**  
**Kathy Ortbals**  
**Amanda Packman**

**Dr. Mitchell Platin**  
**Julie Sandler**  
**Caryn Sandweiss**  
**Darcy Scharff, PhD**  
**Erin Schneider**  
**Jill Silverstein**  
**Arnold Spirtas**  
**Susan Stiefel**  
**Michelle Steinberg**

## RABBIS & LEADERSHIP STAFF

**Amy Feder**, Rabbi  
**Michael Alper**, Rabbi  
**Mark L. Shook**, Rabbi Emeritus  
**Derrick Bryant**, Building Supervisor  
**Sandy Kramer**, Assistant Director of Family Education

**Kim Rivera**, Director of Business Operations  
**Laura Robbins**, Director of Membership and Development  
**Leslie Wolf**, Director of Family Education  
**Erin Wolfman May**, Communications Coordinator

## PAST PRESIDENTS

**JoAnne Levy**, 2011-13  
**Dr. David L. Weinstein**, 2007-10  
**Neil J. Handelman**, 2005-06  
**Cary J. Mogerman**, 2002-04  
**Daniel J. Schwartz**, 1999-2001

**Karen L. Knopf**, 1996-98  
**Leonard J. Adreon**, 1994-95  
**Ellen Deutsch**, 1991-93  
**Gary A. Follman**, 1988-90  
**Merle L. Silverstein (z"l)**, 1984-87

## LIFE TRUSTEE

**Dr. Ira Gall (z"l)**, 2011-13

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**Above - 2016 Officers:** Jeffrey Stern, Debbie Schultz, David Chassin, Carol Cohen, JoAnne Levy, Dee Mogerman, Pamela Dern, Michael Weiss, and Jeremy Shook

**Not Pictured:** Harvey A. Harris and Neil Marglous

# 2017 SLATE OF NOMINEES

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## OFFICERS

**Dee Mogerman**, President  
**Rob Litz**, President-Elect  
**David Chassin**, Vice President  
**Harvey Harris**, Vice President

**Neil Marglous**, Vice President  
**Jeremy Shook**, Vice President  
**Michael Weiss**, Vice President  
**Debbie Schultz**, Treasurer

**Jeffrey Stern**, Assistant Treasurer  
**Kathy Ortvals**, Secretary  
**Louise Losos**, Assistant Secretary  
**JoAnne Levy**, Immediate Past President

## TRUSTEES

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

**Carol Cohen**  
**Sarah Falkoff**

**Natalie Handelman**  
**Judy Lewis**

**Christine Schulze**

### *Nominees for a one-year term*

**Jeff Bernstein**  
**Sally Heller**

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

**Milton Fry**  
**Cathy Goldsticker**

**Ted Greenberg**  
**Dr. Jerry Levy**

**Jan Offenbach Nykin**

## RECOGNIZING OUR OUTGOING TRUSTEES

**Rachel Andreasson**  
**Ellen Brin**  
**Pamela Dern**

**Dr. Barbra Horn**  
**Larry Linkon**

**Dr. Mitchell Platin**  
**Julie Sandler**

## PILLAR AWARD RECIPIENTS

**Sarah Falkoff**  
**Jayne Fingerman**  
**Linda Horwitz**

## PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR CONTINUING EXCELLENCE (P.A.C.E.) AWARD RECIPIENTS

**Leonard Adreon**  
**Gary Follman**



# President's MESSAGE

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## DEE A. MOGERMAN, PRESIDENT

December of 2016

Our 130<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of Congregation Temple Israel provides a glimpse of what has transpired at Temple Israel; it is in no way comprehensive, but highlights our efforts over the past year. In 2016, we have worshipped together, studied Torah, partnered with Monroe Elementary School, secured a Homeland Security grant to enhance our building, welcomed new members to our Temple family, danced at our 2016 Gala, served a delicious Thanksgiving meal - our 30<sup>th</sup> - to over 400 people in need, upgraded technology, and formed the Temple Israel Service Squad to serve our community. We recognize that we have accomplished much in the past 130 years. We can be proud of our successes, and we recognize what we can do when we work together toward a central purpose. We also realize there is much more to do in the next 130 years as we continue our work together to further our mission.

Many have given their time and resources, with generous hearts, to make Temple Israel the special place it is today. As I begin my fourth year of service as your president, it continues to be a personal joy and honor. I am blessed to work with our talented rabbis, committed officers, members of our board of trustees, lay leaders, and dedicated staff members. I would like to personally thank all of you for your continued support of our Temple community.

Like the Israelites who worked together to build the Tabernacle through the unselfish outpouring of their hearts and hands, for 130 years we have worked together to create our own sacred dwelling at Congregation Temple Israel: a place for us to pray, to learn, to help our community at large, and to make personal and spiritual connections. I hope you will join me in 2017 as we continue on our journey as a Reform Jewish congregation with purpose, meaning, and intention.

May we begin our 130<sup>th</sup> year proudly as a congregation with strength, as we continue to strive to be a *kehillah kedoshah* - a holy community.

L'Shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dee A. Mogerman".

Dee Mogerman



Pies with a Purpose



30<sup>th</sup> Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for Those in Need



# Treasurer's REPORT

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## DEBBIE SCHULTZ, TREASURER

December of 2016

As 2016 draws to a close, it is my pleasure to report that we expect to end 2016 in a positive financial position. This has been achieved by both careful expense control and successful fundraising efforts on the part of our dedicated staff and lay leaders.

Subsequent to our conversion to a new accounting system late in 2015, we are now providing more timely and clear financial reporting on a monthly basis to our Board of Trustees. While we continue to make tweaks to the statements, the streamlined reports make it easier for our board members to be good stewards of the congregation when it comes to matters affecting the budget. Many thanks to our Director of Business Operations, Kim Rivera, for her contributions to the conversion and her attentiveness to monthly financial reporting.

As you know, our congregation is not sustained by dues income alone, and fundraising efforts have become increasingly important to ensure a balanced budget. The 2016 Gala was a tremendous success, transforming our building into a beautiful and elegant affair. Our 2016 High Holy Days campaign has been very successful thanks to the participation of generous congregants and visitors. The Scrip & Gift Card Program continues to grow and is expected to reach \$20,000 in profits. We now offer gift cards either as monthly subscriptions or as one time purchases from more than 700 vendors. Smaller fundraising efforts such as Temple Israel Wish List donations, tributes and other giving opportunities, coupled with the diligence of our staff in controlling expenses, have contributed to a positive financial year.

In late November, your Board of Trustees passed the 2017 Temple budget. After much analysis, we increased continuing synagogue support at all levels to keep the budget in balance. We have continued aggressive fundraising and development budget targets, and we hope that you will consider each giving opportunity and participate as your family's budget allows.

**As a life-long Temple member, I am proud of our commitment to ensure we offer membership to anyone who wishes to become a part of our community, regardless of their ability to pay at standard dues levels.** While this is largely sustained by the continuing synagogue support of our members who have opted to be members of the Shofar Society and by those who pay standard levels, we do not discount the value of those who cannot pay fully but contribute in smaller amounts or other ways. Whether you can afford \$18 per month, can contribute at the highest levels of the Shofar Society, participate in the Scrip and Gift Card Program fundraiser, or volunteer your time, your membership is valuable to us, and we appreciate your commitment to our congregation's financial stability.

It has been a pleasure serving as your Treasurer for the past year, and I look forward to a successful 2017.

B'Shalom,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debbie".

Debbie Schultz



2016 Gala, A Taste of Temple Israel

# Committee REPORTS

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## INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

As of the end of October 2016, the endowment account is up **+4.39%**

Most of the gains occurred in the third quarter of the year (**+3.56%**) as equity prices increased across the globe

To help limit risk, our Investment Policy restricts the equity portion of the portfolio to no more than 65%.

Bonds and cash make up the remaining percentage of the portfolio.

The current allocation of the portfolio is as follows:

**7.10% Cash (Money Markets)**

**31.30% Fixed Income (Bonds)**

**59.30% Equities (Stocks)**

**2.30% Equities (Alternatives – MLPs and REITs)**

**Committee Chair:** Joshua Reichman

**Staff Liaison:** Kim Rivera

**Committee Members:** David Aronson, Arthur Auer, Ellen Brin, Jack Deutsch, Allan Epstein, Rabbi Amy Feder, Doris Fishman, Milton Fry, Ted Greenberg, Cathy Goldsticker, Neil Handelman, Jerry Levy, Louis Loebner, Andrew Reiter, Diana Rothbarth, Debbie Schultz, Jeffrey Stern, and Neil Wolfman

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

In 2016, the committee engaged a new external audit firm to complete the 2015 audit. The audit was extensive and required a significant effort for our accounting department. The audit was completed successfully, and we have engaged the same firm for the 2016 fiscal year. As part of the 2017 budget approval process, we reviewed endowment funds to determine if they can be used to offset expenses. This effort will continue into 2017.

**Committee Chair:** Allan Epstein

**Staff Liaison:** Kim Rivera

**Committee Members:** Ellen Brin, Cathy Goldsticker, Dee Mogerman, Debbie Schultz, Jeffrey Stern, and Mike Weiss

## HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Human Resources Committee's goals and objectives include developing and implementing strategy, plans and programs to attract, motivate, develop, and retain the best people to further Congregation Temple Israel's mission, as well as to reduce the risk of employment litigation and protect our reputation in the community. In 2016, we stayed in close contact with Dee Mogerman, Board President; Kim Rivera, Director of Business Operations; and the leadership team, providing resources for hiring and organizational alignment.

**Committee Chair:** Rachel Andreasson

**Staff Liaison:** Kim Rivera

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

# Committee REPORTS

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## KAHN FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

In 2016, the Kahn Foundation awarded grants totaling **\$105,300**

### Grant recipients included:

**Congregation Temple Israel**

Rabbi's Roundtable, Nursing Home Lunches, and the Thanksgiving Dinner for Those in Need

**Gateway to Hope**

Direct Assistance to Patients over Age 65

**Energy Care**

Summer Cooling Program

**Jewish Community Center**

Kosher Senior Meal Program

**Center for Hearing and Speech**

Combating Hearing Loss Experienced by St. Louis Area Senior Citizens

**Memory Care Home Solutions**

Dementia Care Intervention

**Congregation Shaare Emeth, Congregation Temple Israel, United Hebrew Congregation**

Jewish Seniors on the Move and Monthly Senior Lunches

**Chair:** Linda Kraus

**Staff Liaison:** Rabbi Amy Feder

**Committee Members:** Randy Arst, Pamela Dern, Doris Fishman, Neil Marglous, Dee Mogerman, Kim Rivera, and Marcee Silverstein

## FACILITIES COMMITTEE

In 2016, the Facilities Committee focused on the following.

**Preserve & Maintain Facilities:** The committee ensured that we have the processes, outside contractors, in-house staff, and funding in place to preserve and maintain the Temple's investment in fresh, updated facilities – inside and out. The committee will continue in 2017 to make progress in caring for and protecting our facilities and grounds investments by planning and phasing the continued replacement and/or modernization of the infrastructure, systems, building envelope, and grounds of our 54-year-old Temple building.

**Maintenance & Repairs:** The committee continued to carry out recommended repairs and maintenance as identified in the 2015 Annual Report. Also, the committee invested in roof condition testing and plan to report results biannually, which will allow the committee to identify proactive steps to maintain our roofs and prioritize repair and maintenance as needed.

**Setting the Groundwork for 2017:** The next priority is a capital project to renovate the Goldstein Education Building, home of Deutsch Early Childhood Center and Temple Israel Religious and Hebrew School. The committee is finalizing architectural and engineering bids and will begin planning for the first phase of renovations and repairs which will start early next year. This first phase is a part of a larger plan for future renovations to this important facility that serves our families and children on a daily basis throughout the year.

**Committee Chair:** Ted Greenberg

**Staff Liaison:** Derrick Bryant and Kim Rivera

**Committee Members:** David Chassin, Matt May, Dee Mogerman, and Frank Robbins

# Committee REPORTS

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## TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

### 2016 Accomplishments

**Live streaming** has been fully implemented and has proven quite successful based on weekly usage reports. The service is now utilized for not only Friday night Shabbat services, but for all services including High Holy Days, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, wedding, and funerals.

**Campus-wide Wi-Fi** has also been installed and fully implemented. This mesh technology network allows connectivity on the go without being dropped as you move around campus. This is particularly helpful to the staff.

Implementation of the **new phone system** is complete. This new phone system provides a stable, maintainable platform that addresses several security concerns, including better communications in the classrooms, intruder alerts, and prevention against complete phone system outages, all of which increase the overall security of our building and safety of our visitors and staff.

**Committee Chair:** Art Lewis

**Staff Liaison:** Derrick Bryant and Kim Rivera

**Committee Members:** Rabbi Michael Alper, Mark Biernacki, David Chassin, Ron Chatmon, Ron Falkoff, Sarah Falkoff, Dee Mogerman, Ian Schraier, Debbie Schultz, Mike Shaw, and Neil Wolfman

## NEW MT. SINAI CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

**In 2016, New Mt. Sinai continued efforts to expand their role in the community.**

In May, members of the **St. Louis Symphony and Chorus performed a free concert** in the Community Mausoleum.

The Temple Israel Boy Scouts and other **Scouting groups decorated the graves of more than 700 veterans** buried at the cemetery.

The **annual High Holy Days Memorial Service** was held to honor the memory of the 11,000+ people who are interred at New Mt. Sinai Cemetery.

In November, the **St. Louis Chamber Chorus performed a concert to a sold-out audience.**

**Members of Temple Israel serving on the board of the Cemetery Association:** Neil Handelman, David Eidelman, Jim Eiseman, Lou Loebner, Norman Roth, Randall Scherck, Art Silverman, and Sanford Silverstein

**Staff Liaison:** Kim Rivera

## ARTS & ANTIQUITIES COMMITTEE

### 2016 Highlights

With the newly dedicated Handelman Gathering Space, **we took the opportunity to display both old and new art and artifacts from Temple Israel's collection.** We have carefully chosen which paintings and works of art to highlight and look to make changes so that all of our artwork has the chance to be displayed.

**Committee Chair:** Judy Levy

**Staff Liaison:** Rabbi Amy Feder

**Committee Members:** David Chassin, Scott Davis, Ted Greenberg, Jerry Levy, and Dee Mogerman



# Committee REPORTS

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## ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

In March of 2016, we hosted the **9<sup>th</sup> annual Temple Israel Israeli Film Festival**, and enjoyed excellent films, Israeli food, and discussion with people from all over the Jewish community.

**Committee 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, Jerry Levy, JoAnne Levy, Judy Levy, Cary Mogerman, Dee Mogerman, Donald Mogerman, Ron Scharff, Bob Schnurman, Audrey Shanfeld, and Adam Wallis

## WORSHIP EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE

The Worship Experience Committee works to serve our diverse congregation and meet their worship needs.

### 2016 Accomplishments

Learning and becoming more comfortable with our **new prayerbooks, both on Shabbat and on the High Holy Days**, as well as ordering more of each as needed to meet the needs of our growing congregation.

**Adding several new musicians** into our weekly Shabbat service rotation so that there is a variety of exciting TI member(s) and musician(s) on the bimah.

Tweaking **Tot Shabbat service** to better serve all families, including those who only attend the regularly scheduled service that follows it.

**Committee Chair:** Amy Cohen

**Staff Liaison:** Rabbi Amy Feder

**Committee Members:** Julie Aronson, Rob Aronson, Fred Cohen, Ellen Deutsch, Sarah Falkoff, Ed Goldberg, Robert Hahn, Harry Knopf, Karen Knopf, Jerry Kraus, Amy Lampert, Judy Levy, Larry Linkon, Cary Mogerman, Hildegard Rochman, Barbara Sandmel, Debbie Schultz, Susan Stiefel, Lynn Wallis, and Marlita Weiss

## INTERFAITH COMMITTEE

### 2016 Highlights

The committee will again take part in the **Jewish and Muslim Day of Community Service**.

Rabbi Michael Alper's **interfaith trip to Israel** provided an opportunity for families to witness his interfaith experiences online through his vlog ([www.ti-stl.org/AlperinIsrael](http://www.ti-stl.org/AlperinIsrael)).

The committee hosted its first **Interfaith IdeaLab**, a Shabbaton experience to engage and connect with interfaith families in the congregation so that we can find ways to better meet their needs.

**Committee Chair:** Marc Braun

**Staff Liaison:** Rabbi Amy Feder

# Committee REPORTS

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## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

**Throughout 2016, we welcomed new members** and member families every month. From recent college graduates to empty nesters, those who have chosen Judaism to those who are new in our community, and everyone in between, we've had the opportunity to expand our congregation with many who have now found their spiritual home at Temple Israel. Both new and current members have also been extremely active in Temple life, eager to attend many of our events and selflessly volunteering for service at our annual Thanksgiving Dinner for Those in Need, baking pies at Pies with a Purpose, ushering at Shabbat services, taking classes and studying with our rabbis, assisting in both the Religious School and Deutsch Early Childhood Center, and so much more.

**We hosted several New Member Shabbat Dinners** throughout the year. These dinners serve as a bridge between new member families and the congregation. The Membership Committee again approved a High Holy Days Ticket Policy for 2016 that is in line with that of the other Reform congregations in St. Louis. Our doors are open to all who wish to worship with us and we made an effort to also get information from those visitors so that we can follow up with them as to their experience at and interest in Temple Israel.

We continued sorting through our membership list to ensure that all member info is up to date. **Our long-time member, tireless volunteer, and former Membership Director, Judy Lewis, spent countless hours reaching out to members and updating our records.**

We are currently **working on plans for 2017 that will include new member dinners and other exciting programs that make the first year or the 50<sup>th</sup> year here as a member of TI as meaningful as possible.** These include a mentoring and partnership program for new members and gifts for babies who are named by our rabbis. We are also working in partnership with Leslie Wolf and Sandy Kramer in our Family Education Center to bridge the gap between Deutsch Early Childhood Center and Temple membership.

**Committee Co-Chairs:** Carol Cohen and Pamela Dern

**Staff Liaison:** Laura Robbins

**Committee Members:** Amy Fenster Brown, Cathy Goldsticker, Amy Lampert, Andrew Olschansky, Kathy Ortvals, and Amanda Packman



**Women's Seder**



**Dinner, Drinks & Dough Challah Baking Program**



**Concert for Kids with Award-Winning Jewish Musician, Ellen Allard**



**High Holy Days Services**

# Committee REPORTS

## DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

### 2016 Highlights

**Our 2016 Gala, A Taste of Temple Israel, was an incredible success.** We not only raised money, but we were able to transform and showcase our beautiful building to current and potential members, while raising funds for our operating budget.

The committee began work this year on **individual giving opportunities**. Whether they have been to support our education building, items from our Temple Israel Wish List, sponsoring a Tot Shabbat program, or updating our rabbis' middle office meeting space, we are incredibly lucky to have such generous support from our Temple Israel members.

Our annual **High Holy Days Appeal is well on its way to meeting the goal we set of \$55,000** for 2016. We have seen such generosity this year; many thanks to all of you who have participated. We also continued to offer special perks to those who contributed at certain appeal giving levels, such as tickets to our well-attended Rosh Hashanah Lunch, as well as reserved parking spaces for High Holy Days services.

**Committee Chair:** Dr. David Weinstein

**Staff Liaison:** Laura Robbins



**Tot Shabbat**



**Rabbis' Middle Office Meeting Space**

*Generously donated by Ricki & Neil Marglous and Shelley Marglous, in honor of Ruth and Harold Marglous and Steve Marglous*

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

In 2016, the committee focused on Temple Israel's brand messaging. We held a **marketing focus group for insight on our brand image** and to re-establish a diverse group of Temple Israel members and Deutsch Early Childhood Center parents who utilize our marketing in different ways and at varying life stages.

We also made ongoing **content updates to the Temple Israel website** and laid the groundwork for a complete website overhaul in 2017, which will make the website mobile-friendly and seamless for users to navigate with ease on a desktop computer, a tablet, and on a cell phone.

Another highlight is **Temple Israel's Dateline bulletin**, which arrives via mail to member homes every month. There are two versions. The quarterly 24-page Dateline features a special Volunteer Spotlight, articles from our leadership staff and board president, as well as other in-depth features, news, and pictures of congregational life. In between, members receive an 8-page Dateline to keep them up-to-date with tidbits of news, yahrzeits, and our calendar of events. This new Dateline schedule has reduced the cost of production, allowing us to continue to send the publication to all Temple Israel members each month free of charge.

**Committee Chair:** Carla Feuer

**Staff Liaison:** Erin Wolfman May

**Committee Members:** Alice Handelman, Meredith Berger, Patty Bloom, Julie Elledge, Emily Evans Kline, Emilie Fan, Marge Fenster, Amy Fenster Brown, Marcia Figus, Margaret Gillerman, Bob Ortals, Kathy Ortals, Jennifer Patchin, Rebecca Rubin-Schlansky, and Mindy Woolf



# Committee REPORTS

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## USHER COMMITTEE

### 2016 Highlights

Our **High Holy Days ushers** were outstanding once again and made every person who came through our doors for services feel welcomed. The group greeted each and every individual with a welcome and a warm smile, which showcased Temple Israel's hospitality.

In addition to the ushers who volunteer during the High Holy Days, the committee also works to ensure that there are **ushers at all Shabbat services**, which includes TI members, board trustees, and families of Religious School students preparing to become a Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

**Committee Co-Chairs:** Joelle Biernacki and Mark Biernacki

**Staff Liaison:** Laura Robbins

## SOCIAL ACTION (TIKKUN OLAM) COMMITTEE

### 2016 Highlights

**Temple Israel's Service Squad was created** this year, and provided an opportunity for adults to engage in meaningful community service projects in the community. The first project was helping seniors at Covenant Place move into and set up their new homes in the updated facility. The second project was working at the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry to sort products, stock shelves, and assist with general cleaning projects.

Over the summer, Temple Israel **hosted NCJW's Back to School Store**, which was an exciting opportunity for both the families served and the many volunteers.

We formed a **partnership with Monroe Elementary School**, and have begun mentoring, tutoring, providing student incentives, helping with holiday celebrations, and much more. This is an ongoing partnership which we hope to maintain long-term.

We again **baked pumpkin pies** for the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry and for our **30<sup>th</sup> annual Thanksgiving Dinner for Those in Need**.

**Committee Co-Chairs:** Neil Marglous

**Staff Liaison:** Rabbi Amy Feder

**NCJW Back to School Store Key Volunteers:** Alissa Arst and Amanda Packman

**Monroe Partnership Key Volunteers:** Susan K. Goldberg and Debbie Sachs

**Pies with a Purpose Key Volunteer:** Pamela Dern

**30<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Dinner for Those in Need Key Volunteers:** Sarah Falkoff and Jayme Fingerman



Temple Israel Service Squad Volunteers

# Committee REPORTS

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## CRAFTING FOR COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Crafting for Community accomplished the following in 2016.

### Handcrafted items for Nurses for Newborns

The group crocheted and knitted hats for babies. The hats were donated to a St. Louis-based charity, from which we have received positive feedback and thanks.

### Handcrafted items for distribution by the Ferguson-Florissant Fire District first responders

The group provided crocheted and knitted teddy bears for distribution by first responders to children traumatized or injured in fires or accidents in the Ferguson-Florissant Fire District.

### Handmade Hanukkah cards for Jewish US and Israeli military members serving abroad

The group continued their tradition of making unique and beautiful handmade Hanukkah greeting cards, which they then distributed to Jewish US military members and those serving in the Israeli Defense Forces.

### Handmade greeting and note cards for distribution to Care Card Connection and Missouri House Rabbit Society

We provided handmade greeting cards to two charities for their use and distribution to support and further their organizational missions. Care Card Connection received our note cards to distribute to cancer patients in St. Louis area hospitals, clinics, and nursing facilities. Missouri House Rabbit Society received our rabbit and bunny themed note cards to sell for proceeds, which go to support their care to rescued domestic rabbits/bunnies that live in their facility.

**Committee Chair:** Jody Chassin

**Staff Liaison:** Rabbi Amy Feder

**Committee Members:** Rosanne Abrams, Rita Freed, Jan Helfrich, and Jackie Schallert



Handcrafted Items



Handmade Hanukkah Cards



Rabbit Society Note Cards

## WOMEN'S CONNECTION COMMITTEE

This year, Women's Connection **hosted their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Women's Seder** during Passover.

More than 100 women from the Temple Israel community and beyond enjoyed a traditional Seder meal, four cups of wine, and desserts, while using a special Haggadah designed just for this Seder. This year's Seder included pauses for table conversation, where attendees shared their personal stories of the phenomenal women who have shaped their Judaism, paving the way for their own holiday traditions. And of course, fabulous music filled the Shoenberg Foyer, led by Rabbi Amy Feder and by musician Sharol Brickman on acoustic guitar. Guests accompanied each tune with table top drum beats and a little harmony help from a few members of TI's Chavurat Shira choir who were in attendance. The room rang with joy and togetherness, while we all celebrated the Seder tradition in new, creative, and inspirational ways.

**Committee Co-Chairs:**

**Staff Liaison:** Laura Robbins



# Committee REPORTS

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## ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**Adult education is flourishing at Temple Israel.** Every week there are three ongoing learning opportunities with our rabbis, including an introduction to Judaism class, a Torah lunch and learn, and Shabbat Bible study. This year, Rabbi Michael introduced Whiskey & Wisdom, a very successful three-part series geared towards members in their 50s and older. Another new class was Dinner, Drinks & Dough, which combined a challah baking class with dinner and Jewish learning with Rabbi Amy. TI University (Sunday School for grown ups) was a hit throughout the 2015-16 school year, and will return in 2017. Torah and Takeout, another evening adult learning program with Rabbi Michael, was also highly popular and may return by popular demand in 2017.

**Committee Co-Chairs:** Bob Schnurman and Jeffrey Wilson

**Staff Liaison:** Rabbi Michael Alper

## DEUTSCH EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER PARENT COMMITTEE

### 2016 Highlights

#### Mitzvah-A-Month

The committee is extremely proud of our new monthly mitzvah campaign, which is chaired by Jennifer Soshnik. From October through May, classrooms are collecting different items such as socks and underwear, toothbrushes and toothpaste, and holiday toys to benefit various area agencies in need. This project is another way to help our students learn empathy and to think beyond themselves to our greater St. Louis community.

#### Anti Defamation League (ADL) A World of Difference Anti-Bias Workshops

The Parent Committee was honored to fund a series of workshops for our teachers, parents, and families with young children, all three of which were presented by the ADL. These workshops, called the Miller Early Childhood Initiative, allowed participants to explore their own biases and began training both adults and children to understand and respect our differences. This was the start of a very meaningful conversation for our teachers and families.

#### Special Person Shabbat

We are inviting a 'special person' to join their student for Shabbat several times throughout the year. Our Froggies and Bumblebees just welcomed their special people the first week of November. Moms or dads, grandmas or grandpas, aunts, uncles, babysitters, and more are welcomed into the classroom for challah, juice, and candle lighting and then to the sanctuary with Rabbi Amy and Rabbi Michael for a rollicking song session and blessings.

**Committee Co-Chairs:** Tracy Goldberg Gross, Alana Minoff, and Lisa Moons

**Staff Liaison:** Leslie Wolf

**Committee Members:** Pam Bolian, Lori Goldenberg, Sarah Levinson Bauer, Lauren Murov, MaryAnne Sabin, Stacy Smart, Jennifer Soshnik, Mindy Woolf, and Heather Zajarias



**Mitzvah-A-Month Socks and Underwear Donation Items  
Given to The Little Bit Foundation**



**ADL's A World of Difference Anti-Bias Workshop**

# Committee REPORTS

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## YOUTH EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Our **new High School Program for 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders** meets weekly on Sunday mornings for activities, both inside and outside of the building. Highlights include harvesting and cleaning up the Temple Israel Mitzvah Garden, cleaning up a Jewish cemetery, helping to build the Temple's Sukkah, assembling Halloween goody bags for Monroe Elementary, learning about the elections through a Jewish lens with guest speaker Cynthia Kramer, Creve Coeur council member, and a special Hunger and Poverty Awareness unit.

Our **weekly Sunday Morning T'filah**, led by our rabbis and music teachers, kicks off Jewish learning every Sunday. We learn and sing Jewish prayers and songs, learn a lesson or hear a story, and conclude each week with "Hatikvah," Israel's national anthem.

We have worked to make our Hebrew program more consistent, and with individualized learning, so that **each student is able to be successful and advance at their own pace.**

**We are planning substantial changes to our 2017 Cotillion program**, making it more appealing to a broader 6<sup>th</sup> grade audience, which we hope will increase our attendance and community excitement.

A group of our high school students **helped create and participate in High Holy Days Children's Services for grades K-3.**

**Committee Co-Chairs:** Jayme Fingerman and Julie Sandler

**Staff Liaison:** Sandy Kramer and Leslie Wolf

**Committee Members:** Jennifer Culp, Marti Maurer, Amy Lampert, and Diane Packman



**Temple Israel Religious School Students Helping to Build the Sukkah**



**Temple Israel Religious School Students Reading Torah**

## BOY SCOUT TROOP 11 COMMITTEE

**Improvements to the Edison Retreat Center** were made by the Scouts including a new bridge to the Council Fire area and a new fire ring with a grill.

The Troop attended **two outings at Beaumont Scout Reservation** where the Scouts competed against other Troops in the District.

The Troop enjoyed two weeks of Summer Camp, one in Illinois and one in Missouri, which produced **53 earned merit badges towards rank advancement** for the Scouts.

**The Troop volunteered their time** at Temple Israel's Thanksgiving Dinner for Those in Need and during the High Holy Days, and helped out at the Special Olympics fundraiser, "Polar Plunge".

**Committee Co-Chairs:** James Rothberg

**Staff Liaison:** Rabbi Michael Alper

## **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.

## **VISION:**

**Since its founding in 1886**, Congregation Temple Israel has been a leading synagogue within Reform Judaism and the 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.***

***Our inclusiveness shall be unqualified.***

***Our Judaism shall be living and nourishing to the soul.***

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

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

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

### **TEMPLE ISRAEL**

#1 Rabbi Alvan D. Rubin Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63141

### **OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Thursday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Friday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

### **CONTACT US**

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