



Report on Lifelong Learning in 2022-2023

Lifelong Learning ("Adult Ed") opportunities in '22-'23 were successful and well attended, maintaining quality programming while also capturing our members' varied interests!

- Our Torah Study is as popular as ever, frequently having 40-50+ people join together Saturday mornings via Zoom. This is a much larger group than we ever had in person! Come learn with us!
- Our new Reading Rabbis program occurs once monthly on Tuesdays and is a great addition to our programming, with a core group of returning learners each month. All members are welcome!
- Our Kol Hakavod ensemble, under the direction of Cantor Gostein and assisted by Music Program Assistant Sara Kaye, is as strong as ever! Singing with and leading our community at both High Holidays and our annual Shabbat Shir Shalom (ultra-musical Shabbat), as well as Shabbat services throughout the year, we had around 60 adults participating over the course of the year!
- Our Recipes and Reminiscing programming is still highly attended. We came together in the fall to make rugelach for Rosh Hashanah, in the winter to make smoked salmon (on his smoker at the home of Paul and Amy Mesches - thank you Paul!), and in the spring Rabbi and Lori Freedman taught us how to make some of their favorite eastern European and Israeli dishes. We plan on more cooking (and tasting!) opportunities this next year!
- Other popular classes included Let's Talk About It - Israel: A Simple Guide, Origin of the Israelites, Trope Club, Finding Your Way to Pray, Silk-Painted Tallit class, and The Living Breath of God - thank you to Rabbi Steinman, Michael Gostein, Cantor Gostein, Kelly Finkel, and Dr. Rosa Schnyer!
- Our Book Club, led by Jacqueline Fox, meets virtually the last Tuesday of every month and has read 12 books this year - thank you!
- Ten students attended Introduction to Judaism under the coordination of our then-student rabbi, now Rabbi Melissa Lefkowitz, with Rabbi Steinman and Cantor Gostein's involvement as well.
- Artist in Residence Dan Nichols entertained while simultaneously filling our spiritual cups in December, and also led the educational program entitled "O. My. God."

- Our recent congregational trip to Israel was a great success! Members traveled together while learning and making lifelong memories.

A big todah rabah to Elias Brodsky, our education coordinator, who created numerous registration forms for our many programs and made our lifelong learning newsletters. Coordination of web content updates with Jennifer Kramer, our communications associate, was also a big part of keeping lifelong learning humming along, as well as overall communications with all staff and clergy who were involved in particular programming and oversight. Thanks to you both, as well as all of our staff and clergy - these programs take a lot of time and effort behind the scenes, and we couldn't have done it without you!

Rabbi Freedman's retirement is bittersweet. We will miss his teaching (and pacing!) greatly, but this is an exciting time in our history. We are eager to welcome Rabbi Hall as our new assistant rabbi and look forward to our continued stellar relationship with Rabbi Ellie Steinman, our new senior rabbi. We hope everyone will take the opportunity to get to know our entire clergy team (Rabbi Steinman, Rabbi Hall, and Cantor Gostein) at our future learning opportunities - we all have so much to learn from our spiritual leaders, and they are all excellent teachers. Our programming is successful because of their leadership, and because of YOU - our members! - so please continue to participate and learn with us. Our relationships are what make Temple Beth Shalom's Lifelong Learning programming so special.

Fondly submitted by Carly Johnson and Mark Salmanson, your Lifelong Learning co-chairs