# A YEAR OF LIFE AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

# 2018 (דלי)

Congregation Temple Israel's **ANNUAL REPORT** 

## **INSIDE**

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Award recipients

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Annual High Holy Days Giving donors



Congregation

Temple Israel

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## **2018 LEADERSHIP**

#### **OFFICERS**

Robert D. Litz, President
David Chassin, Vice President
Louise Losos, Vice President
Neil Marglous, Vice President
Jeremy Shook, Vice President
Michael Weiss, Vice President
Debbie Schultz, Treasurer
Brad Arst, Assistant Treasurer
Kathy de la Garza Ortbals, Secretary
Amy Lampert, Assistant Secretary
Dee A. Mogerman, Immediate Past President
Allan Epstein, Member At-Large
Dr. David L. Weinstein, Member At-Large

#### **PAST PRESIDENTS**

Dee A. Mogerman, 2014-17 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

#### **TRUSTEES**

David Aronson
Burt Bromberg
Jeff Brown
Liz Buchman
Carol Cohen
Hope Edison
Sarah Falkoff
Carla Feuer
Jayme Fingerman
Milton Fry
Ed Goldberg
Cathy Goldsticker
Ted Greenberg

Natalie Handelman Sally Heller Philip Horwitz Amanda Klopfenstein Dr. Jerry Levy Judy Lewis Hon. Matthew Meyers Jan Offenbach Nykin Andrew Olschansky Amanda Packman Steven Rosenblum Caryn Sandweiss Darcy Scharff, PhD

Erin Schneider Christine Schulze Arnold Spirtas Michele Steinberg Jeffrey Stern Dr. Susan Tuteur

#### RABBIS & LEADERSHIP STAFF

Amy Feder, Rabbi
Michael Alper, Rabbi
Mark L. Shook, Rabbi Emeritus
Rachel Wallis Andreasson, Executive Director
Leslie Wolf, Director of Family Education
Sari Levy, Religious School Director
Erin Wolfman May, Communications Director
Kim Rivera, Director of Accounting
Derrick Bryant, Building Supervisor
Lisa Hirshberg, Membership Manager
Debbie Jennings, Kitchen Manager
Martina Stern, Special Events Manager

## **2019 SLATE OF NOMINEES**

#### **OFFICERS**

Robert D. Litz, President
Dee A. Mogerman, Immediate Past President
Louise Losos, President-Elect
David Chassin, Vice President
Neil Marglous, Vice President
Jeremy Shook, Vice President
Mike Weiss, Vice President

Brad Arst, Treasurer
Cathy Goldsticker, Assistant Treasurer
Kathy de la Garza Ortbals, Secretary
Steve Rosenblum, Assistant Secretary
Allan Epstein, Member At Large
Sarah Falkoff, Member At Large
Dr. David Weinstein, Member At Large

#### **INCOMING TRUSTEES**

Amy Cohen Jeff Brown Jim Goldwasser Richard Greenberg Roy Hendin Wayne Kaufman Dr. Amy Knoblock-Hahn Amy Lampert

Sheri O'Gorman Amanda Packman Darcy Scharff, PhD Debbie Schultz Eric Spirtas Michele Steinberg Angela Stern

#### RECOGNIZING OUR OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

Receiving a Citation for Religious Leadership Award

David Aronson Hope Edison Carla Feuer Jayme Fingerman Philip Horwitz Erin Schneider

#### PILLAR OF THE TEMPLE AWARD RECIPIENTS



Susie Epstein, Educator, Temple Israel Susie is an amazing and dedicated Jewish Educator who has served the community at Temple Israel's education center for 25 years. She has had a hand in developing curriculum, leading programming, and

building relationships with our students and families that will last a lifetime.



Linda Kraus, Chair, The Kahn Foundation The Nathan Kahn-Ernestine Kahn-Charles Kahn Foundation provides aid, assistance, and relief to the elderly within our community, and Linda has been involved since its inception, serving on the committee that put together the

guidelines in 1990. For the past 21 years, she has also served as the Foundation's chairperson, handling correspondence, running meetings, and visiting each new organization that is funded.

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



**David Chassin**, Vice President, Facilities

David has served on Temple Israel's Board as a Trustee and on the Board Executive Committee, as well as on many volunteer committees. Some of the recent projects accomplished during his tenure include the renovation of the Gall Family Sanctuary entry foyer, seating, carpeting, bimah and ark; the new roof and upgraded ceiling, sound system, and light fixtures in both the Sanctuary and Isserman Auditorium; the conversion of all florescent fixtures to energy efficient LED lighting; and the refreshed Main Temple Office

and Meeting Room spaces. David is currently in the process of helping to lead Phases 2 and 3 of the Reimagining Campaign to renovate the exterior and interior of the education center, and we are confident that this project will be completed beautifully because of David's leadership. We are honored this year to present him with the President's Award for Continued Excellence for more than two decades of dedication and service in his many roles as a Temple Israel lay leader.

#### SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO HONOR TEMPLE LEADERS

CELEBRATE ANY OF OUR INCOMING/OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS OR AWARD RECIPIENTS WITH A **TRIBUTE DONATION** IN THEIR HONOR *More information on page 23.* 



## **ROBERT D. LITZ**PRESIDENT, TEMPLE ISRAEL

Looking back at my first year as President of the Board of Trustees, I am in awe of what we have accomplished together. Our well-attended Gala was so much fun and raised money for many important programs. Reinvigorating our volunteer committees has turned great ideas into action, providing for even better programs, policies and member experiences. The Temple office was renovated with new carpet and furniture for the first time since 1992. We added new hand rails at the entrance to the sanctuary, next to the May Chapel and next to the east parking lot, completed concrete work on our sidewalks, and repairs to the roof.

We spent a great deal of time planning for our Reimagining project, transforming Temple Israel's education center into a comfortable and safe facility with a 21st century design. We hired a

team of Lawlor Construction and Bond Architects to design and build Phase 2 of the project, beginning in 2019, thanks to the generosity of approximately 50 families who committed \$3.5 million. Phase 2 focuses on safety, security, and infrastructure including a new ADA compliant ramp at the school entrance, new entry stairs, canopy, and a new security vestibule, as well as relocating the school office next to the main entrance and replacing the windows and HVAC system. Phase 2 will also include exterior tuckpointing, concrete, and roof repairs.

In early 2019 we'll launch the Reimagining Campaign to raise funds for Phase 3, which will allow us to update the interior of our education center and includes a new infant room, new technology, flooring, wall coverings, and furniture.

We continued to operate within our financial means under the balanced 2018 budget approved by the Board of Trustees. We could not have operated in the black without your financial support. Our High Holy Days Giving Appeal was successful, exceeding our goal. Thank you! We are also thankful for those who pay their annual membership dues, as well as those who support TI as members of the Shofar Society and Rabbis' Circle.

It's no surprise that our support of one another is unparalleled. At Temple Israel, Judaism is better when we do it together. Sometimes that means gathering for Shabbat worship services to sing, pray, mourn, or celebrate. Sometimes we join a class for discussion or debate to learn and grow in our Judaism. We bring our children to the education center to become the next generations of mensches as they soak in Jewish values and traditions. We perform acts of loving kindness (g'milut chasadim) and take steps to repair the world (tikkun olam) as a Temple family. We give to those in need, we serve those who are marginalized, we fight for what's right, and we do it together.

However you and your family choose to express your faith, being a member of Temple Israel means that you gain a diverse and inclusive community of people who will be right by your side as you journey through your Jewish life.

Whether you've been a member of Temple Israel for generations, or just picked up this Annual Report as you sit in our office lobby awaiting a meeting with our staff or Rabbis, there are a few things you should know as you navigate the pages.

Anyone who wants to take part in congregational life is invited to enjoy the programs and opportunities that we offer. We believe that a diverse community creates Jewish vibrancy, and that you add brilliance to this community just by being uniquely you. Our lay leaders, volunteers, staff, Rabbis, and members strive to be audaciously welcoming and we want you to feel right at home envisioning your face or your family on any of these pages. There are no financial barriers to you belonging, and if there should ever be an obstacle, we'll create a new path around it.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We provide a holy space for any program or service you choose to attend, and we're so much more! If it's one service a year that brings you in, keep doing that! If you're looking for more, we've got that too. And if we don't have what you're looking for, let us know. We'd love the opportunity to partner with you to create it.

We embrace change, which is necessary to move forward as an inclusive spiritual home as times and needs evolve. It is you -- yes you, reading this now -- that help us to build upon the last 132 years of innovation to shape Temple Israel for the future.

Planning for 2019, our leadership could not be more excited about the direction in which we're headed. If you joined us for our 132nd Annual Meeting (November 30, 2018), you met the Trustees who were confirmed for a first term of Temple leadership, as well as those who have signed on for another term of board service. Each of our lay leaders, clergy, staff, volunteers, and every person who calls Temple Israel home has a sacred partnership with one another. We believe that our individual and collaborative contributions elevate holiness, and at the Annual Meeting, we celebrated that partnership by rededicating ourselves to another year of working together for the greatest good.

If you missed the Annual Meeting but are interested in becoming more involved, we would love to meet you here at Temple to share in Shabbat services or to grab a coffee and chat. Whether you know exactly where you fit or don't yet know where to begin, we want to ensure your experience at Temple Israel is fulfilling and meaningful. We invite you into this sacred partnership with opportunities that speak to your soul. You can reach out to me directly, to our Executive Director Rachel Wallis Andreasson, or to our Rabbis, Amy and Michael. Our doors are always open. Thank you for your Sacred Partnership with Temple Israel.

Rob Litz, President

president@ti-stl.org 314-432-8050

"We perform acts of loving kindness (g'milut chasadim) and take steps to repair the world (tikkun olam) as a Temple family. We give to those in need, we serve those who are marginalized, we fight for what's right, and we do it together."



## **TIKKUN OLAM & SOCIAL ACTION**

#### **SERVICE SQUAD**

Temple Israel's Service Squad gathers for opportunities both at the Temple and around the community to help those in need. Some recent projects include volunteering at the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry, setting up for our High Holy Days, and helping seniors at Covenant Place move into and unpack their new apartments.

#### **MITZVAH BAKERS**

This group bakes desserts and other treats for Shabbat Onegs and our annual Rosh Hashanah Lunch, as well as mitzvah opportunities such as the International Institute of St. Louis's New Americans Potluck. Each well-attended baking session has anywhere from 8-12 volunteers ranging in age from 20s-80s.

#### **PIES WITH A PURPOSE**

Each year, we bake hundreds of pumpkin pies to donate to the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry for the holidays and to serve at our Thanksgiving Dinner for Those in Need.

#### THANKSGIVING DINNER FOR THOSE IN NEED

Each year, this annual program serves 400-plus people in need the night before Thanksgiving. With delicious, homemade food, live entertainment, and beautifully decorated tables, people in need are served a meaningful, delicious meal with dignity and respect.

#### MITZVAH MARKET

For the second year, volunteers have gathered clothing to offer to guests at the Thanksgiving Dinner for Those in Need so that they can enjoy warm outerwear for the winter season.



#### MONROE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

Temple Israel volunteers help support Monroe Elementary School, located in the city of St. Louis, in a variety of ways. Tutors work with students individually and in small groups during class; bakers make treats to support teachers and staff; and volunteers help chaperone field trips, staff school-wide celebrations, provide a meaningful holiday for families through our holiday store, and more.

"I love doing tikkun olam with my fellow Temple Israel members at Monroe Elementary School, because I feel so blessed personally and believe I have a responsibility to lift my fellow man. Both the volunteers and the kids we are serving benefit from feeling valued and valuing others. No matter how sleepy or how hungry or how unstable their home environment is, the students know they can depend on us. We're changing lives just by showing up. Everyone deserves someone to believe in them."

Liz

Co-Chair of TI's Monroe Elementary School Partnership

#### SUPPORT FOR THOSE ON THE FRINGE

We host and/or facilitate various programs to educate our community and support those on the fringe of society. Some of our recent programming has included working with new Americans and refugees, as well as partnering with St. Louis's National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) to host a program informing the community about the perils of sex trafficking.

## THERE'S LOTS HAPPENING AROUND TEMPLE ISRAEL







#### **CRAFTING FOR COMMUNITY**

Crafting for Community is a group for knitters, crocheters, and scrapbookers, or anyone else who enjoys creative hobbies! It's is a place that you can work on your crafts with friends, while learning from each other and enjoying tikkun olam opportunities. Crafting for Community meets two Tuesday evenings per month from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at Temple Israel. Meetings are open to any interested adult congregant and their friends and family. We welcome experienced crafters and beginners alike!

This year, Crafting for Community made knitted knockers for women who have had a mastectomy, thank you notes to accompany hamantashen as parting gifts for Temple Israel's Masquerade Gala attendees, note cards for cancer patients, origami heart necklaces for women receiving chemo on Valentine's Day, and Hanukah cards for Jewish military men and women serving abroad.

## GROUNDS BEAUTIFICATION AND MITZVAH COMMUNITY GARDEN

Did you know that Temple Israel has a community garden? We grow lots of fresh produce April through September that we donate to the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry for those in need. The garden is maintained by our Religious School students during their nature (Teva) class, as well as by green-thumbed volunteers with a knack for growing great food.

Throughout the year, we also ask all plant-loving volunteers to help us garden, plant, weed, and trim to beautify our campus grounds for Shabbat Services and as we prepare for the High Holy Days. If you're interested in being a volunteer gardener, let us know. We can accommodate almost any schedule. If you don't have garden tools or gloves, don't worry! We have extra to share.

#### **WORSHIP**

The Worship Committee provides feedback and guidance for liturgical and music opportunities for Shabbat and holiday worship. They share suggestions, review comments, and seek to improve the worship experience for our diverse congregation.

#### THE KAHN FOUNDATION

The Nathan Kahn-Ernestine Kahn-Charles Kahn Foundation of Congregation Temple Israel provides grant opportunities for elderly in need in St. Louis. Since its first grant awarded in 1992, the foundation has distributed over \$2,869,000. Some of the programming that Temple Israel seniors and other seniors from around the community have enjoyed this year include the monthly senior lunches, the Jewish Seniors on the Move program, Maturity and its Muse: Celebrating Art for Senior Engagement Chavurat Shira choir concert, the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for Those in Need, and more.



"The senior lunches are an activity I enjoy tremendously, and look forward to each month. They are a fun place to meet and greet new and old friends, even as far back as high school, to have a delicious lunch – especially at Temple Israel – and enjoy entertaining varied programs, whether musical, educational, or informative; a wonderful afternoon at \$10!

Marge Senior Lunch Attendee

#### **USHER CORPS**

The Usher Corps members serve as greeters and ushers for worship and other congregational events. They are the first friendly faces that you see when you walk through our doors, and they provide support for the needs of visitors and members who are at the Temple for special events and services.



## **EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES**



## DEUTSCH EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER PARENTS COMMITTEE

The Deutsch Early Childhood Center (DECC) Parents Committee helps support the preschool director, the teachers, the students and their parents. Any parent with a child enrolled at DECC may participate on the committee. Committee activities include organizing fundraisers, serving as room parents, promoting social action projects, showing teachers appreciation throughout the year, and providing caring support to all of our preschool families.

This year, the Parents Committee:

Provided lunches for teachers on Conference Days, and yummy breakfasts at their monthly staff meetings,

Supported mitzvah projects for Temple Israel's partnership with Monroe Elementary School, NCJW's Back to School Store, and hurricane victims,

Hosted two amazing fundraisers: the Barnes & Noble Bookfair and Family Night at the Magic House,

Provided funds to purchase supplies for the Nature Room and additional supplies for all classrooms, and holiday and end-of-year gifts for DECC's office staff and specialty teachers.



#### TEMPLE ISRAEL RELIGIOUS AND HEBREW SCHOOL

Temple Israel Religious School and Hebrew School seek to provide a strong Jewish educational foundation while fostering a love of being Jewish and a sense of belonging to the Temple, local Jewish community, and to the broader Jewish world. This year we offer Religious School on Sundays for grades K-6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup>. 7<sup>th</sup> grade Religious School meets on Tuesdays, along with our Hebrew School program for grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>. Our K-6<sup>th</sup> grade students learn about Torah stories, mitzvot, holidays, lifecycle events, and Jewish culture. 7<sup>th</sup> grade Religious School meets with Rabbi Michael to better understand the joys and responsibilities of becoming a B'nai Mitzvah. 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders discuss the Jewish-American experience, the myriad of ways Jews practice Judaism, and the many other religions practiced throughout the world. Our 10<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation class designs their own course of study with the Rabbis to create a meaningful curriculum and community.

"Five years ago, we came here solely for the preschool, and we're staying because Temple Israel has become our home."

Heather
Religious School Parent

#### **YOUTH GROUP**

Temple Israel's Federation of Temple Youth (TIFTY) is specific to this congregation and includes two programs; one is geared toward our middle schoolers (grades 6-8), and the other is structured to appeal to our high schoolers (grades 9-12). The program creates young leaders through active engagement in congregational life and dynamic programs that develop lifelong friendships and a love for Judaism. Many of TIFTY's social events are focused on social action, Shabbat worship and holiday celebrations, retreats, and much more.

This year, the youth group kick-started the 2018-19 school year by hosting a pool party at Temple Israel for all St. Louis area youth group middle and high schoolers, hosted an Israel-themed gathering to celebrate culture and learn about opportunities to travel to Israel, enjoyed a group trip to Flying Spider, and hosted a Hanukah party. They also did tikkun olam by volunteering at the NCJW Back to School Store and Temple Israel's Thanksgiving Dinner for Those in Need, as well as led Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur High Holy Days Children's Services.

TIFTY is affiliated with the Missouri Valley Region of NFTY, the North American Federation of Temple Youth, and Netzer Olami, the international Reform Zionist youth movement.



"After spending some time on Temple Israel's website, I decided to try out a class. I came to one, then to others, and now, two years later, I'm still on this exciting journey. Temple Israel has made their educational programming so accessible — I feel invested, not just in learning, but in the entire community."

**Deb**Adult Education Class Attendee

#### **ADULT EDUCATION**

Our Rabbis design classes based on the requests and interests of our members and believe that adult education should be accessible for people of all skill sets and backgrounds. New classes this year include Like Dreamers: Israel in 2019, Torah Tuesdays for Sunday School Dropouts, as well as the return of Temple Israel University, and Saturday Morning Bible Study.



## **SPECIAL INTERESTS**



#### **TEMPLE ISRAEL'S WOMEN'S CONNECTION**

The mission of Women's ConnecTlon is simple: To unite all generations of female members at Temple Israel through periodic events and community service. No matter where you are in your life, Women's ConnecTlon provides a welcoming and inclusive space for women to celebrate each other and grow together through Jewish programs, holiday observances, social events, and opportunities to give back to our community and to those in need. Past programs have included a Girls' Night Out, Dressing on a Budget, and the annual Women's Passover Seder.

In 2018, we hosted some spectacular events!

Our Women's Passover Seder was enjoyed by more than 120 Temple Israel women of all ages. We enjoyed a spiritual Seder led by Rabbi Amy Feder with our very own personalized Haggadah; a delicious meal including brisket, salmon, fresh veggies, and dessert; and of course, the mandatory four cups of wine!

Our first ever Rosh Chodesh gathering aimed to celebrate the new moon and inspired each of us to set our intentions for the month to come. We shared food and wine, had an opportunity to donate a blanket to those in need, and enjoyed the company of so many other amazing women from our Temple Israel community.



"My Jewish journey includes thousands of moments spent in this building, as a student and as a teacher; as a Bat Mitzvah and as the mother of B'nai Mitzvah; as a committee member and as a board member; as a daughter, a granddaughter, a cousin, a friend; as a celebrator and as a mourner. I treasure all of those memories and the loving community I have here."

**Pattv** 

Women's ConnecTion Passover Seder Attendee

#### LGBTQ AFFINITY GROUP

Our LGBTQ members and allies gather together for social opportunities, to work on our annual Pride Shabbat, and to gather for Pride Weekend each summer.



#### **INTERFAITH INITIATIVE**

With the support of the Jonas Weil Endowment of Jewish Federation of St. Louis, Temple Israel serves interfaith couples and families with educational opportunities, date nights out, and other programming and initiatives that aim to celebrate our uniqueness and allow us grow in our faiths, together.

This year, couples have enjoyed two Date Night Out events: a wine sampling event where each couple painted their very own keepsake Kiddush cup, and a Sukkot get-together where guests fulfilled the mitzvah of dwelling in the Sukkah by sharing appetizers, adult beverages, great conversation, and some spiritual enlightenment led by our rabbis. Rabbi Amy also hosted a discussion geared toward interfaith families on how to make meaningful choices that respect both partners faiths of origin, how to incorporate new traditions, and how to honor tradition without denying the joys of the holiday season.

We showed our support for our refugee community by marching in the Jewish Coalition for New Americans Day Camp "I am an American!" Parade, as well as cooked yummy dishes for the potluck that followed, where new Americans from many countries and varying faiths came together for a day of fun and unity. We also built bridges by mailing outreach letters to more than a dozen churches, mosques, and other houses of worship, where we introduced Temple Israel and invited congregations to experience services and/or a tour of our synagogue.

"We've loved the interfaith program. It's been wonderful to meet the other interfaith couples and make new friends. The activities have been really meaningful, too. I loved the Shalom wooden signs that we made together (it will become a family heirloom!) and the evening in the Sukkah was just magical. It's another reason that Temple Israel feels like home for us."

Lisa

Interfaith Couples Night Out Series Attendee

#### **ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT**

The Israel Engagement Committee seeks to provide cultural and educational opportunities for Temple Israel members to learn about and connect with Israel. A highlight each year is our Annual Israeli Film Festival which is open to the entire community, hosted at Temple Israel, and includes two Israeli films, as well as an intermission with Israeli-style refreshments for all guests to enjoy.





#### LIFECYCLE EVENTS

Our Rabbis are called upon nearly every week to officiate at lifecycle events. These include Hebrew namings, brit milah ceremonies, consecration, B'nai Mitzvah, Confirmation, conversions, weddings, get ceremonies (for divorce), anniversaries, hospital visits, and funerals.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership is so important to us here at Temple Israel, we've decided to create two distinct focus areas to better support our congregation: Continuing Synagogue Support and Engagement. Both are critical and intertwined.

#### **MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Temple Israel maintains the utmost confidentiality when it comes to members' dues and philanthropic giving. This year, we did an in-depth look at Temple dues and reached out to those members we had not heard from to ensure they still wanted to be a part of the community. We are proud that we do not turn anyone away because of financial hardship, while at the same time, membership dues are critical to our operations. Fifty-seven percent of our congregation pays dues at the standard level or above and 43% pay below standard, and we could not continue to supplement those in financial hardship without the generosity of our Shofar Society and Rabbis' Circle members.



#### MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

This past year, the Membership Committee focused on creating a more personalized and individual connection with each member. Some of our accomplishments were:

We created a volunteer survey to share with the congregation during High Holy Days Services which aimed to spread awareness around the multitude of volunteer opportunities at Temple Israel. Throughout the upcoming year, we'll be advertising these opportunities through our Temple communications which we'll link to a special webpage where members can share their passions and interests and get involved. Take a peek! www.ti-stl.org/Volunteer

We designed and printed Mazel Tov, Todah Rabah, and Mi Shebeirach cards to send to our members to congratulate them, recognize special lifecycle events and milestones, thank them for their volunteerism, and/or share spiritual and emotional support during tough times.

We launched our online membership application to provide a more convenient way for potential members to join the community.

We're now matching current members with new members so that they may feel included and welcomed to the Temple Israel family the moment they join.

We're fostering an atmosphere of audacious hospitality Temple-wide and revitalizing the membership committee to reflect that value as we become more inclusive and active.

We're working on plans for engagement-driven activities where Temple members can make meaningful connections with each other.

"I came to Judaism after my son's death, seeking a way to make meaning of what had happened. Temple Israel embraced my family, my questions, and my pain, and they have given me not just a religion, but a home. After everything we've been through, knowing there is a place for my whole family to belong is priceless."

#### Claudia

Chose Judaism and Temple Israel as her Spiritual Home

## **ENSURING RESOURCES & LONGEVITY**

#### **DEVELOPMENT**

Our Development Committee is comprised of business and development professionals and Temple members who work to build a culture of philanthropy, inspiring members to take an active role in the Jewish tradition of tzedakah. Part of their focus is on planning and facilitating ways to give that fund Temple operations; but more importantly, the committee creates opportunities for members to support efforts that are meaningful and fulfilling to them personally.

This year, the committee focused on:

Hosting our bi-annual Gala, a Temple-wide celebration and fundraising event planned by an incredibly talented committee comprised of Temple members

Our annual High Holy Day Giving Campaign that aims to raise general operating funds that support an array of Temple programs and services

Planning the direction and strategy behind Temple Israel's Reimagining Campaign, a campaign to raise the necessary funding to enhance our education building's infrastructure and aesthetic

Planning events that recognize, honor, and thank our Rabbis' Circle members, our Shofar Society, and past and present campaign donors

In the year to come, the committee is excited to focus their efforts around planned giving and growing our major gift program participation.

"We believe that our collective giving is a Temple-wide commitment to ensuring a vibrant and thriving holy space for our next generation to call home."

**Jeffrey** *Chair, Development Committee* 

#### **FINANCE**

The finance committee gives assistance to staff on financial reporting and budgeting, as well as guidance on key financial decisions. The 2017 audit was completed on time and within budget by the auditing firm, CliftonLarsonAllen. The committee members also serve as consultants to the Board and ensure all bids and expense projects fall into the policies of the Temple.





#### **INVESTMENT**

The Investment Committee's role is to safeguard the marketable investment assets of the Temple and to ensure that these assets provide income for current Temple services and needs along with growth of the portfolio. In addition, the committee strives to invest the funds of the endowment in accordance with the mission of the Congregation Temple Israel, "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."

The investment of the Temple's funds is guided by a professional investment advisor. Throughout the year, the Investment Committee reviews portfolio performance and considers the recommendations made by the investment advisor.

In 2018, performance for the Endowment account through September 30, 2018 is up +1.82% net of all fees and expenses.

Returns in 2018 were driven mostly by asset allocation as determined by the investment policy of Temple Israel. To help limit risk, our Investment Policy restricts the equity portion of the portfolio to no more than 65% (60% traditional equities and 5% in alternatives). Bonds and cash make up the remaining percentage of the portfolio.

As the markets have continued to increase, we have recently sold off a percentage of our equities to keep equity allocation below the 60% restriction.

We continue to maintain the asset allocation thresholds as mandated by the guidelines as the equity market reaches new highs, and interest rates rise.

The current allocation of the Endowment portfolio is as follows:

5.20% Cash (Money Markets)

31.10% Fixed Income (Bonds)

59.00% Equities (Stocks) - 32.40% US, 20.80% international, 5.80% emerging market

4.70% Equities (Alternatives - MLPs and REITs)

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

The Human Resources Committee has focused on performance review forms for the leadership staff, as well as development. Marci Mayer Eisen from JPRO came to TI on two different occasions to give the TI staff tools and resources to ensure the success of the congregation. The focus for 2019 will be around updating the staff handbook and focusing on restructuring benefits and payroll to increase efficiencies.

## **FACILITIES, TECHNOLOGY, AND COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **FACILITIES**

Next time you're on Temple Israel's campus, take a look around! Our Facilities Committee has led many changes and updates, both inside and outside of the building. Here are a few highlights:

#### Upgrading the main Temple Israel office

New cubicles, office furniture, and carpet

Conversion of an extra office into a small conference space

New benches in the May Chapel foyer area

New carpet leading down the stairs to the Hirsh Auditorium

New carpet, paint, and blinds in the Meeting Room

This project was budgeted for \$60,000 and came in on time and under budget.

#### **Completion of our Homeland Security Grant**

This grant allows us to invest in new hardware and technology that provides increased safety and security for all our members and guests

This project was budgeted for \$150,000 and is in line to come in on budget.

#### The Reimagining Campaign to upgrade our Education Center

Phase 1 was completed in 2017 and included new handicap accessible bathrooms, a fire suppression system, upgraded plumbing, and some site improvements to the pool and playground areas

Phase 2 funds have been raised and will include an updated HVAC system, new windows, and additional safety and accessibility features

Phase 3, when funded, will involve completion of the interior renovations to the Education Center

Town Hall meetings have been held to share details about this exciting investment in our future. The official kick off for Phase 3 will be in the first quarter of 2019. We hope you'll join us to be a part of this special piece of Temple Israel history!

"Our community is built on a tradition of generosity, and we're so excited to see what we can build together."

#### Pache

**Executive Director, Temple Israel** 





#### **TECHNOLOGY**

The Technology Committee was instrumental in helping Temple Israel reduce costs, while increasing the technology footprint. Here is a recap of the accomplishments:

Firewall: A new firewall, Forticlient, was installed which will be able to help us control content accessed throughout the building.

Laptops: We purchased twelve new laptops for the Education Building as well as storage/charging cases. Funding came through generous supporters of our Wish List, as well as the Hermann & Erna Deutsch Student Resource Center Fund.

**Wireless:** Multiple new wireless access points were installed throughout the building to provide better coverage.

**Live Stream:** The TV by the main sanctuary now streams services.

**Server:** The server was relocated prior to the office rehab project, to allow more room in the main office.

**Homeland Grant:** New entrance security, as well as new hardware and software, was installed to comply with the requirements of the Homeland Security grant received in 2016.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Our communications committee is comprised of marketing and PR professionals, writers and editors, and creative minds, as well as Temple Israel members who enjoy steering our messaging and moving our brand to the next level. This year, the committee has contributed to the look and messaging of our Annual High Holy Days Giving appeal, chosen the creative agency who facilitated our Reimagining Campaign brand, written articles for our blog, contributed to and edited countless Dateline Bulletins and creative materials, and have shared their expertise, guidance, and creative direction both individually and as a group for a multitude of special projects.

## **AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS**



#### **BOY SCOUT TROOP 11**

Temple Israel sponsors a Boy Scout Troop that includes boys of all religious backgrounds from the community. Beyond their regular scouting opportunities, they serve as volunteers at Temple Israel programs and host regular retreats at the Edison Retreat Center.

"The Jewish faith is based around respect, tradition, and education. At Temple Israel's prayerbook burial ceremony every participant gained a deeper understanding of each."

Tyler

Young adult Temple Israel Member & Prayerbook Burial Volunteer



Temple Israel and Shaare Emeth co-own a beautiful cemetery located in Affton, MO. This Reform cemetery is one of the only Jewish cemeteries in St. Louis that allows interfaith couples to be buried together. New director Don Meissner has spent this year updating the cemetery's social media, finding new ways to make people aware of the cemetery, and maintaining the space beautifully.







## SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO HONOR TEMPLE LEADERS

CELEBRATE ANY OF OUR
INCOMING/OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS OR AWARD RECIPIENTS
WITH A **TRIBUTE DONATION** IN THEIR HONOR

#### **MAKE A TRIBUTE ONLINE:**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND MAKE YOUR TRIBUTE TODAY:

## WWW.TI-STL.ORG/ANNUALMEETING

#### MAKE A TRIBUTE BY MAIL:

MAIL IN THE NAME OF THE PERSON YOU'D LIKE TO HONOR ALONG WITH A CHECK TO TEMPLE ISRAEL AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

PO BOX 790379, ST. LOUIS, MO 63179-0379

Full Slate of Nominees on page 3.

## **CONTINUING SYNAGOGUE SUPPORT** 2018

The following members of our Rabbis' Circle and Shofar Society voluntarily contribute at levels that exceed standard dues. Their generous gifts represent almost half of our annual revenue from synagogue support, helping us to bridge the gap between dues income and operating expenses and enabling us to welcome all who seek to join our congregation, regardless of their financial means.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our Rabbis' Circle and Shofar Society members for their generosity. If you would like to join the Rabbis' Circle or Shofar Society, please contact Rachel Wallis Andreasson, Executive Director, at randreasson@ti-stl.org or 314-548-9743.

(\*) Denotes new members of the Rabbis' Circle or the Shofar Society

(\*\*) Denotes moving up a level

## **RABBIS' CIRCLE-**

#### HILLEL

Sam & Marilyn Fox Irving & Susan Levy

#### **AKIBA**

Thomas & Rachel Andreasson
June Bierman
Harold & Elaine Blatt\*\*
Eugene & Lee Deutsch
Jack & Ellen Deutsch
Jeremy & Marni Deutsch
Jonathan & Jennifer Deutsch
Hope Edison
Allan & Susie Epstein

Judy Gall
Paul & Susan Goldberg
Morty Green
Earl & Essie Kessler
Howard Lesser
Jerry & Judy Levy
Michael & Felice Lowenbaum
Cary & Dee Mogerman
Jay & Heather Padratzik

Mark & Jeniffer Rubenstein\* Joseph Silverman\*\* Noma Simon & Robert Stone Adam & Emily Wallis Jason Wallis Lynn Wallis Peter Weiss & Barbra Horn Vivian Zwick

## SHOFAR SOCIETY

#### **TEKIAH GEDOLAH**

Gordon & Terry Bloomberg Norman & Barbara Hausfater Nancy Kalishman Gary & Frances Lazaroff Herman & Hilde Rochman Dan & Joanne Schwartz\*\*

#### **TERUAH**

Donald Blum
Eric & Elaine Bly
Robert & Ellen Brin
Matt Bruckel & Katherine Green Bruckel
Henry & Ellen Dubinsky
Rita Eiseman
Bettie Gershman
Edward & Dorette Goldberg
Joe & Abby Goldberg
Kenneth & Helen Goldstein

Howard & Alice Handelman Neil & Natalie Handelman Eugene & Joan Kraus Constance Levy Mont & Karen Levy Larry & Liz Linkon Larry & Patty Malashock Neil & Ricki Marglous Joy Melman Steve & Leslie Melnick Bruce & Caryn Sandweiss Laurence Schiffer Arnold & Sandra Spirtas Leonard & Marty Weinstock Howard & Bonnie Weiss

#### **SHEVARIM**

Stewart Albert
David & Martha Aronson
Keith & Hui Hua Bernstein
Marcia Bernstein
Robert & Susan Bernstein
Ivan & Linda Blumoff
Jeffrey & Katie Brodsky\*\*
Amy Cohen
Edward & Carol Cohen
Pamela Dern
James & Carolyn Eiseman
Charles & Karen Elbert

Leonard & Audrey Adreon

Gary & Robin Feder
William & Dorothy Firestone
Doris Fishman
Fred & Barbara Flegel
Jeff & Lotta Fox
Sarijane Freiman
Gary Handelman
Suzanne Hoffman
David & Barbara Kantrovitz
Jerome & Linda Kraus
Lois Levin

Lois Levin Adele Lewis Michael & Lynne Lippmann Mark & Wendy Ludwig Debbie Manne Shelley Marglous Dorothy Meyerson Leslie Nackman Aaron & Frala Osherow Jules & Joyce Pass Melvin & Aileen Rabushka Betsy Rubenstein\* James Schiele Robert & Nancy Spewak Richard & Lecie Steinbaum Arnold & Dotty Tepper Jim Thomeczek & JoAnne Levy Peter & Susan Tuteur Chad & Sarah Wallis Pamela Becker Weilitz\*\* David & Liz Weinstein Michael & Diane Weiss Norman & Barbara Wielansky Stephen & Linda Wielansky Don Wiley Jeff Winnick

#### **TEKIAH**

Scott & Robin Alton Arthur & Marian Auer Fred & Joy Balis Barry & Susan Barber Phil & Beverly Barron\* Mark & Joelle Biernacki Les & Ruth Block\* Lawrence & Janice Brody Jeff Brown & Amy Fenster Brown Craig & Elizabeth Buchman\* David & Jody Chassin Ronald & Cheri Chod Darryl & Kathy Cohen Bill & Lisa Cohen Michael Dern\* Ryan & Laura Fields Terrence & Pepe Finn Ed & Susan Fliesher Gary & Joyce Follman Shanon & Naomi Forseter Charles & Elaine Fremder Robert & Mary Ellen Freund\* Milton & Eleanor Fry Arthur Gale Burton Garland, Jr. & Amy Garland Leonard Gaum

Robert & Cathy Goldsticker

Ronald & Jan Greenberg

Richard Greenberg & Claire Schenk

Karole Green

Robert Hahn & Amy Knoblock-Hahn Harvey & Judy Harris Arnold & Myrna Hershman Philip & Linda Horwitz Warner & Helane Isaacs Dale & Marcie Kalina Michael & Jodi Kaplan Jonathan & Sally King Mark & Nancy Kodner Richard & Lisa Kraner Amy Lampert Jayne Langsam Greg & Aly Levine Robert & Susan Levin Robert & Marjie Levy\* David & Elayne Lieberman David & Judith Lipsitz Rob & Nancy Litz Louis & Carole Loebner Daniel & Lisa London Joseph & Carolyn Losos Louise Losos & Beth Wiggins Kenneth & Loren Ludmerer Donald & Sallie Mogerman **Dolores Newport** Jan Nykin Bob & Kathy Ortbals Michael & Diane Packman Laurence & Cheryl Perlstein

Ted & Laura Greenberg

Paul & Judith Putzel Robert & Mary Rosenblum Steven & Karla Rosenblum James & Diana Rothbarth Marcos & Cathy Rothstein Norman & Michele Roth Norma Scallet Howard Schlansky & Carol Rubin Debbie Schultz Bob & Susie Schulte Julian & Helen Seeherman Avery Seidel Bradley & Debbie Shanker Walter & Jennifer Shifrin Jeremy & Beth Shook Mark & Carol Shook\* Marcee Silverstein Robert & Elizabeth Snidman Judith Stenzel Jeffrey & Martina Stern Cary & Helen Stolar Mark & Jane Tucker Scott & Rita Waldman David Weiss & Bobby Sanderson Edward & Barbara Weiss Marlita Weiss Terry & Phyllis Weiss David & Karen Weller **Brett & Kimberly Wolf** 

"The Shofar Society is a mitzvah...a good deed...and really, a commandment; but more than anything, it's a privilege to open the doors to all who want to join us."

**Jan** Shofar Society Member

## **ANNUAL HIGH HOLY DAYS GIVING 2018**

Stephen M. Ackerman In honor of Julia Steinback

Leonard Adreon

Michael Alper & Amy Feder

Thomas & Rachel Andreasson In honor of the Biernacki family's contributions during the High Holy Days

**Anonymous** 

Anonymous

Anonymous

Anonymous

Harriette Arkin

In memory of Lloyd Arkin

David & Martha Aronson

Brad & Alissa Arst

Randy & Cathy Arst

Craig Altman

Alex Belotserkovsky

Igor & Raisa Belotserkovsky
In honor of Boris Belotserkovsky

Alex & Cynthia Berger In honor of Rabbi Amy Feder

Marcia Bernstein

Robert & Patricia Bernstein

Rob & Anna Bertman

Jessica Billhymer

Beryl Binowitz

Mark Blackwood

In memory of Delores Bossie

Les & Ruth Block Harry J. Bluestein Ivan & Linda Blumoff

Marc Braun

Sharol Brickman

Jeffrey & Katie Brodsky

Burt & Monique Bromberg In memory of Margy & Jake

Bromberg

Jeff & Amy Brown Ronald Brown

Craig & Liz Buchman

Matt & Anna Bukhshtaber

Gary & Kim Bussard

David & Debbie Caplin

F. Chasen

David & Jody Chassin

Edward & Carol Cohen

Kay Cohen

In memory of Robert S. Cohen

Peter & Gisela Cohen

Harold & Paula Colton

Jerrold Comensky

Richard & Mary Dalton

Paul & Robi Damyan

Michael Dern

Pamela Dern

David & Beth Deutsch

Gene & Lee Deutsch

In memory of Erna & Hermann

Deutsch

Jack & Ellen Deutsch

Jonathan & Jennifer Deutsch

Tom & Kathy DeWoskin In honor of Terry & Phyllis Weiss

Gary & Irina Dubinovsky
In honor of S. Stanislavsky

Hope Edison

Allan & Susie Epstein

Jerrold Epstein

Jerome Faintich

Ron & Sarah Falkoff

Christopher & Emilie Fan

Gary & Robin Feder

Mark Feldman

Marge Fenster

In memory of Ronald Fenster

Steve & Dena Ferman

Michael & Carla Feuer

Mitchell & Jayme Fingerman

Ed & Susan Fliesher

Julius & Susan Frager

Sarijane Freiman

Robert & Mary Ellen Freund

Milton & Eleanor Fry
In memory of Susan Fry

Gary & Joyce Follman

Judy Gall

David & Sabina Garfinkel

David Gitt Janice Gitt

In honor of Larry Malashock

Eleanor Glick

Ed & Dorette Goldberg

Paul & Susan Goldberg

Jay Goldburg

Marvin Goldfarb

In memory of

Al Bohne Goldfarb, Melba Goldfarb, Wesley Goldfarb,

and Lori Shelton

Jerry Goldstein Linda Goldstein

Ralph Goldsticker

In memory of Helen Goldsticker

Robert & Cathy Goldsticker

Jim, Cary, Jill, and Joey

Goldwasser Lisa Goozh

Morty Green

Richard Greenberg & Claire

Schenk

Sandra Greenberg

Ted & Laura Greenberg

Dan Grossman

Paul & Carol Gusdorf

Lev Guter & Katie Rice-Guter

David & Robin Gutmann

Robert & Amy Hahn

Chuck Halpern

Harvey & Judy Harris

David & Renee Hartstein

Howard R. Hearsh

In memory of Betty Hearsh

Sally I. Heller & Ron Van Fleet In honor of Delores Heller

Roy & Susan Hendin

Carolyn Henges

In honor of Victoria Drier

Lisa Hirshberg

Dan & Janie Hochman

Philip & Linda Horwitz

Larry Jablonow

Dale & Marcie Kalina

Nancy F. Kalishman In memory of Jerry

*Kalishman* 

Brett & Tzivia Kalmes

Wayne & Gloria Kaufman

Earl & Essie Kessler

Irene Kessler

In memory of Ralph

Kaufman

Amanda Klopfenstein
In memory of Nick Roodman

Richard & Susan Kofkoff

Alene Kopolow

William & Peggy Kornfein

Edward & Judith Koshner

Eugene & Joan Kraus

Lugerie & Joan Kraus

Jerry & Linda Kraus

In honor of the Temple Israel Choir

David Kravitz

David & Martha Kreipke

Bernard Kunitz

Amy Lampert Suzanne Lasky

For Alvin Lasky & Jack

Ansehl

Gary & Frances Lazaroff Benjamin & Lois Lefton

Joy Lending

David & Esther Levine

Jeff & Louise Levine

David Levinson

Ellen Sue Levy & Carl Desenberg In honor of Jerry Levy's 84th

**Birthday** 

Jerry & Judy Levy Mont & Karen Levy

Arthur & Judy Lewis

Thomas & Adele Lewis

Joe & Minnette Liberman

Myra Link

Elizabeth & Larry Linkon

Michael & Lynne Lippmann

Arthur & Adele Litz In memory of Michael H. Litz

Rob & Nancy Litz In honor of Adele & Arthur Litz

Joseph & Carolyn Losos In honor of Louise Losos

Louise Losos & Beth Wiggins

Michael & Felice Lowenbaum In honor of Rabbi Amy Feder

Loren & Ken Ludmerer *In memory of our parents* 

Mark & Wendy Ludwig In honor of our parents

Craig Mandel

Jordan Mandel

Neil & Ricki Marglous

Shelley Marglous

Sidney & Marjorie Martin In memory of Lois Martin

Matthew May & Erin Wolfman May

Betsy Mehlman

Morgan, Matt, Lila, Grey, and **Jack Meyers** 

Dorothy Meyerson

Cary & Dee Mogerman

Ronald & Stephanie Moidel

Jackie Moore

Marvin & Sandra Muchnick

Leslie Nackman

Steven Natuman

Julie Nichols

Jan Nykin & family In memory of Enid & Harry

Offenbach

Andrew & Julie Olschansky

Bob and Kathy Ortbals

Leanne Ortbals

Robert & Lori Ortbals

Amanda Packman

Ella Raber

Howard Rader

Andrew Rehfeld & Miggie Greenberg

Mark Rivkin

In honor of Mark Shook

Herman & Hilde Rochman

Lorraine Rosenberg *In memory of Theodore* Rosenberg

Steve & Karla Rosenblum

Tom Rosenfeld

Jim & Dana Rothberg Maya Samoylovich

Barbara Sandmel

Bruce & Caryn Sandweiss In honor of our wonderful

Rabbis

Ron & Darcy Scharff

Laurence Schiffer

Howard Schlansky & Carol Rubin In memory of Ruth Ann & Rabbi Alvan Rubin

John & Erin Schneider

Debbie Schultz

Christine Schulze & Jeremy

Hodess

Dan & Joanne Schwartz In honor of our grandchildren

Julian & Helen Seeherman

Ilya Shlafshteyn & Zhanna

Bershteyn

Jeremy & Beth Shook

Mark & Carol Shook

Stephen Shrage

Barbara Silver

Noma Simon

In memory of our loved one

Steven & Lael Simon

Mark & Nancy Sophir

Bob & Nancy Spewak

Melford & Sharon Spiegelglass

Clifford Spinner

Arnold & Sandra Spirtas

Martin & Karen Stein

Irvin & Sharon Steinberg In honor of Michael, Michele, Miriam, and Jessica Steinberg's reading on Yom Kippur

Michael & Michele Steinberg

Arthur & Susan Stiefel Jeffrey & Martina Stern

Cary & Helen Stolar

**Bob Stone** 

Elaine Tatkow

Jim Thomeczek & JoAnne Levy

Mark & Jane Tucker Peter & Susan Tuteur

Scott & Rita Waldman

Lynn Wallis

In memory of Bill, Gigi, and

Grandpa

Harmon Wasserman

James & Pat Wedner

Pam Weilitz

In honor of Alan Weilitz

Andy & Amy Weinhaus

David & Liz Weinstein

Leonard & Marty Weinstock

Michael Weiser

In honor of Dan & Joanne

Schwartz

Evan & Amy Weiss

Michael & Diane Weiss

Sanford & Ellen Weiss

Terry & Phyllis Weiss In memory of Lillian Karsh

Hendin

David & Karen Weller

Mickey & Sam Wendling

Steven & Linda Wielansky

Kenneth & Eva Wilde

**Deborah Withington** 

Alan & Eleanor Wolff

Rich Wooten & Julie Follman

Aubrey Yawitz

In memory of Juanita

Yawitz

Valeria Yershov

John Yunker

Fran Zamler

In memory of Ruth Berger

## **ABOUT TEMPLE ISRAEL**

## **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.



