



# TEMPLE JEREMIAH ANNUAL REPORT

PRESENTED AT OUR ANNUAL MEETING  
29 Iyar 5775 • May 18, 2015

# TEMPLE JEREMIAH

Many hands, many hearts, one home.



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# AGENDA

29 Iyar 5775    May 18, 2015

## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF TEMPLE JEREMIAH

Call to order

D'var Torah.....Rabbi Paul F. Cohen, D.Min.

President's Report.....Ken Lorch

Financial Report.....Jeff Krupp

Nominating Committee Report.....Julie Ford

Final Comments and Questions

Closing Blessing.....Rabbi Paul F. Cohen, D.Min.

Adjournment

## PRESENTATION OF "BENEATH THE HELMET" FILM

# TEMPLE JEREMIAH MISSION STATEMENT

- Temple Jeremiah is a Reform Jewish congregational family whose mission is to foster and invigorate a love for worship, study of Torah, and acts of *tikkun olam* in a caring community that embraces diversity in its membership.
- We are dedicated to lifelong Jewish education, *tzedakah*, social justice, and the State of Israel.
- We strive to fulfill our mission by building relationships that connect us as members of an extended family who recognize each other as created in the image of God.

—Adopted by the Board of Directors  
April 26, 2004

# TEMPLE JEREMIAH VISION STATEMENT

We nurture positive and spiritually fulfilling Jewish identity through prayer, learning, *tikkun olam*, and a commitment to family and community.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*Ken Lorch*

EVERY YEAR SEEMS TO BE AN AMAZING YEAR at Temple Jeremiah. I am looking back and reflecting on what an incredible experience the last several years have been for me. I strongly recommend temple leadership to anyone who really wants to participate in a truly spiritual journey. I am forever grateful for having had the opportunity to participate in so many meaningful moments and to help this amazing organization fulfill its mission.

This year we added Adam Kahan to our senior staff as an amazing cantorial soloist. He brings creativity, energy, spirit, commitment, caring, seriousness with a sense of humor and more to the role. He has made himself a part of our family in less than a year — a time during which he not only had to learn how we function but also began his formal cantorial training. He is fabulous. As he establishes himself, we also made Cantor Amy our Cantor Emerita, assuring she will remain a part of our family for years to come.

I started my presidency committed to our active social action program because I believe that *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) is a strong point of connection with Reform Jews. This year, again, we have provided thousands of meals through Feed the Homeless and tons of food through Backpack Blessings, while members, led by the energy and caring of Lori Kash, have provided supplies and hands on care for dozens of students at the Whittier School in Waukegan. We also continued our participation in the shelter program of Family Promise, led by Marcia Osher and



## TEMPLE JEREMIAH BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2014-2015

**BACK ROW (from left):** Gail Modro, Judd Brody, Michael Schack, Charles Alexander, Ed Shapiro, Jeff Krupp, Sami Levi, Michael Myers, Scott Levin, Brad Ross, Randi Gurian, Barb Miller

**FRONT ROW (from left):** Gabrielle Feldman, Lori Goldstein, Stephanie Victor, Joel Africk, Ken Lorch, David Loundy, Nadine Tosk, Abby Lasky, Alisa Patterson, Steve Kleiman, Julie Ford

**NOT PICTURED:** Fred Kagan, David Ruskin, Babette Sanders, John Sobel, Lynne Sorkin, Alan Toban, Alan Turover, Sara Turover, Spencer Lavin

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT, *continued*

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Abra Berkley. Yet, as we know, social action is not enough to fix problems and so we encouraged our community to engage in advocacy. With Barbara Miller and her committee's dedication, we have published monthly informational e-mails suggesting ways for congregants to reach out to their legislators on the problems our neighbors face regarding hunger and the complex issues of immigration. This year we invited Congressman Robert Dold to listen to our concerns. After hearing from a group of our leaders, he met with a dozen of our 8th graders while they were interviewing other young undocumented immigrants who were candidates for citizenship under President Obama's recent pronouncement. Representative Dold encouraged each of those young people to stay involved in the advocacy process. More such programs are in the planning stage.

We have held a number of town hall meetings on topics of concern. Most recently we held two on the developments in Israel and how the framework for a new relationship with Iran affects Israel and the rest of the Middle East. Support of Israel remains an important part of our mission, and understanding the part it plays in our Jewish lives is a goal of our Israel Action Committee. This year that committee supported the work of the American Reform Zionists of America by encouraging our congregants to vote for the ARZA slate in the World Zionist Congress elections. ARZA is committed to ensuring a democratic and pluralistic society in Israel.

When I started my presidency I also wanted to change our culture of giving and increase awareness of our need for funds to support the congregation beyond annual commitments. To do so, we involved ourselves in the Leave a Jewish Legacy Program, which has resulted in 18 commitments from families to leave a gift to the congregation as part of their estate plans. This effort will ensure the congregation will remain strong when those families are no longer around to provide annual support. We received \$10,000 as an award for our participation in this program and we are on our way to another 18 commitments with an additional \$10,000 award if we are successful doing so in the coming year. Our goal is 90 commitments in the coming years. While our budget remains balanced, these legacy gifts are needed to strengthen our endowment and our finances for the future. We also implemented the Families Helping Families Annual Fund. This new approach to fundraising allowed us to have a social event that was open to all, rather than an expensive single fundraising event. It also supported a shift in thinking about our giving to the temple. Instead of traditional transactional forms of giving, where we get something in exchange for the gift (like a raffle ticket or a ticket to an event), we all need to understand the importance of everyone giving a little more, if we are able, in order for us to carry on the important work the temple does.

**"I am forever grateful for having had the opportunity to participate in so many meaningful moments and to help this amazing organization fulfill its mission."**

This year, our Green Team, chaired by Barry Slotnick with Rabbi Segal's solid stewardship, sensitized us to environmental issues and we implemented many green initiatives. The result was our Green Faith Certification. When we received the award, we were told we had implemented more changes than any other faith-based organization that had participated in the certification program to date. Among the many things we now do, we added a water bottle filling station that is handicapped accessible and have a vegetarian option, if not an entirely vegetarian meal, at every dinner program. We are using green cleaning compounds whenever possible and, thanks to a gift from the Slotnick family, have installed electric hand dryers that reduce our use of paper towels.

Our Board adopted a security plan for the building and trained all our personnel and teachers in its implementation with the input of Michael Crane, a member who is a security specialist with the firm of Hillard Heintze. We also installed new, environmentally friendly exterior lights and are installing security cameras and entry restriction hardware and software to strengthen the security of the building. Panic hardware has been installed on all our stairwell doors for safer emergency exiting.

Our investment committee has taken approximately 50% of our reserve funds and invested them pursuant to a policy that was adopted by the Board. The policy provides for not just a prudent approach to investing but committing a significant portion of the funds in socially responsible investments. This included the purchase of State of Israel Bonds. Our investments gained almost 5% in six months.

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT, *continued*

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Under the tutelage of Julie Ford and with the strong involvement of Mitch Slotnick and Diana Kaufmann, this year we initiated a new Leadership Development Program. The idea is to create a pipeline of committed and educated leaders for the synagogue community. The hope is that leaders will engage in one or more programs and create a stronger connection between them and the temple. The first year graduated 29 leaders and 12 new potential leaders have been identified to participate in the second cohort beginning next fall.

With funds provided by the Joe Goldberg family and others, we have enhanced our programming for families with members who have special needs. We have had special services for Rosh HaShanah and Chanukah, and a quieter program before the Purim Carnival. These programs were opened to the greater Chicago community, which has not had a Reform Jewish resource for this type of programming. The temple is developing a strong reputation as a welcoming place for families looking for these opportunities. Leadership in this area has been taken on by our new Inclusion Committee chaired by Caren Brown with the help of more than a dozen other people. This year, thanks to the generous donations of the Ardell and Maxon families, we installed a hearing loop in our sanctuary and social hall to assist those with hearing loss.

We are also undertaking new approaches to education in our upper religious school grades and in our B'nai Mitzvah program. These are just being rolled out, but result from several visioning sessions undertaken by our Religious Education Committee with Dr. Lidsky and our Board. Our desire is to not just continue to provide a positive experience to each of our young people, but also ensure they have a strong Jewish identity when their formal religious school education ends. This is what we have called a B'nai Mitzvah Evolution; but it is more than that. It is a continued effort to have our educational program meet the needs of all our families.

I could go on with many other wonderful developments. We don't just add things like those outlined above, but we continue the solid programs already in place like the religious school, youth choir, adult learning, our caring community, the Brotherhood, and the newly restructured Women of Jeremiah. I would be remiss if I didn't make mention of the entire administrative staff. Danny has empowered them to take responsibility for many aspects of their jobs. The result includes a staff development program that has resulted in a number of speakers coming to the temple to teach our staff on a variety of subjects. All of our administrative staff as well as our religious and Hebrew school teachers are engaged, professional and committed. I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to witness what each and every one of them does.

I now pass the baton to my good friend, Joel Africk, who succeeds me as president of the congregation. He has been an excellent sounding board for ideas and a guide in helping me lead the congregation. I so appreciate his insight. I also want to recognize the obvious: That our congregation is blessed with amazing leadership. The partnership between our board and other volunteers and the senior staff is fabulous. In each visioning session of our board, I listened to new ideas being discussed by caring people. As I have witnessed discussions among other synagogue presidents, I have not heard of a stronger lay leadership – professional staff relationship. Rabbi Cohen is creative and open to new ideas and completely committed to what he is doing. He is not just a spiritual leader but a moral compass. He has an open door, an available ear and a helpful word for anyone who chooses to take advantage of the opportunity he provides. Similarly, Danny Glassman, Anne Lidsky, and Rabbi Emily Segal are devoted to what they do and they do it with love for the organization. We are indeed blessed. Thank you again, for allowing me to have been a part of this team.

Suffice it to say, I feel a strong emotional and spiritual connection to our community having been a part of all our fabulous programs. I hope you take advantage and don't miss out on your opportunity to connect as well. As I said in my first High Holy Day address, to ensure a strong Jewish identity for your children it takes more than "being Jewish." Joining a congregational community is important but it is not enough. To really communicate values to your children, you need to engage too. Opportunities abound at Temple Jeremiah. Give it some more of your time. Everyone will benefit. I know it from my experience. You won't be sorry.

To sum up what we are, the Board has also just adopted a tagline that we feel speaks to our mission and our vision statement. You will be hearing it often. Temple Jeremiah is "many hands, many hearts, one home." I hope you feel it.

# RABBI PAUL F. COHEN, D.Min.

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Dear Friends,

This has been a year of great change, great opportunity and great success for our congregation. I hope that you will read this Annual Report to get a fuller view of all that we have done as a community of faith. We have worked to embody the vision statement of our congregation: *“We nurture positive and spiritually fulfilling Jewish identity through prayer, learning, tikkun olam, and a commitment to family and community.”* This year our prayer has been shaped, informed and enriched through the addition of our new cantorial soloist, Adam Kahan. His spirit and his talent have been a blessing and helped ensure that the transition of Cantor Zussman taking on Emerita status was smooth for our community. I thank Cantor Zussman for all that she has given to our community over the years and for everything she has done to help Adam feel at home.

As I reflect upon *tikkun olam* I want to share with you a favorite text of mine that speaks to the core of who we are as a congregation. The text is from the Babylonian Talmud, Tractate Sukkah 49b: “Our Sages taught: *Gemilut chasadim* (acts of loving kindness) are greater than *tzedakah* in three ways: Acts of *tzedakah* involve only one’s money – *gemilut chasadim* can involve both money or one’s personal service. *Tzedakah* can be given only to the poor – *gemilut chasadim* can be done both for the rich and for the poor. *Tzedakah* can be given only to the living – *gemilut chasadim* can be done both for the living and the dead.” In addition to the wonderful direct service programs like Feed the Homeless and Backpack Blessings, we have added an advocacy program. This year our focus has been learning more about immigration reform and how we can advocate for positive change that reflects the values of Torah.

**“I deeply appreciate the work of our volunteer leadership, professional staff team, support staff and maintenance crew, all of whom make it possible for Temple Jeremiah to grow from strength to strength.”**

Learning is a lifelong endeavor. Each year we renew our cycle of Torah reading. Each year we learn something new, we discover something that had been hidden. Under the leadership of Dr. Anne Lidsky we have taken a fresh look at Bar and Bat Mitzvah at our congregation and how we provide post Bar and Bat Mitzvah learning opportunities. To help administer this process we welcomed Sarabeth Salzman to our staff. Rabbi Emily Segal, Danny Glassman, Adam Kahan and I are excited about the new learning and growth we will attain in the coming school year and for years to come. Learning is self-reflection, too. This year we have found new ways to make sure that our programs, our worship and activities,

are as inclusive as our physical building. Caren Brown, along with a large group of dedicated members, has helped us to grow our Inclusion Program reaching out to our households and households in the community who have members with special needs. This has been and continues to be a very enriching, learning and growing focus.

Our commitment to creating community that operates as family comes through in the wonderful individuals that make Temple Jeremiah possible. I deeply appreciate the work of our volunteer leadership, professional staff team, support staff and maintenance crew, all of whom make it possible for Temple Jeremiah to grow from strength to strength.

May we all continue to nurture positive and spiritually fulfilling Jewish identity through prayer, learning, *tikkun olam*, and our commitment to family and community. In this way we will bring blessing into our lives and into our world.

Shalom,  
Rabbi Paul F. Cohen, D.Min.

# FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

*Jeffrey Krupp, Treasurer*

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THE PRIMARY MISSION of the Finance and Administration Committee of the Temple Jeremiah Board of Directors is to ensure that our temple remains financially sound and is managed under business standards appropriate to a vibrant spiritual organization. The committee's responsibilities include managing the financial, legal, employment, investment and other business functions of the congregation. These functions are critical to support our primary spiritual, educational, social, programmatic, and humanistic missions.

This report discusses projected financial results for the 2014-2015 fiscal year ending June 30, 2015 and provides an overview of the budget for the upcoming year. The budget has been prepared by the Budget Committee and reviewed by the Board of Directors. Some key observations summarize the projected financial results for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015:

- For year ending June 30, 2014 expenditures exceeded revenues in the amount of \$3,500. This is about 1.5% of our budget. As of the end of March 2015, we are anticipating a small amount of excess revenue over expenses for the year ending June 30, 2015.
- Our temple family has slightly increased over the last year. From March 2014 to the end of March 2015, our membership has grown from 937 to 940.
- We had anticipated that 279 families would be on reduced dues this year. Actual results have been higher with 296 families on reduced dues as of March 31, 2015.
- The Investment Committee is meeting regularly and has fully implemented the investment strategy approved by the Board of Directors, which is expected to have about 50% of temple funds grow with limited risk.
- The temple secured a line of credit during the past year to be used for capital maintenance projects. It is the intent to convert this to a mortgage in this low interest environment as a way to preserve and grow the Building Maintenance Fund.

## PROJECTED RESULTS FOR THE 2014-2015 FISCAL YEAR:

As stated above, current projections are that we will end with a small amount of net income. It is projected that revenues will be slightly less than budget but this will be offset by expenses being less than budget by a greater amount. The Board of Directors, in partnership with our senior staff, constantly looks for opportunities for more efficient business operations. Our senior staff has been instrumental and supportive in prudently managing resources and cutting costs wherever possible.

At the same time, we encourage programs that draw new members and create a sense of community that, most importantly, retains members. The efforts of our Development Committee to encourage a culture of giving builds on that sense of community. The result is that we successfully cover the financial needs of the congregation, despite the fact that our community, like other faith-based communities, experiences more congregants paying some reduced amount to the synagogue. Our expectation is that connected congregants will recognize the importance of what we are doing and will support that work.

## THE BUDGET PROCESS:

Approximately halfway through our fiscal year, the Budget Committee begins the process of analyzing financial performance for the current year and making projections for the end of the fiscal year. The budget for Temple Jeremiah is established in somewhat of a "fluid" environment as members continue to join and leave the congregation for a variety of reasons. This increase and decrease in the size of our congregation impacts costs throughout our

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# FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

## COMMITTEE, *continued*

*Jeffrey Krupp, Treasurer*

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budget. It is the intent of the Budget Committee to provide the Board of Directors with their best estimates of the financial assumptions for the coming year. The Board works with our professional staff to continually analyze trends in membership, revenue, and expenses that may have an impact on the financial health of the congregation.

### BUDGET FOR THE 2015-2016 FISCAL YEAR:

The coming year brings continuing financial challenges as we meet the needs of the congregation.

### REVENUES:

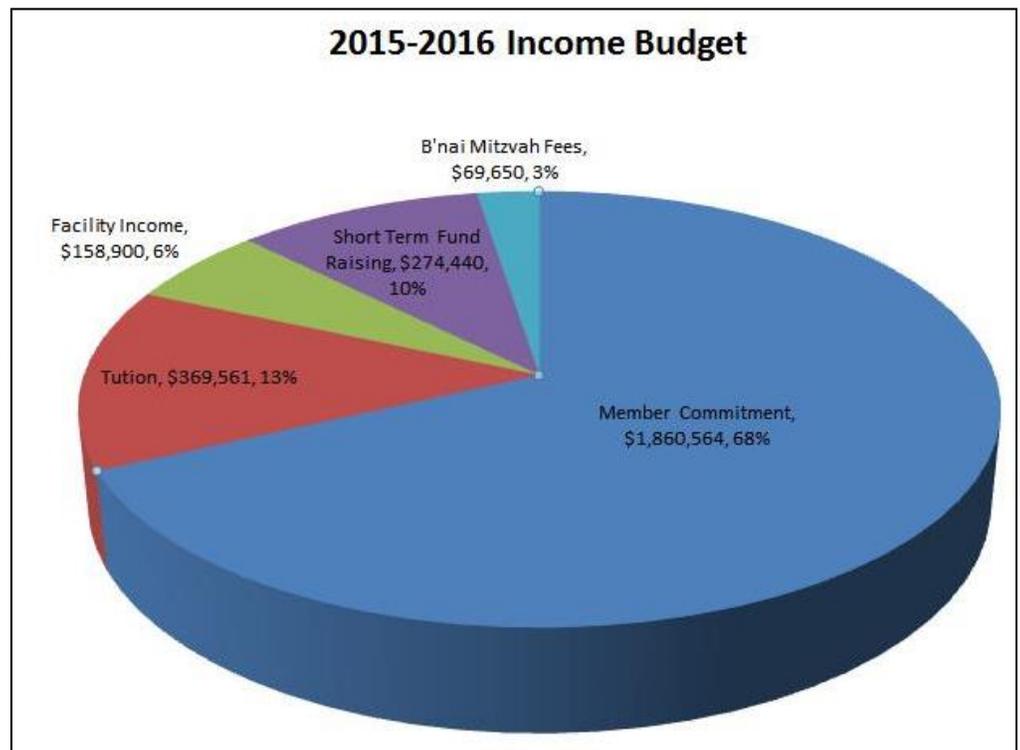
The temple's revenues are budgeted to be approximately \$2.73 million, an increase from our current budget of \$122,000. The increase results from various items. Member commitments we request will increase 3%, as we have for the past number of years. Fund raising income is projected to be \$175,000 attributable to implementation of the Families Helping Families Annual Fund. We also expect to be successful in the Leave a Jewish Legacy Program, which will provide a \$10,000 grant if we get 18 or more members to sign a commitment to leave a planned gift to us as part of their estate plans.

Other budget projections for the upcoming fiscal year as compared to the year ending June 30, 2015 include an increase in school income due to an increase in tuition that will bring us closer to the fees of other religious schools in our area. This will be partially offset by a decrease in Bar/Bat Mitzvah fees due to a smaller number projected to occur. Facility income will increase due to higher rent expected from Safe Haven School and our bridge programs.

At Temple Jeremiah, no one is turned away from our community due to the inability to fulfill their financial obligations.

For reasons beyond their control, 31.5% of our households obtain support from our congregational family in the form of reduced financial commitments. Last year, about 29.5% of our families needed some sort of relief which was up from 27.9% the year before. As a frame of reference, prior to 2008, Temple Jeremiah only had approximately 10% of its families that needed financial assistance. The experience is not unique to us as most synagogues and churches have seen similar increases recently.

We will continue to encourage our congregants to increase what they pay, even if it is less than a full commitment. Our efforts at building connections and a sense of community are intended to create the type of commitment that will



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# FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

## COMMITTEE, *continued*

*Jeffrey Krupp, Treasurer*

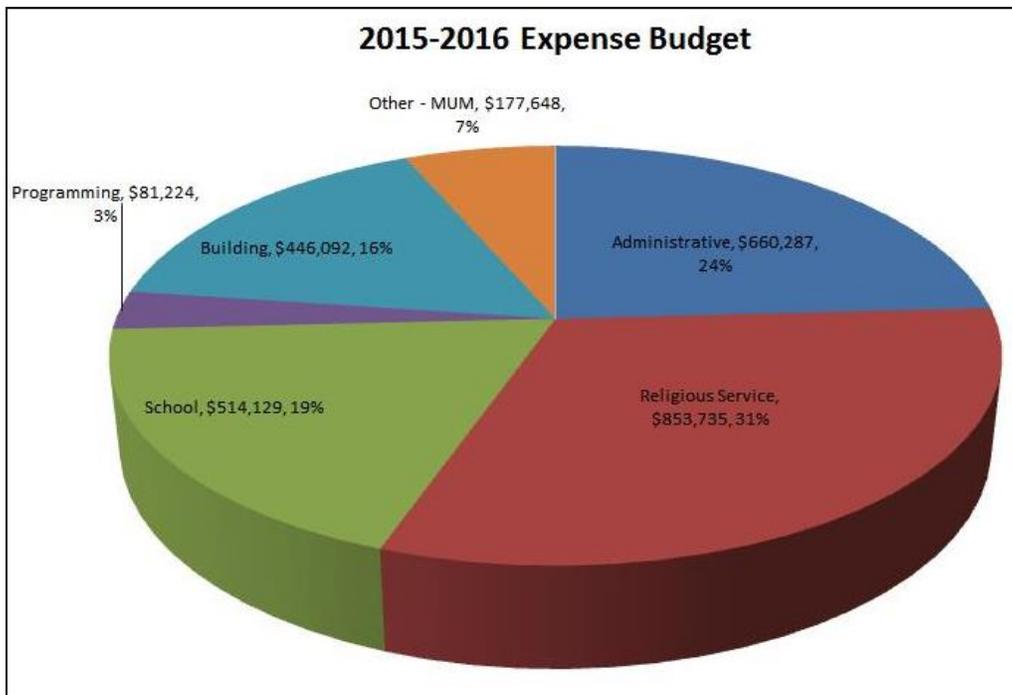
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decrease the number of households who pay reduced Annual Financial Commitments and increase the amounts they pay. Despite this expectation, the continued support from our generous and committed congregants for our Families Helping Families Annual Fund and other fundraising initiatives such as planned giving will be essential to our financial health.

### EXPENSES:

Viewed as a business with a \$2.73 million budget, Temple Jeremiah experiences the same pressures as any other small business, including managing costs for salaries, insurance, utilities, and other expense items. Personnel costs (salaries, benefits and insurance) for our senior staff, administrative staff, teachers, and custodial staff continue to be the largest expense of our organization. Approximately 72.2% of our expenses are related to compensation.

Fees for religious and Hebrew schools as well as our Bar/Bat Mitzvah programs continue to represent only a portion of our actual expenses for these programs. The Board of Directors remains committed to supporting these programs as well as others, including adult education, social action, and youth programs, at the highest level possible while maintaining the solid financial health of the temple.



The membership fee that we pay to the Union for Reform Judaism is determined annually by a formula based on the size of our congregation. For this, we receive numerous benefits from the principal national organization of the Reform movement. As a result in a change in the formula by which that fee is determined, we anticipate a reduction in that cost next year.

In addition to budget and finances, Temple Jeremiah has a

talented team of volunteers who provide professional support to the temple staff in areas of employee benefits, tax compliance, legal and contract management and investment strategy. It is this tremendous partnership between our staff and lay leadership that continues to provide us with confidence going forward in managing the future business affairs of our congregation. These volunteers allow us to save thousands of dollars that we would otherwise have to pay for services.

### Participating in various aspects of the Finance and Administration Committee are:

Joel Africk, Judd Brody, Randi Gurian, Steve Kleiman, Ken Lorch, Ron Rooth, Michael Schack, Stephanie Victor, Rabbi Cohen, Danny Glassman and Jeff Krupp, with assistance from, Rabbi Segal, Dr. Lidsky, and Jennifer Rosen.

# BROTHERHOOD

*Alan Turover, President*



BROTHERHOOD CONTINUES TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY for the men of Temple Jeremiah to meet and express the various facets of their personalities and their Judaism in a friendly, male-oriented environment. Our members represent all age groups, a wide variety of personal and professional interests, and a broad spectrum of religious as well as political beliefs. The common factor is that we all belong to Temple Jeremiah and we are all looking for that special “Brotherhood Environment” with the camaraderie provided by Brotherhood.

The chances to interact with Brotherhood are many and varied. Programs and activities are designed with the thought of strengthening men’s associations with Judaism, adding value to their relationship with Temple Jeremiah, and deepening their friendship with each other.

This year, after the sad loss of Brother Al Brotzman, Brotherhood initiated, funded, and awarded the first two \$1,000 “Al Brotzman OSRUI Camp Scholarships.” Both scholarships were awarded to well-qualified and deserving Temple Jeremiah children. The award committee was led by Rusty Colman. Brotherhood recently voted to continue annual funding and awarding of the Al Brotzman Brotherhood OSRUI Scholarships.

This year’s active Brotherhood programs included the opening breakfast, led by Joel Rovner; the Whittier School Garden Installation, supervised by Rob Blomquist and worked on by a number of energetic electrical-and-hand-tool-wielding Brothers; as well as our Backpack Blessings Food Packing group and jazz social functions led by Mike Pfeifer; Family Bingo night led by Joel Rovner and Bill and Norma Brown; Adult Purim Party led by Bruce Zimmerman; Special Men’s Health Panel led by Brad Ross; Brotherhood School BBQ and Prospective Member BBQ, both led by Mark Sulkin; Brotherhood Dinner and Shabbat Service led by Charles Gurian and Joel Rovner; football and golf sports programs led by Dave Abrahams; the infamous annual cigar and conversation night led by John Maeglin; as well as our more popular than ever Kibbitz ‘n’ Bites programs led by Larry Tracey.

So, if you would like to become more involved, we invite all men to come to a Brotherhood meeting. Participate at any level that feels comfortable and meet new potential friends. We are always open to suggestions for new program in which you would like to participate.

Finally, thanks and much appreciation are due to those members who volunteer their time, talents, and ideas to keep all these programs and activities going.

For more information, please contact Alan Turover, president, at 847.835.4600 or [alanturover@gmail.com](mailto:alanturover@gmail.com).

# WOMEN OF JEREMIAH

*Babette Sanders, Board Representative*



THIS YEAR HAS BEEN A YEAR OF TRANSITION as we transitioned from Sisterhood to Women of Jeremiah.

Our mission: Women of Jeremiah is an organization of women of all ages who enjoying working together to enhance and enrich the lives of its members, the temple and the community at large. At Temple Jeremiah, we have a strong, vibrant and active group.

Through the leadership of many women who took responsibility for different activities, we were able to fulfill our mission. Thank you to everyone, including Rabbi Segal for her ongoing guidance. The Temple Jeremiah Gift Shop is our major source of fundraising. Please support our efforts by shopping there.



Some of our other activities this year included:

- Women's Programming
  - Cooking Programs: Making Challah and Latkes
  - Book Club
  - Mah Jongg group
  - Taste and Tell (joint program with the Membership Committee)
- Religious and Spiritual Programming
  - Women's Seder
  - Women of Jeremiah Shabbat
  - Rosh Chodesh Celebration
  - Break the Fast
- Social Action Activities And Philanthropic Activities
  - High Holy Day Food Drive to support The ARK
  - Chanukah Gifts for the Underprivileged – Wish Tag program
- Educational Programming
  - Bar & Bat Mitzvah Gifts
  - Youth Group Support
  - Confirmation Gift

Please join us and be a part of this very unique and involved community within the Temple Jeremiah family. We warmly welcome anyone who wants to play a part — small or large — in this outstanding group of women. If you have an idea for programming, please feel free to contact us.

# ADULT LEARNING COMMITTEE

*Sara Turover, Chair*



YEAR 2014-15 HAS OFFERED A WIDE RANGE of topics for our members to choose from in order to satisfy their varying interests. Below you will see an overview of some of the 29 programs presented this year.

1. Rabbi Cohen offered his popular "Pulse of Our World," which is a chance for us to catch the Jewish perspective on current events. He also presented two different two-part series. The first explored the roots and rationale of the Reform movement. The second was a two-part Israel book discussion: "My Promised Land" by Ari Shavit and "Like Dreamers" by Yossi Klein Halevi. Both books gave us insight into 1) the challenges faced by Israel's founders and 2) how Israel developed into the country that we know today.
2. Rabbi Segal and her husband, Rabbi Scott Segal, gave us a new perspective on two of our best known holidays with their two-part series, "Sukkot" and "Purim," both intriguingly subtitled "Not for Children Only."
3. The Green Team provided us with two thoughtful and informative programs: the first a groundbreaking environmental documentary film, "Trashed," that explored some of the world's most polluted places and how they are affecting our planet; the second brought us a speaker from the Jewish National Fund, which showed us how Israel is heads and shoulders above other countries in alternative energy and water conservation. The Green Team also provided us with a lovely Tu BiShevat Seder led by Rabbi Segal.
4. Ruth Adler led excellent discussions of two provocative books: "Those Who Save Us" by Jenna Blum and "The Storyteller" by Jodi Picoult. Both books pose disturbing moral dilemmas.
5. Dr. Anne Lidsky explored Midrash with us as we discussed the ethics and values in the Torah. Jerry Lidsky reminded us of how we can carry the thoughts that immerse us during Rosh HaShanah forward through the year.
6. We saw two terrific films: "Ahead of Her Time," the remarkable story of Ruth Gruber and her rescue of Jews during the Holocaust; and a new documentary, "A Voice Among the Silent," about James McDonald the first U.S. Ambassador appointed to Israel and how his role was pivotal in aiding the new state and shaping the American-Israeli friendship.
7. Here are several other general interest and enjoyable programs that we enjoyed during the year. The first, "Theatre Judaica: the Art of Living Midrash: An Interactive and Interpretive Study" with Anita Silvert, teacher and writer. Also, "Every Object Tells a Story," with Arthur Feldman, curator/director of museums (Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian and Spertus). Another was "Bubbe Meises: Jewish Customs and Superstitions, What We Do, Why We do Them, and How They Relate to Jewish History and Jewish Life" with Sue Carol Lewis, Jewish Community Educator.

These are not all of the 29 programs we offered but this gives you a good idea of the breadth of subjects. Join us next year to be entertained and edified.

**My genuine appreciation to the committee who helped make this year's programming possible:**

Rabbi Cohen, Rabbi Segal, Dr. Anne Lidsky, Ruth Adler, Eileen Brottman, Emmy Rothschild, Shelly Trilling, and Sandi Wexler. My thanks also to Hershy Pappadis who provided wonderful ideas. Thank you to the Green Team for co-sponsoring three excellent programs.

# BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

*Michael Schack, Chair*

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THE BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE'S OBJECTIVE IS TO preserve and enhance our facility in support of Temple Jeremiah's mission. The committee achieves its objectives by being proactive through preventative maintenance programs, property management, long range capital planning, capital projects and assisting with current building issues.

In 2014-2015 we were successfully able to further improve on our home by completing the following projects:

- Commenced installation of new security cameras (in progress)
- Upgrade our security system (in progress)
- Complete the installation of a new HVAC control system which will lower utility costs (with special thanks to Stephanie Victor who put in countless hours to assure the system was installed and programmed properly so that the temple may optimize its energy efficiency and easily control the HVAC system)
- Replace the roof over the school area
- Repair the west lobby doors
- Implement security procedures and train the staff on the procedures. These procedures were vetted through the Northfield police and fire departments.
- Upgrade the parking lot lights to provide for efficiency and uniform coverage (in progress)
- In concert with the Green Team, install electric hand dryers in all the public restrooms
- Created a detailed building inventory
- Installed a hearing loop in the sanctuary and social hall, the cost of which was paid through member donations to the temple

Lastly, we are continuing to look toward the future and plan for anticipated repairs, replacements and enhancements to the temple so that the facility continues to be a source of inspiration and a place to learn and facilitate *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). These efforts were used to update our capital plan.

**“We are continuing to look toward the future and plan for anticipated repairs, replacements and enhancements to the temple so that the facility continues to be a source of inspiration and a place to learn and facilitate *tikkun olam* (repairing the world).”**

The Building Management Committee is always seeking members with specific knowledge of HVAC, electrical, plumbing and similar areas. In addition, members with construction experience or engineering skills would be valuable additions to the committee. We also welcome any suggestions or comments congregants may have to improve Temple Jeremiah's facility. Please contact me at 847.509.1717 or Danny Glassman at the temple if you would like to serve on the Building Management Committee or have any suggestions.

**Building Management Committee:**

Julie Ford, Stephanie Victor, Danny Glassman, Steve Blinderman, Lynne Sorkin, Tom Stat, Adi Klinghofer, Michael Crane, Don Kooperman, David Lorig, and Michael Schack

# CARING COMMUNITY

## *Barb Kite and Patty Turim, Co-Chairs*

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**MISSION STATEMENT:** To reach out to the congregants in times of sadness or celebration. This committee creates a sense of community among our temple family through “g’milut chasadim,” acts of loving kindness.

Thank you so much to all the current volunteers for their continued support over the year. The generosity of time and devotion by our current Caring Community volunteers is what helps make Temple Jeremiah more than a place of worship but a community. It has been truly a wonderful year and amazing to see our community grow.

The areas in which this deeply committed group has been active include:

- **Caring cards:** Reaching out to congregants who have experienced a sad or joyous occasion.
- **Mobile Mitzvah:** Transportation to temple worship services, activities, medical appointments, etc., as needed or requested.
- **Providing meals:** The Caring Meals team is informed via e-mail about an opportunity to help a specific family as needed or requested. They, in turn, sign up to provide a homemade or take-out meal to the congregant that could use some “Jeremiah nourishment” and well wishes.
- **“Thanksgiving for the Homeless” program:** Caring Community continues to support the homeless in Chicago during Thanksgiving. In conjunction with other local synagogues, and our social action group, they provide dinner and serve up to 300 guests during the Thanksgiving holiday season.

For the upcoming year, the team has identified additional ways we can continue to build community at Temple Jeremiah. We are looking forward to expanding our programs in 2015 and beyond. Please join us and help support our fellow congregants in times of sadness or need and rejoice with them in times of joy. We are always looking for more volunteers! Please contact Patty or Barb to participate or with any questions.

**“Please join with us to help support our fellow congregants in times of sadness or need and rejoice with them in times of joy.”**

# COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

*Alan Toban, Chair*

THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE was formed in the summer of 2010 to determine the optimal way to communicate with our membership and the greater community. Our goal is to provide cost-effective communication through the use of a variety of media.

Over the past five years since this committee's inception, the methods available to communicate electronically have continued to evolve, increase, and become more familiar to a greater number of congregants. During this same time, the use of paper-based U.S. Mail has become slower and more expensive. The congregation's, and, therefore, the committee's goal has not changed – it has become more important and complex.

The specific knowledge and expertise needed to continually enhance, upgrade, and improve our communications has changed from one of direct involvement in creation and execution of new plans, to that of feedback and encouragement to very dedicated and talented staff.

This year:

- In keeping with the Board of Directors goal to implement the strategies suggested by Dr. Ron Wolfson, in his book *Relational Judaism*, educational opportunities were offered for the lay leadership and congregants. These sessions helped improve their understanding and use of electronic social media.
- In keeping with the goal of adding the ability to make use of web-based video broadcasting, short videos have been added to our Shabbat Shalom Messages and have been well received.
- We have added video monitors to both our front and side entries. These make it easier to find out the location of an event when entering the temple, and also call attention to our upcoming events.

For the upcoming year, the Communications Committee's plans include:

- Exploring ways to increase opportunities for interactive communication between congregants.
- Monitoring and improvement of our website to ensure that it meets our ongoing needs.
- Continued investigation of the long-term goal of adding the ability to broadcast our religious services and other events held at the temple.
- Remaining aware of the goals of the GreenFaith Committee, and the need to limit our paper-based communications.
- Other items as suggested by the congregation.

## **Communications Committee Members:**

Andi Berkowitz, Jeffrey Berg, Deb Dreyfuss-Tuchman, Debbie Flapan, Sandra Frum, Carol Golder, Alex Gordon, Sheldon Greenberg, Loryn Kogan, Julie Kreiter, Abby Lasky, Natalie Levy, Marissa Miller, Barbara Pritikin, Hannah Robbins, Wendy Rosenholtz, Molly Schack, Carl Segal, Gita Shipkowitz, Michael Shmarak, Regan Sonnabend, Terri Stat, Alan Toban, Nadine Tosk, Patricia Turim, Amy Weintraub, Cheryl Zatz, Danny Glassman, and Lia Lehrer



# DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

*Randi Gurian, Chair*

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THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE TOOK ON TWO MAJOR INITIATIVES this year:

- 1) Leave a Jewish Legacy: Temple Jeremiah's Covenant Society
- 2) Supporting a culture of giving, and emphasizing our Families Helping Families as an annual fund

Leave a Jewish Legacy is a JUF program that selected 15 Jewish organizations — five synagogues, five schools, and five social service agencies — on which to focus. Each agency received training and support to develop a program for legacy gifts. The goal was a minimum of 18 commitments for legacy gifts each of the first two years, with an incentive of \$10,000 for reaching the goal. Temple Jeremiah already had a Covenant Society, but had not promoted it or focused on it in recent memory.

As of the end of March 2015, I'm delighted to report that the first 18 commitments have been received. We will receive this year's \$10,000 incentive grant, and are now working towards next year's grant. The Development Committee has set as a long-term goal of commitments from 10% of our membership, or 90 commitments.

Supporting a culture of giving, and emphasizing Families Helping Families as an annual fund, has been a more complex and multi-faceted program. The Development Committee recognized that fundraisers, while popular with some, also carried expenses of both staff and volunteer time, as well as creating a culture of "transactional giving" – giving in order to get something. We recognized that the social aspect of the fundraiser was important, but perhaps was better met by social events which could be more reasonably priced and accessible if the goal was not fundraising. Instead we initiated an annual ask, via letters and phone calls from Board members. Additionally, President Ken Lorch spoke of the need for more financial support from the congregation at large as part of his Rosh HaShanah address.

**“The long-term goal is to create a culture of giving, where member households routinely make donations to Jeremiah.”**

As of the end of March, the focus on giving, including the annual fund ask, resulted in a 7% increase of funds contributed over the previous year's donations, including monies previously raised at the fundraiser. Only 2/3 of the membership had been reached by the phonathon as of April 1, we hope to finish calling each of the member households before the end of the fiscal year. (Of note, envelopes continue to come in.)

	<b>Last Year</b>	<b>Current total (as of 4/6/15)</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>FHF</b>	47,835	97,116	
<b>Fundraiser</b>	43,101		
<b>Total Raised</b>	90,936	97,116	+6,180 (7%)

Our hope for next year is to build upon the success of this initial year. The long-term goal is to create a culture of giving, where member households routinely make donations to Jeremiah as memorial and honor donations, as well as supplementing their annual commitment in support of programming and support of families who are unable to pay the full annual commitment. The phonathon turned out to both serve the purpose of encouraging folks to donate, as well as to provide a second "touch point" for members.

During the next several months, we will be thanking and celebrating our Covenant Society members with a dinner followed by recognition at a Shabbat service, as well as hosting a brunch for the Circles of Giving members. Many thanks to the Development Committee members, as well as to the many Board members and other congregants who either made phone calls or wrote thank you notes!

## **Development Committee Members:**

Randi Gurian, Ken Lorch, John Sobel, Stephanie Victor, David Ruskin, Mitchell Slotnick, and Danny Glassman

# EDUCATION COMMITTEE

*Joel Africk, Chair*



Hebrew school seder

**MISSION STATEMENT:** THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE at Temple Jeremiah is dedicated to reviewing and supporting the curriculum, activities, and programming of our religious school and Hebrew school and ensuring meaningful, effective Jewish education, resulting in the transmission of Jewish heritage and knowledge to future generations. The Temple Jeremiah religious and Hebrew school is one of just 25 such Reform Jewish education programs accredited by National Association of Temple Educators.

We are proud of the learning that takes place and the community we are building in our religious and Hebrew schools at Temple Jeremiah. We offer exciting, creative and varied ways to teach Jewish culture, rituals, history and Hebrew to the youth of our synagogue. We teach our students to be active participants in Temple Jeremiah's spiritual services, in the larger Jewish community, and in acts of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). Each week, the religious school is engaged in programs throughout the synagogue. Small group, all-grade, all-school, and multigenerational programs occur during the year. The religious school hosts outside speakers throughout the year. Topics this year included anti-bullying (be an "upstander" and not a bystander), social action and *tzedakah*, comparative religion, the Holocaust, media bias, genocide, and a host of issues important to Jewish youth.

Our teachers are committed to help the children build a sense of community in their classrooms. Our madrichim (teachers' assistants), typically older students who have themselves come through the school, do a fantastic job of assisting the teachers in class and relating to our children. Our hope is that these efforts will result in new friendships and an increased sense of community among students and parents alike.

This year was marked by several popular and engaging educational programs at Temple Jeremiah and in the community, including the "Kids on the Block" program for third graders and their parents, which increased students' sensitivities to children with special needs, multiple excursions to the Holocaust Museum for middle and junior high grades, the Fourth Grade Creative Service which included a unique music addition in partnership with our media specialist; the fifth and sixth/seventh and eighth grade electives, which included calligraphy, Jewish cooking, media, music, and photography, among others; yad and blacksmith creations for sixth and seventh; a commissioned art piece in partnership with our Confirmation class, and the Raining Season program for the upper grades, an on-site presentation with renown theater performers on the survivors of world-wide genocides.

The College Connection program, run by a committee of great volunteers, helped us maintain our Jeremiah link to 60+ college students from the congregation. Thanks to the committee members!

## **Education Committee Members:**

Joel Africk, Claire Bernstein, Andrea Goodman, Art Gunther, Michael Myers, Marcia Osher, Lori Ruskin, Laurel Shapiro, Barb Kite, Fred Kagan, Brad Ross, Lisa Schurgin, and Dr. Anne Lidsky

# GREEN TEAM

## *Barry Slotnick, Chair*

THE TEMPLE JEREMIAH GREEN TEAM WAS CREATED in December 2012 and is composed of congregants interested in promoting environmental awareness and sustainability within the Jeremiah community and beyond. As a means of structure and guidance, the Green Team followed the GreenFaith Certification Program. GreenFaith works with religious institutions around the country to help them achieve a level of environmental awareness and activity through three distinct core values: Spirit, Stewardship, and Environmental Justice. GreenFaith believes that protecting the earth is a religious value, and that environmental stewardship is a moral responsibility. These sentiments certainly dovetail with the Jewish value of tikkun olam.

Since April 2014 and the last annual report, the Green Team has continued to create a culture of environmental awareness, sustainable development, and stewardship throughout Jeremiah, both with the congregation and leadership/staff. Some of the highlights of the past 12 months include:

- In June 2014, we hosted an outdoor Kabbalat Shabbat reception and service next to the garden.
- In September 2014, the Green Team hosted a screening of the environmental documentary “Trashed” featuring Academy Award-winning actor Jeremy Irons
- Also in September 2014, Green Team Members participated in a “Toxic Tour” of the near Southwest Side of Chicago sponsored by The Little Village Environmental Justice Organization
- In October, the “Pulse of Our World” was sponsored by the Green Team and featured Peggy Salazar from the Southeast Environmental Task Force. Peggy discussed the environmental challenges and opportunities facing the Southeast Side of Chicago.
- A second Styrofoam collection occurred after Chanukah, where congregants brought in Styrofoam from gift packaging that cannot be recycled in municipal curbside recycling programs. The collected Styrofoam was brought to the Village of Winnetka recycling center, one of the few facilities in the State of Illinois that properly recycles Styrofoam. This year’s collection of Styrofoam was three times the amount of last year, so congregational engagement in this activity definitely increased.

**Most importantly, the Green Team achieved GreenFaith certification in December 2014, two years after the program began. Below is a quote from Stacey Kennealy, the GreenFaith Certification Program Director:**

*“It’s been an enormously fruitful two years for all of you — you have completed more environmental steps than any other congregation, and you have shown tremendous leadership in all areas of the program. You really are a perfect example of the success we envisioned when we created the Certification Program, and we are so very proud of you.”*

Temple Jeremiah (and the Green Team) celebrated the completion of the GreenFaith Certification Program at a January 2015 Shabbat service. The accomplishment is also marked by the green banner hanging outside the sanctuary.

The completion of the GreenFaith Certification marks a milestone in for the Green Team, but the work of environmental stewardship within Temple Jeremiah and beyond must continue. The Green Team is always looking for committed, motivated congregants with an interest in sustainability and promoting environmental awareness and advocacy. Please contact Rabbi Segal or Barry Slotnick at [bslotnick@varisport.com](mailto:bslotnick@varisport.com) if you are interested in joining.

### **Green Team Committee Members:**

Barry Slotnick, Rabbi Segal, Danny Glassman, Emmy Rothschild, Marc Mayer, Annilise Flanagan-Frankl, Ed Shapiro, Brad Ross, Judy Craven, Olga Kornfeld, and Fred Kagan



# INCLUSION COMMITTEE

*Caren Brown, Chair*



**HISTORY OF COMMITTEE:** Temple Jeremiah has a long history of supporting individuals and families with children who have special needs by providing a welcoming environment, making the facilities accessible and making adaptations to the religious school and bar/bat mitzvah preparations as needed. In 2013 the “Advisory Committee on Special Needs” was formed with the intention of providing special holiday programs for these congregants. That year the programs included Rosh HaShanah, Chanukah, and Purim. All three events were well-attended, indicating a need for this type of programming within our congregation.

In 2014, the Advisory Committee was renamed, first, as the “Committee on Programs for Families with Special Needs,” and, finally, to the “Inclusion Committee.” The current name is consistent with URJ guidelines for temples working toward including congregants of all ages and abilities in their religious communities. The guidelines cover accessibility, education, worship, participation, as well as other issues such as family support and political advocacy.

**Mission:** Temple Jeremiah is committed to being accessible and inclusive for all of its members and the community within a Jewish context. The purpose of our committee is to create a welcoming environment and to advocate for those of all ages with special needs by providing programming, worship, educational, and social experiences.

## **Accomplishments 2014-15:**

- **Rosh HaShanah Worship and Chanukah Celebration:** These special holiday programs were enhanced with certain features that could accommodate a wide variety of disabilities and ages and also increase participation and interaction in the Jewish experience. Features included:
  - Small musical instruments to encourage participation
  - A “social narrative” booklet that was made available before the event to prepare guests
  - A “visual schedule” to provide visual structure during the program
  - A craft activity for hands-on involvement in the holiday
  - A sign language interpreter for those with hearing impairments
  - Holiday-specific snacks and take-home gifts.Committee members and volunteers welcomed guests and provided extra assistance. Both programs were free and open to the public. Feedback from these programs was excellent. Approximately 30 people attended the Rosh HaShanah Worship and about 50 attended the Chanukah Celebration.
- **Purim Carnival:** The committee helped host the portion of the carnival that was opened early for those with special needs and their families. Special needs were accommodated by decreased sound volume, offering a fewer number of prize choices, and more time being allotted than last year. Committee members welcomed guests and provided extra assistance. The carnival’s games and snacks were free and open to the public. Feedback was positive with new ideas generated for next year. Approximately 40 people attended the carnival.
- **Increased attendance and involvement with community:** All three programs were well-attended by families in our congregation (8 in total), as well as by non-member families (5 in total) due to increased advertising in the community through NSSRA, JUF, JCFS, JCC, Reform temples on the North Shore, the Chicago Jewish News and

*(continued)*

# INCLUSION COMMITTEE, *continued*

*Caren Brown, Chair*



## Purim Carnival for Families with Special Needs

other local newspapers. In addition, the programs were attended by groups of adults with disabilities along with some staff members from The Center for Enriched Living, Glenkirk, Clearbrook, and Lambs Farm. Responses to our events from non-members were very positive, clearly indicating a need for Jewish programming for adults with disabilities in the community.

- Young adult volunteers: The programs for Rosh HaShanah and Chanukah recruited volunteers from among former B'nai Mitzvah students and other young congregants. Approximately 10 young adults participated in each of these programs by setting up/cleaning up and greeting and assisting guests. Their enthusiasm and commitment were greatly appreciated. This engagement can provide a link between adults and teenagers in our congregation, as well as between young adults with and without disabilities in our community.
- Jewish Disabilities Awareness Month (JDAM): The committee participated in a special Shabbat service in recognition of JDAM on Feb. 27th. The purpose of JDAM is to increase awareness of disabilities within our Jewish community. Committee members served as ushers, displayed the materials we used for the 2014 Rosh HaShanah and Chanukah programs, and were recognized during the service. Several members of the committee created a 10-minute video highlighting the current accomplishments of Temple Jeremiah, regarding inclusion efforts toward physical accessibility, education, worship, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, and vision and hearing accommodations. This terrific video, entitled "Temple Jeremiah: an Inclusive Community," can be found on the Temple Jeremiah YouTube page.
- Designation as a Committed Congregation: URJ has created categories for recognizing congregations across North America that are committed to inclusion initiatives. Temple Jeremiah has been designated a Committed Congregation and is listed on their website: [disabilitiesinclusion.org](http://disabilitiesinclusion.org). We hope to achieve the status of an Exemplar Congregation by meeting the URJ requirements in the near future.

### Future plans include:

- Develop goals for committee; assess needs of congregation
- Offer more programs for worship/celebrating, socializing, and raising awareness of disabilities
- Increase participation by those with disabilities in Temple committees and general activities
- Apply for and achieve designation of Exemplar Congregation from URJ

Still, more can be done to increase the inclusiveness of our Jewish community. We welcome new members and ideas to the Inclusion Committee to help in achieving this goal. Please contact Caren Brown at [ceb994@gmail.com](mailto:ceb994@gmail.com) with questions and comments.

**Inclusion Committee Members:** Elan Adler, Phyllis Burg, Alene Frost, Jessica Don, Liz Mendel, Scott Mendel, Barb Miller, Michelle Myers, Laura Perez, Valerie Slotnick, Mitchell Slotnick, Shelly Trilling, Pat Weinfuss, and Janice Weinstein. Sincere thanks to all who worked diligently and enthusiastically on all the details of the programs we created this past year. They would not have been feasible or successful without everyone's help. Special thanks to the young adults who assisted at our programs: Sarah Mendel, Jay Slotnick, Debra Weinfuss, and Sarah Weinstein. Additional thanks to the wonderful Temple Jeremiah staff members who helped make these programs possible.

# INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

*David Loundy, Chair*

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COMPARED TO MANY RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS, Temple Jeremiah is in good financial shape, but it takes effort to stay that way. While the Temple Jeremiah Endowment is smaller than is advised for a community our size, it provides some protection against unforeseen circumstances. And while it does not produce significant income to support community activities as do the foundations of some religious organizations, the funds need to be protected and grown. Additionally, there are various allocated funds (e.g., the building fund, or the prayer book fund) in addition to the endowment which provide support for the temple, but need to be managed for the long term.

There are those on the Board and staff who raise money, and there are those who carefully manage how it is spent. This committee is intended to focus on managing the temple's money to preserve the longevity of reserve funds and maximize the value of funds before they are needed. Specifically, the temple by-laws, in reference to the temple's endowment, provides that "funds received by the temple for the Endowment Fund are to be invested to provide a hedge against inflation and reasonable growth and income consistent with the goals of a permanent endowment." This standard is applied by the committee to all funds which it is charged with managing.

**"As you consider your charitable giving throughout the year, please consider supporting the Temple Jeremiah Endowment to provide for the congregation's long-term protection."**

This year this newly constituted committee completed its first full year of operating. We have now fully invested the money in the temple's endowment account, as well as the allocated portion of the other accounts designated by the Budget Committee of the Board of Directors to maximize the long-term resources of Temple Jeremiah.

Investments made are to be a mixture of income and equity investments, and, for at least a portion of the funds, there is a "mission-based" overlay applied to the investment choices. The committee, in conjunction with the Board, has interpreted this to mean that some of the funds will be invested with a focus on socially and environmentally responsible investments, investments that benefit the local community, and investments that benefit the State of Israel.

We have made initial investments in State of Israel bonds, which are "laddered" to provide better returns, stability of income, and predictable cash availability, all while meeting the investments that benefit the State of Israel mission-based overlay. We have also invested in five mutual funds, covering a range of investment approaches, including a fund with a social responsibility investment screen. In addition to having professional management, these mutual funds will allow us to benefit from lower costs, and more diversified assets that we might not otherwise be able to acquire as individual investments with the amount of funds the temple has to invest.

As you consider your charitable giving throughout the year, please consider supporting the Temple Jeremiah Endowment to provide for the congregation's long-term protection.

# LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE

*Julie Ford, Chair*

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**MISSION OF THE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM:** To create a sustainable leadership development program that supports Temple Jeremiah's continued success by strengthening human capital resources and helping build membership connections, engagement, and leadership capabilities.

## **Goals:**

This year we focused on developing and implementing a leadership series for members within our congregation. This program will allow us to connect and engage with more members in alliance with our Measuring Success grant goal of improved member connections. It is our goal to identify, engage, train and develop members to serve in leadership positions within the temple. Our final goal is to create a pool of knowledgeable and talented members that the Board Nominating Committee can draw from annually as they seat new board members and further develop our committee structure.

## **Activities this past year:**

- This year we brought visibility to the program through Covenant articles and word-of-mouth marketing.
- We created an educational series for our members to participate in to understand the working of the temple more fully, what it means to be a Jewish leader with our community at large and within Temple Jeremiah. Leadership can take on many forms and doesn't always mean serving on the Board of Directors. Education is key to attraction and engagement. This program had 30 participants and was very successful. This sustainable program will play a vital role in training and identifying future leaders with in our congregation. We plan to run this program next year and in future years as well.

**“We created an educational series for our members to participate in to understand the working of the temple more fully, what it means to be a Jewish leader with our community at large and within Temple Jeremiah.”**

## **Leadership Development Program Education Series:**

Julie Ford (Chair), Diana Kaufmann, Mitchell Slotnick, Ken Lorch, Rabbi Cohen, and Danny Glassman

## **Nominating Committee:**

Under our By-Laws, this committee is a standing committee made up of board members and non-board members appointed each year to recommend to our membership a slate of officers and Directors to lead our congregation. This committee draws on names that the Leadership Development Program identifies as well as names supplied by the senior staff, officers and other congregants.

## **Nominating Committee for 2015-2016 Slate of Officers:**

Julie Ford (Chair), Abra Berkley, Eileen Brottman, Scott Levin, Ed Shapiro, Jennifer Bruns, Gabrielle Feldman-Michel, Michael Fine, Matt Sands, Sami Levi, and Michael Myers

# MEASURING SUCCESS

*Ed Shapiro, Chair*



THESE PAST TWO YEARS OF THE MEASURING SUCCESS PROGRAM HAVE BEEN A WHIRLWIND. As you know, for the past two years, along with a select group of other temples and synagogues in our Chicagoland cohort, we have endeavored to improve how we deliver the Temple Jeremiah Jewish experience to you, our members, and to our prospective members.

In particular, we have been consciously and intentionally focused on enhancing spiritual connections through enhanced personal interactions – whether at one of our “pre-Oneg” experiences before Shabbat services, during our High Holy Day services, during our services for families and members with disabilities, or just saying “hello” in the lobby at temple. Members of the team working on this effort include the names listed below. But this effort goes beyond the team. It includes our entire Board of Directors, staff, and the entire educational team. Thanks to all of you who completed our second temple-wide Measuring Success survey. We are awaiting the results and will share them with you as soon as we get them.

Enhancing spiritual and personal connections for our members is and will remain an ongoing effort long after our involvement in the Measuring Success program is complete. We look forward to meeting you. We look forward to hearing your story. We look forward to hearing from you that your spiritual and personal experience at Temple Jeremiah exceeds your needs and expectations.

**Measuring Success Committee:**

Rabbi Cohen, Ken Lorch, Ed Shapiro (Chair), Joel Africk, Michael Myers, Alisa Patterson, Judd Brody, Sami Levi, Amy Torf, Julie Ford, and Danny Glassman

# MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

*Alisa Patterson, Chair*



**MISSION STATEMENT: THE MISSION OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE** within Temple Jeremiah is to retain and engage the current membership and attract new members.

To accomplish this goal, the lay leadership, in partnership with the senior staff, provides activities, programs, events and communications that speak to our entire temple membership and assists in integrating them into the temple community. Temple Jeremiah's current membership is approximately 945 households. Our membership is diverse and we draw from more than 10 communities and six high schools. Each of the activities below plays an important role in the connection, revitalization, and existence of the temple.

- **Membership Committee:** The Membership Committee had a very successful year; with its ever-increasing pool of members, the committee has been involved in many temple activities.
- **Shana Tovah phone calls:** The committee assisted the temple board in making "Shana Tovah" (Happy New Year) phone calls to the temple membership in the weeks preceding Rosh HaShanah. Thank you to Gail Kayman for distributing the phone call lists to all of the callers.
- **High Holy Day Services:** Many committee members assisted in registering visitors for the High Holy Day services, and passing out "goodies" to the children who attended the children services and the Rosh HaShanah Worship for Families with Special Needs services. Thank you to Lori Wolff and Janice Merkin for organizing the volunteers for these services. Throughout the year, volunteers attended many Shabbat services, where they welcomed new and prospective members to Jeremiah.
- **The Membership Dinner:** The Shabbat 360 dinner was held on Friday, Nov. 14, 2014 at 6:30 p.m., followed by a lovely Shabbat service honoring our new members. Approximately 130 members attended the adults-only, progressive dinner. Diners enjoyed moving 360 degrees around the room, rotating to a new table for each course and making new friends along the way. A special thank you to Arden Brenner for planning the dinner.
- **Taste and Tell:** The Membership Committee paired with the Women of Jeremiah to host this new event. We had a great turn out, with 50 "cooks" participating. This was a fun way to meet the women of Jeremiah, while sharing



*(continued)*

# MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE, *continued*

*Alisa Patterson, Chair*

good food and great recipes. Each person brought their favorite dish to share; whatever was their specialty. We served many of the following: appetizers, main courses, side dishes and desserts. At the end, we voted for our favorite dish in each category. A compilation of the recipes was handed out at the end of the event. Thank you to Randi Mayer, Cheri Grossman, Linda Stolberg, Gabrielle Feldman, Abby Lasky, Lisa Schurgin, and Lauren Fischhoff for helping set up and hosting tables.

- **Congratulations to the following winners:** Vicki Stoller for her Roasted Broccoli, Arden Brenner for her Chocolate Chip Banana Bread, Marcia Osher for her Coq au Vin, Julie Malmed for her Tiramisu, and Randi Gurian for her Mushroom Cups.
- A special thank you to Linda Shore for planning Taste and Tell and organizing the compilation of recipes. Recipe packets are available upon request. Please contact Lia if you are interested.



- **Bagel Bar:** The Bagel Bar, run and organized by Linda Stolberg, is a gathering place where members can relax, read, or engage in lively conversation. The bar offers bagels and healthy snacks to satisfy the morning hunger of religious school students and parents while providing yet another connection for those who have grown to enjoy the camaraderie of fellow temple members. The Bagel Bar has become a weekly routine for many. Thank you to all the volunteers, you are instrumental in the success of the Bagel Bar. Thank you to the families who have made a monetary donation to sponsor a Sunday's bagel purchase. It is greatly appreciated! If you are interested in making a donation to supply the bagels on a Sunday morning, please contact Linda Stolberg, and she will be happy to facilitate the order.
- **Prospective Member BBQ:** The Membership Committee paired with Temple Jeremiah's Brotherhood to welcome new and prospective members for a friendly, casual backyard BBQ, in our own temple backyard. On a warm summer night, we ate, drank and had a blast at our Shabbat service. For the second year in a row, all of our prospective members became new congregants. To our new members, welcome to Jeremiah!
- **Chavurah Groups:** A resurgence is under way as various groups form, consisting of adults, families, couples and singles as a way to connect members with other members on a smaller, more personal scale, based on common interests.
- **Welcome Bags:** The membership committee delivered more than 100 welcome bags to all the new members of our congregation. The bags contained a challah, Shabbat candles and matches, and a packet of Temple Jeremiah information. A special thank you to the Women of Jeremiah for supplying the Shabbat candles and matches and to Iris Keene for organizing and dispatching the deliveries.

The Membership Committee's goal for next year is to focus on the three R's of membership, Recruitment, Relationships, and Retention. We hope to increase the participation level in all of the activities, continue to create new opportunities for membership involvement, and as always recruit new members to join Temple Jeremiah.

## **Membership Committee:**

Alisa Patterson (chair), Amy Levin, Anna Addante, Cheri Grossman, Lauren Fischhoff, Lisa Schurgin, Jennifer Bruns, MJ Cadden, Judy Craven, Bari Gapp, Janice Merkin, Cindy Morhaim, Linda Stolberg, Arden Brenner, Iris Keene, Randi Gurian, Lori Wolff, Laura Perez, Abby Lasky, Tami Hammersley, Linda Shore, Randi Mayer, Cindy Miller, Gabrielle Feldman, Gail Kayman, and Lia Lehrer

# OUTREACH COMMITTEE

*Gail Modro, Greg and Anne Richards, Co-Chairs*

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THE MISSION OF THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE is to:

- Welcome interfaith families to take part in synagogue life, to learn more about Judaism and to raise their children as Jews.
- Welcome and educate new Jews-by-Choice as well as those investigating Judaism.
- Inspire Jews to engage more fully in the synagogue community, especially those who feel disconnected or distant.
- Invite non-Jewish partners to explore, study, and understand Judaism, thereby providing an atmosphere of support in which a comfortable relationship with Judaism can be fostered.
- Assist young adults in strengthening their Jewish connection and identity.
- Educate and sensitize the congregational community to be accepting of all who seek a place at Temple Jeremiah.

Activity organized or sponsored by Outreach in the past year has included:

- **Thanksgiving Interfaith Service:** Jeremiah once again co-sponsored the annual Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, held in conjunction with 11 other houses of worship along the North Shore that form the Winnetka Interfaith Council. It was a meaningful evening shared by all who attended.
- **Interfaith Families Shabbat:** Temple Jeremiah participated in a community-wide Shabbat celebrating interfaith families and the important role they play in our congregation and community. A special invitation went out to all interfaith households, and a nice group gathered for a Learner's Service, during which our clergy offered teachings to heighten awareness of important sections within the service and to deepen the meaning of the service for all in attendance.
- **Winnetka Interfaith Council:** Several temple members serve as members of the Winnetka Interfaith Council, under the direction of chairman Mitchell Slotnick. The council encourages interfaith communication to broaden mutual understanding, facilitates sharing of programs and other activities of common interest, and promotes close working relationships among clergy and laity. Representatives of Outreach are also involved in a subcommittee on "Interfaith Understanding," whose educational programming will include contributions from Jeremiah.

**"Goal: Educate and sensitize the congregational community to be accepting of all who seek a place at Temple Jeremiah."**

# SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

*Mindy Kurtz, Barb and Stephen Miller, Jack Craven, Co-Chairs*



THE SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE is dedicated to healing the world.

We are committed to identifying social issues facing the community and developing efforts to address those needs. Through relevant social action programs, activities, and events we strive to encourage the temple community to come together to engage in *tikkun olam* (repairing the world).

## **Feed the Homeless**

Thanks to all of our wonderful congregants, whose combined efforts made more than 3,500 lunches this year! Those lunches helped to feed men, women, and children all over Chicago and in the northern suburbs of Lake County.

The lunches were made by many participating groups. Sunday school classes gathered in the lobby to assemble lunches. One family who wishes to remain anonymous gathered each month in one of the member's homes to assemble 100 lunches. Approximately 150 individuals gathered in the temple kitchen the first Sunday of the month to make lunches and deliver them to three shelters. Former Sunday school students, now in their 20s and living in Chicago, gathered three times this year to make hundreds of lunches.

Traditionally, the program begins the first Sunday of October and goes through May. This year we will provide lunches throughout the summer. As always, you can volunteer through the Sign-Up Genius on the temple website or by contacting the social action committee directly.

## **Backpack Blessings**

Backpack Blessings provides students on free and reduced-priced lunch in three Highland Park schools with easy-to-prepare meals for over the weekend. Backpacks are filled with non-perishable food and discreetly handed out to students on Friday. The students return the empty backpacks to school on Monday and they're refilled for next week's use.

Backpack Blessings by the numbers: 65 students served over 28 weeks, 10,536 pounds of food, 250 volunteer hours.

## **Partners for a Purpose**

This year we started a new program Partners for a Purpose, which provides an opportunity for businesses to add a social action component to their structure by participating in the temple's social action projects. We had a congregant's business volunteer for the Backpack Blessings program, packing and delivering a month of food to three schools in Highland Park. Volunteer opportunities are available in the Feed the Homeless program

(continued)

# SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE, *continued*

*Mindy Kurtz, Barb and Stephen Miller, Jack Craven, Co-Chairs*



and Backpack Blessings programs. Please contact the social action committee to discuss adding a social action component to your business.

## **Whittier School Coaching Program**

Seventeen volunteers provided support to teachers and students at Whittier Elementary School in Waukegan for the ninth year. We provide support in five programs: 3R's coaching in the classrooms, volunteering at the Book Fair twice a year, uniform donations, a gently used school supply collection, and a winter coat collection. Volunteer opportunities are available throughout the school year and the summer.

For the last two years we have completed an end-of-the-year gently used school supply drive. We collected car loads of supplies that went to deserving students at Whittier School. This year we were helped by a Temple Jeremiah Bar Mitzvah student, who collected school supplies for his mitzvah project.

## **Keshet GADOL Program**

The Keshet GADOL Art Fair took place on April 19, 2015. Eighteen students of Keshet's GADOL Program (over age 21) created, displayed and sold 100 mixed media paintings at temple over two Sunday school sessions. Pieces sold for \$10 to \$15 with all proceeds going to the artists. The show was a great success.

The many benefits of the Art Fair include providing funds to the disabled artists and offering them an opportunity to feel good about themselves while fostering an atmosphere of good will, along with educating the congregation about the GADOL program and an appreciation of the talents of these young disabled artists.

## **Family Promise**

Family Promise Chicago North Shore provides families with young children who are temporarily homeless with a supported pathway to self-sufficiency. By providing both daytime and nighttime havens, nutritious meals, transportation, and social services to address issues that may have contributed to the situation, Family Promise gives parents a chance to focus on finding employment and provides guidance to create a plan to return to permanent housing.

This year Temple Jeremiah hosted families in December and June. In addition to providing shelter for a week, volunteers provided meals and socialized with the guests.

## **Advocacy**

Advocacy at Temple Jeremiah is focused on social justice issues. Our program has two facets. We seek to educate our congregants and the community about social justice issues, and then to teach people how to

*(continued)*

# SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE, *continued*

*Mindy Kurtz, Barb and Stephen Miller, Jack Craven, Co-Chairs*



communicate their opinions on local, state, and federal programs and legislation to legislators. This year, our focus has been on immigration reform: the economic, security, and ethical issues.

Our activities were varied. Lisa Palumbo, an extremely knowledgeable immigration attorney, spoke to our 8th and 9th graders. The following week, our 9th graders interviewed by phone and Skype three “Dreamers” identified and prescreened by Ms. Palumbo to give our students a first-hand opportunity to gain a greater understanding of the how the president’s deferred action executive order has directly affected these three dreamers. Lisa’s speech is posted on the temple website under Social Action/Advocacy/Immigration.

Members of the Social Action Committee authored three articles that appeared in the Covenant discussing the economic, security, and ethical dimensions of the immigration problem.

U.S. Representative Robert Dold visited temple and spoke to a group of temple leaders about a number of topics including immigration reform. He then spoke with a group of 9th graders and also attended one of the Skype interviews of a Dreamer as three of our 9th graders conducted their interview.

Adult Learning presented a program entitled “Immigration Reform: Why Should I Care?” The interesting and informative discussion was led by two immigration attorneys, congregant Bill Schiller and his law partner, Mark Davidson.

The committee created a Temple Jeremiah “Family Tree” which appears both in the lobby and on the website. Temple members can input their geographic origins, and the entire congregation can watch in real time, as the tree has grown week by week, to reveal the patterns reflecting the ancestry of our congregation. Hundreds of temple families have shared their origins on the tree. The tree is viewable on the social action webpage. We have also included a link to a website that allows you to determine if your own family would qualify for immigration to the United States under current law. A large number of temple families have found that they would be ineligible to immigrate under the current system.

Finally, the temple hosted a “Conversation on Immigration,” featuring Senator Dick Durbin and Archbishop Blase Cupich, moderated by Rabbi Cohen. Senator Durbin walked the attendees through a short history of immigration in this country, and discussed the outlines of proposed legislation to address the problem. Archbishop Cupich then discussed the moral dimensions of immigration and how they affect both his own flock as well as the community at large.

**Social Action Co-Chairs:** Barb Miller, Stephen Miller, Mindy Kurtz, Jack Craven

**Social Action Committee:** Judy Craven, Lori Kash, Vicki Stoller, Andrea Goodman, Julie Becker, Michael Pfeifer, Carey Gelfand, Rabbi Cohen, Rabbi Segal, Anne Lidsky, Abra Berkley, Marcia Osher, Barb Kite, Doug Shabelman, Gayle Nelson, Brad Buchanan, Lori Ruskin, Jen Pfeifer, and Linda Goorvich

# SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMITTEE

*Joel Kaufmann, Chair*



THE SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMITTEE HAD a very productive year. The main focus of our effort was toward helping in the evaluation and planning the introduction of a new prayer book for the High Holy Days.

Since the successful introduction in 2007 of the Shabbat prayer book Mishkan Tefilah (Tabernacle of Prayer), the CCAR (Central Conference of American Rabbis) has been working toward the goal of doing the same for the High Holidays by writing a new machzor (High Holy Day prayer book). The result is Mishkan HaNefesh (Tabernacle of the Soul).

**“The Spiritual Life Committee, along with the clergy and lay leadership of Temple Jeremiah, have high expectations for an enthusiastic reception to the new machzor by the congregation.”**

We expect to introduce the new machzor in time for the High Holy Days in September. A very generous donation from the Sheldon Gray Family Foundation has enabled Temple Jeremiah to purchase 1,000 copies of both prayer books – one each for Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. The new prayer book will replace the Gates of Repentance, with which we all have become acquainted for many years.

You will be seeing and hearing much more about Mishkan HaNefesh in the coming months. The Spiritual Life Committee, along with the clergy and lay leadership of Temple Jeremiah, have high expectations for an enthusiastic reception to the new machzor by the congregation.

Once again we are delighted to have spent another enlightening and stimulating year under Rabbi Cohen's inspirational leadership. We look forward to working with him in the upcoming year.

#### **Spiritual Life Committee:**

Rabbi Paul Cohen, Rabbi Emily Segal, Adam Kahan, Chuck Alexander, Ernie Frankl, Randi Gurian, Herb Horn, Diana Kaufmann, Jeff Krupp, Ken Lorch, and Mitchell Slotnick

# YOUTH COMMITTEE

*Amy Torf, Chair*



Purim Carnival

OUR YOUTH PROGRAMMING continues to thrive and engage Temple Jeremiah youth of all ages with youth programming for all ages from babies through high school. Youth group activities were headed by Youth Programs Associate Lizzy Scheinkopf and Youth Advisor Mike Greenstone. This year was very successful for our youth groups, continuing to build and enhance the connections of our Temple Jeremiah youth – to each other, to Temple Jeremiah, to the Reform movement, and to Judaism. Below is a summary of the year’s activities in youth programming.

**JeTY (Jeremiah Temple Youth, grades 9-12):** Our teens build leadership skills as they help lead this youth group including planning events, leading Shabbat services and performing tikkun olam. JeTY is led also by the JeTY Board, a wonderful group elected to positions that mirror the positions of the regional youth group board, who join with our Youth Programs Associate to plan and execute all JeTY events and programs. JeTY also hosts the Purim Carnival for the congregation, with the JeTYites taking responsibility for the planning and execution of many elements of the carnival under the guidance of Lizzy, Mike, and Rabbi Segal.

**Jr. JeTY (grades 6-8):** This youth group serves our middle schoolers and provides an entry point to our high school youth group. Toward the end of the year, 8th graders are integrated into JeTY programming to help connect them to this group before the change of the year.

**Club 345 (grades 3-5):** Attendance at events for 3rd through 5th graders continues to be very strong, with social programs incorporating Jewish learning and social action.

**Jeremiah Kids (grades K-2 with adults):** A stepping stone to introduce youth and families to youth programming, Jeremiah Kids held several events this year, which were well-attended and thoroughly enjoyed.

**Jeremiah Buddies (preschool):** This group for preschoolers and their families meets on the first Sunday of the month



Club 345 Harry Potter Tu BiShevat



Jr. JeTY in the City

(continued)

# YOUTH COMMITTEE, *continued*

*Amy Torf, Chair*



when religious school is in session. The group enjoyed crafts, games, and social time together, often connected with the time of year, a Jewish value, or an upcoming holiday.

**Babies and Bagels (birth to age 2):** This monthly Sunday gathering for babies and a caregiver is an opportunity to meet other Jewish families with babies. Prospective members have often attended these gatherings and it has been an entrée to connection to the temple and to temple membership.

Youth Programming hosts Nosh & Mingle, an opportunity for 3rd-7th graders to gather in the youth lounge to enjoy social time and a snack prior to Monday or Wednesday Hebrew School classes. Youth Programming also hosts a gathering for Madrichim (religious school aides) between sessions of religious school for these teens to gather, spend time together, and have bagels for breakfast. This continues to be a popular gathering and a nice way for the teens to relax and connect.

Highlights of the year for Youth Programming:

- Seven teenagers went on JeTY's fifth annual Alternative Break Trip, this year traveling to Belize to volunteer.
- Our teenagers held their first fundraiser to support Alternative Spring Break and the youth department, a delicious Lox Box sale.
- Lizzy Scheinkopf, one of our Youth Programs Associates, planned and led a fantastic leadership training retreat at OSRUI for the JeTY Board.
- JeTY went apple picking in Wisconsin
- Jr JeTY took a trip to ComedySportz in the city
- Club 345 held a Harry Potter themed Tu BiShevat Party and went cosmic ice skating
- The Purim Carnival was incredibly successful this year, in terms of money raised, attendance, and a great time enjoyed by all.

Thank you to the following people:

**The 5774 JeTY Board:** Spencer Lavin, Lauren Lerner, Fisher Katlin, Dan Lasky, Brendan Gold, and Allison Smith

**Our staff:** Lizzy Scheinkopf, Mike Greenstone, and Rabbi Segal

# APPENDIX:

## FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES DONORS

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Families Helping Families supports operating costs and offsets the cost of making membership accessible to all, regardless of ability to pay. In 2014, Temple Jeremiah embarked on a new effort called the Annual Fund: Families Helping Families. In lieu of holding a fundraiser event for the congregation, the Board of Directors opted to make an appeal for gifts through personal touches. The result has been a resounding success surpassing our goal and the previous year's giving. We would like to thank everyone who has participated in Families Helping Families to date.

Ostrow Reisin Berk & Abrams	Adam and Marci Carl	Reuben Gamoran
Chuck and Ruth Adler	Barry and Randi Carr	Phil Gardner and Sue Pinsky
Elan Adler and William Johnson	Eric and Laurie Chern	Gardner
Julie and Joel Africk	Eric and Beth Chibnik	David and Carey Gelfand
Brian and Diane Albert	Circle of Service Foundation	Michael and Jennifer
Adam Alexander	Howard and Diane Cohen	Gershowitz
Charles and Marla Alexander	Hal and Susan Cohen	Jim Gilford
Howard and Wendy Allenberg	Ronald and Doris Cohen	Larry and Darlene Gilford
Jeanne and Gabriel Angres	Melissa and David Copeland	Karen Gitles
Marilyn Arbetman	Rob Dann and Erica Regunberg	Roberta Glick
Henry and Elaine Baron	Dawes Laboratories	David and Anni Goldberg
Michael and Christine Benoit	Sherry M. Dea	Jeremy and Leslie Goldberger
Florence Berg	Andrew and Roberta	David and Carol Golder
Michael and Minda Bernberg	Denenberg	Joan Golder
Joel and Susan Bersh	Byron and Judy Denenberg	Lori and Andrew Goldstein
David and Martha Berzon	Larry Diskin and Christina	Michael and Linda Goorvich
Richard and Dee Bittman	Van Pelt	Michael and Juliet Gray
Blackline Consulting	Steve and Arlene Drucker	Michael and Geri Greenberg
Steve Blinderman	Roger G. and Susanne Fein	Joel and Sharon Greenburg
James and Alla Block	Lance and Brenda Feis	Stephen and Jane Grossman
Aileen Blum	Jonathan and Michelle Fellman	Randi and Charles Gurian
David and Janet Blum	Seymour and Barbara Ferdman	Bruce and Jamie Hague
Darryl and Lisa Bradford	Shirley Field	Alan and Myrna Hammerman
William and Lillian Brandfon	Gerson and Ilene Field	Ronald and Patricia Hamu
Howard Brenner	Arnie and Carol Fishbain	Marshal and Eelyn Haver
Steven and Eileen Brett	Paul and Pam Fisher	Sarah Hearst and David
Eileen Brottman	David Fishman and Julie Rosner	Goldman
Bill and Norma Brown	William and Carole Fishman	Charles and Mary Pat Heftman
Sy Brown and Ellen Greenberg	Annilise Flanagan-Frankl	Nancy and Fritz Hirsch
Sima Browne	Julie and James Ford	Allen and Nancy Hirschfield
Edwin Bruere	Jim and Lynn Foster	Mark Holtzer and Jill Goldy
Chris and Karen Buckner	Cory and Suzanne Franklin	Jonathan Horn & Sarah Lerman
James Burda and Melinda	Dan and Ronda Franks	Herb and Bonnie Horn
Streicker	Robert and Marilyn Friedman	Howard Teitelbaum
Robert and Cheryl Byron	Tony and Wendy Frink	David and Linda Hutchinson
Edryce Cadden	Alene and Skip Frost	Alan and Avrie Jacobs
Michael and Adriana Capone	Carlos and Sandy Frum	Ken and Bronwyn Jacobson

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# APPENDIX:

## FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES, *continued*

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Jules and Susan Joffe	Roberta Mallon and Lewis Robert	Douglas and Elizabeth Shabelman
Robert Joseph and Karen Goodman	Carol Maxon	Ed and Laurel Shapiro
Lillian Kalin	Jim and Randi Mayer	Justin and Robin Sheperd
Muriel Kaplan and Chuck Hirsch	Kathleen and Marc Mayer	Carolyn Sherman
Mildred Jean Kaplan	Barry and Peggy McLaughlin	Reuben Shore
Lori and Gary Kash	Joseph and Suzi Meis	Fran and Al Silver
Ken and Barbara Kaufman	Carol Mitchel	Harold and Pat Singer
Diana Kaufmann	Gail and Tony Modro	Joel and Laurie Skinner
Sue and Joel Kaufmann	Michael and Sari Montgomery	Mitchell and Valerie Slotnick
Joanne Keeshin	Mueller-Brennan Family	Steve and Jocelyn Snower
Marilyn Kennedy	Shirley and David Neems	Ronald and Audrey Snyder
Rimma and Shoel Kerzner	Henry and Evelyn Neu	Deborah and John Sobel
Alan and Nancy Kessler	Geraldine and Jay Newmark	Lynne and Peter Sorkin
Barbara Kite	Jeff and Peggy Nitzkin	Bonnie Sorkin
Robert and Rochelle Kleczynski	James and Margo Oliff	Stoller Wholesale
Steve and Lisa Kleiman	Gerald and Marcia Osher	Susan and Dan Swett
Rob and Cindy Klein	Hershy Pappadis	Alan and Ellen Toban
Sigal Klipstein and Joel Reisner	Scott and Alisa Patterson	Jeffrey and Rita Torf
Floyd Kozak	Nikki and Steven Pick	Jason and Amy Torf
Jeff and Ellen Krupp	Herb and Juliet Pomerantz	Naoko and Kenneth Tornheim
Gerry and Mara Lane	Gene and Carol Rintels	Shelly Trilling
Aimee Lang	Louise Robinson	Gail and Les Trubow
Howard and Gail Lanznar	Lynne and Joseph Romano	Jeremy Tuchman and Deb Dreyfuss-Tuchman
Abby and Ed Lasky	Ron and Betsy Rooth	Alan and Sara Turover
Charles Laurito	Gerry Roth	Timothy and Deborah Vansolkema
Dawn Lavin	Ed and Emmy Rothschild	Steven and Stephanie Victor
Andre and Carol Leib	Myron and Susan Rubnitz	Marcus and Anne Wedner
Frank and Deborah Leibow	Edward and Brigitte Ruda	Gary Weiner
David and Arielle Leopold	David and Lori Ruskin	Patricia Weinfuss
Betty Levin	Carolyn Sacks	Dan and Susan Weitzman
Scott and Amy Levin	Jeffrey and Babette Sanders	Lawrence and Pamela Zall
Donald and Susan Levine	Sylvia Sanders	Bruce and Laura Zimmerman
Steve and Lisa Levy	Ron and Andrea Sandler	Gary and Renee Zussman
Ken and Susan Lorch	David, Nancy, and Julie Sarne	
David and Christina Loundy	Robert and Jo Sawyer	
Patricia and Fred Lurie	Molly and Michael Schack	
Lustbader Family	Sheila Schlaggar	
David Maeglin	Ernest and Linda Schubert	
John and Michele Maeglin	Cindy and Hal Schwartz	
Larry and Mary Mages	Steve and Michelle Serck	

# APPENDIX: THE COVENANT SOCIETY

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The Temple Jeremiah Covenant Society was established to honor all who support Temple Jeremiah through estate and financial plans — through wills, trusts and other planned gifts. These gifts provide important ways to strengthen and sustain the temple's future. This year, Temple Jeremiah, in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago and Harold Grinspoon Foundation, started an initiative to increase the number of families including the synagogue in their estate plans. We would like to thank those who have indicated they are making legacy gift.

Julie and Joel Africk  
Rabbi Paul and Cathy Cohen  
Julie and Jim Ford  
Alene and Skip Frost  
Krystal and Danny Glassman  
Allyson and Avi Greenfield  
Charles Gurian  
Randi Gurian  
Bonnie and Herb Horn  
Lori and Gary Kash  
Joel Kaufmann  
Sue Kaufmann  
Amy and Scott Levin  
Susan and Ken Lorch  
Barb and Stephen Miller  
Jennifer and Noah Schnepper  
Valerie and Mitchell Slotnick  
Amy and Jason Torf  
Stephanie and Steven Victor

# APPENDIX:

## 2014-2015 WORSHIP & PROGRAMS

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### ADULT LEARNING:

- “Ahead of Her Time”
- “AIPAC”
- “A Voice Among the Silent”
- “The Altars of the Southern and Northern Kingdoms of Israel and Judea”
- “Bubbe Meises: Jewish Customs and Superstitions”
- “CAMERA”
- “CJE SeniorLife”
- “Every Object Tells a Story”
- “Israel and Alternative Energy”
- JUF Brunch with David Laskin
- “Like Dreamers”
- “Midrashim”
- “My Promised Land”
- “Pulse of Our World”
- “Pulse of Our World: The Environment”
- “Purim: Not For Children Only!”
- “Putting the Space of Rosh HaShanah into Our Lives”
- “Reform Judaism” (in two sessions)
- Scholar-in-Residence: Rabbi Rex D. Perlmeter
- “The Storyteller”
- “Sukkot: Not For Children Only!”
- “Theatre Judaica: The Art of Living Midrash”
- “Those Who Save Us”
- “Trashed” Documentary (co-sponsored with GreenFaith)
- “Tu BiShevat Seder” (co-sponsored with GreenFaith)

### BROTHERHOOD

- Al Brottman OSRUI Scholarship Fund
- Brotherhood Shabbat
- Cigar Night
- Family Bingo
- Jazz Night
- Kibbitz ‘n’ Bites breakfasts
- Men’s Health Programs

- Opening Breakfast
- The Schvitz

### CARING COMMUNITY:

- Caring Community
- Thanksgiving Meal

### COMMUNICATIONS:

- Adult Learning Bookmark
- Annual Report
- Covenant (Monthly Bulletin)
- Digital Signs in the Lobby
- E-Newsletters and Temple E-mails
- Membership Directory
- Memorial Book
- Posters/Flyers for Temple Events
- Press Releases and Ads
- Sabbath Light
- Social Media: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, etc.
- Website ([www.templejeremiah.org](http://www.templejeremiah.org))

### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION/PROGRAMMING:

- Parent-Tot Program
- PJ Library Resources
- Tot Shabbat

### GREEN TEAM

- Community-Supported Agriculture
- “Jeremiah is Certified as a Sustainable Sanctuary” Shabbat
- Natural Born Tillers: Garden Prepping and Planting
- “Shabbat, Naturally”
- Styrofoam Collection
- “Trashed” Documentary (co-sponsored with Adult Learning)
- “Tu BiShvat Seder” (co-sponsored with Adult Learning)

### HEBREW & RELIGIOUS SCHOOL / CONFIRMATION / POST-CONFIRMATION:

- 3rd grade “Kids on the Block”
- 4th grade Creative Prayer Service
- 6th Grad Yad-Making
- ADL speaker, David Kirzman
- Aleph Celebration
- ARK speaker
- ARK tour and stocking of shelves
- Backpack Blessings
- Boker Tov breakfast for PreK and K families
- Budget Game (trip to local market)
- “Building Healthy Relationships” speaker from ANGLES
- Chanukah Celebration
- CJE speaker, Andrew Weisman, on aging
- Confirmation / Confirmation Retreat
- Confirmation Bake Sale
- Confirmation Challenge Course to Northbrook District Park
- Consecration Ceremony
- “Cut the Drama”
- “De-Stress with Us”
- Down Syndrome speaker
- End-of-school celebration and BBQ
- “Ethical Wills” program
- Facing Forward to Prevent Homelessness
- Feed the Homeless
- Grade-level Shabbat dinners
- “Hands of Peace”
- Hebrew School Graduation
- Honest Reporting speaker – Gary Kenzer
- Hot Ground Gym
- Illinois Holocaust Museum Trips
- Immigration Unit
- Israel Experience

(continued)

# APPENDIX:

## 2014-2015 WORSHIP & PROGRAMS

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- “Jewish-Muslim Texting” with Or Tzedek
- “Judaism and Blacksmithing” with Rabbi Kramer
- JUF Brunch and speaker
- “Keeping in Balance” speaker
- Keshet Art Fair
- Keshet speaker
- “Life as an Islamic Family”
- Linus Project
- “Lone Soldier Project”
- Madrichim (student aides)
- Metropolis Theatre for “The Diary of Anne Frank”
- “Middle School Challenges”
- “Mirror Mirror” (self image)
- Open Houses
- Opening Day School Assembly and Welcome to New Members
- Or Tzedek
- Pizza in the Hut
- Post-Confirmation Program
- Purim Schpiel and Carnival
- “Relationships Aren’t Easy”
- Response Speaker on “Social Activism”
- Shorashim
- Simchat Torah celebration and dinner
- SKIP (Send a Kid to Israel Partnership)
- SPARK with our senior congregants
- Speaker about bullying
- Speaker about stress management
- Specialty Tracks/Electives
- Trip to The ARK
- Trip to Uptown Café
- Visit to Baha’i House of Worship
- Visit to Central Synagogue
- “When Push Comes to Shove” Response speaker
- Yom HaShoah service

### SHIR JOY (JUNIOR CHOIR):

- Performance at nursing home
- Shabbat dinner

### MEMBERSHIP:

- Bagel Bar
- Prospective and New Member BBQ
- “Shabbat 360” Membership Celebration Dinner
- Shana Tovah phone calls
- “Taste and Tell” (co-sponsored with Women of Jeremiah)
- Welcome bags

### OUTREACH:

- Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship
- Interfaith Family Shabbat

### SOCIAL ACTION & ADVOCACY:

- Backpack Blessings
- Caring Community Thanksgiving Meal
- Family Promise
- Family Tree
- Feed the Homeless
- Feed the Homeless: Chicago Young Adults Edition
- Hunger Summit
- “Immigration Reform” with Sen. Durbin and Archbishop Cupich
- Keshet GADOL Art Fair
- Partners for a Purpose
- Whittier School Uniform Donation
- Whittier Coat Drive
- Wishes for Whittier

### TEMPLE EVENTS:

- 90+ Luncheon
- “A Taste of Honey at Mariano’s”
- “A Topsy Turvy Chanukah Party”
- Annual Board Meeting and Dinner and Screening of “Beneath the Helmet”
- Annual Noni Dodge Blood Drive
- Chat and Chew (for Seniors): “Walking the Bible”
- Chat and Chew (for Seniors): “Facebook 101”
- Golder Lecture with Dr. Joel M. Hoffman
- Leadership Development Program
- Trip to the Holocaust Museum
- Ravinia Night

### HIGH HOLY DAY WORSHIP PROGRAMS:

- Alternative High Holy Day Worship
- Children’s and Youth High Holy Day Worship
- High Holy Day Special Needs Worship
- JeTY High Holy Day Worship
- Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur Worship
- Rosh HaShanah Worship for Families with Special Needs
- Selichot: “Reflection: Taking an Accounting of Our Souls”
- Tashlich

### FESTIVAL/HOLIDAY WORSHIP PROGRAMS:

- Chanukah Celebration for Families with Special Needs
- Erev Sukkot “Pizza in the Hut” and Sukkah Decorating
- Sukkah Hop

(continued)

# APPENDIX:

## 2014-2015 WORSHIP & PROGRAMS

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- Sukkot “Java in the Hut” and Worship
- Erev Simchat Torah Worship, Dinner, and Dancing
- Simchat Torah “Tea is for Torah,” Worship, and Yizkor
- “Megillah and Mitzvot”
- Adult Purim Party: “Shushan Speakeasy”
- Shushan Shuffle, Purim Schpiel, and Purim Carnival
- Purim Carnival for Families with Special Needs
- Matzah Brei and Passover Worship
- “From Desert to Dessert,” Passover Worship, and Yizkor
- Erev Shavuot Program at Am Shalom
- Shavuot Morning Worship and Yizkor

### SHABBAT WORSHIP PROGRAMS:

- “A Midsummer Night’s Treat” Shabbat Erev Shabbat Worship
- “A Taste of Camp at H(OUR) Shabbat”
- “Disability Awareness Shabbat”
- “H(OUR) Shabbat Goes to Camp”
- H(OUR) Shabbat Worship
- Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
- Kabbalat Shabbat Worship by the Garden
- Prospective and New Member Kabbalat Shabbat Worship and BBQ
- Shabbat Across America
- Shabbat Morning Worship
- Shabbat Shira
- Shabbat Worship with the Ice Cream Truck

- Star-Spangled Shabbat Worship
- Tefilah and Torah
- Tot Shabbat Worship

### WOMEN OF JEREMIAH:

- “A New Month, a New Relationship: Rosh Chodesh with the Women of Jeremiah”
- Book Club
- “Breaking Bread Trumps Breaking Bad” Hands-On Challah
- High Holy Day Food Drive
- Gift Shop
- Gift Shop Silent Auction
- “Latkepalooza!”
- Mah Jongg Group
- Torah Study with Rabbi Cohen
- Women of Jeremiah Shabbat
- Women’s Passover Seder
- “Taste and Tell” (co-sponsored with Membership Committee)

### YOUTH GROUP/YOUTH DEPARTMENT EVENTS

#### *Ongoing Programs:*

- Babies and Bagels (for babies and toddlers, monthly)
- Jeremiah Buddies (preschoolers and families, monthly)
- Madrichim Gatherings between Religious School sessions
- Nosh & Mingle prior to each Hebrew School session

#### *JK (Jeremiah Kids, for K-2 grades):*

- Color Me Mine
- Gobble Gathering

#### *Club 345 (3rd-5th grade):*

- The ARK
- Cosmic Ice Skating
- Harry Potter Tu BiShevat

- Key Lime Cove
- Mini Golf
- Movie in the Sukkah
- Nickel City
- Xtreme Trampolines
- Yom Ha’atzmaut Party

#### *Jr. JeTY (6th-8th grade):*

- Chocolate Seder
- Color Me Mine
- Israeli Birthday Party
- Key Lime Cove
- Laser Tag
- Top Chef: Jr. JeTY!
- Trip to the City!
- Yom Ha’atzmaut Party
- Whirlyball

#### *JeTY (9th-12th grade):*

- Alternative Winter Break: Belize
- Apple Picking
- Brunswick’s
- Kickoff
- Lox Boxes
- Purim Carnival
- Shul-In
- Study Lounge Night

# TEMPLE LEADERSHIP

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(in the order in which they served)

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Robert W. Powell ל"י  
Robert H. Goldberg  
Edgar L. Cadden ל"י  
Meyer M. Israel ל"י  
Marvin H. Coleman ל"י  
Stanley C. Golder ל"י  
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Herbert Horn  
Michael Pollak  
Diana Kaufmann  
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Howard Lanznar  
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Rabbi Emily E. Segal  
Robert D. Schreiber, D.D., *Rabbi Emeritus*  
Adam Kahan, *Cantorial Soloist*  
Cantor Amy J. Zussman, *Cantor Emerita*  
Dr. Allan Tarshish ל"י  
Danny Glassman, *Executive Director*  
Anne M. Lidsky, Ph.D., RJE, *Director of Religious Education*  
David Lornson, *Organist & Choir Director*  
Rabbi Deborah Helbraun, *Hebrew School Principal*

ל"י of blessed memory

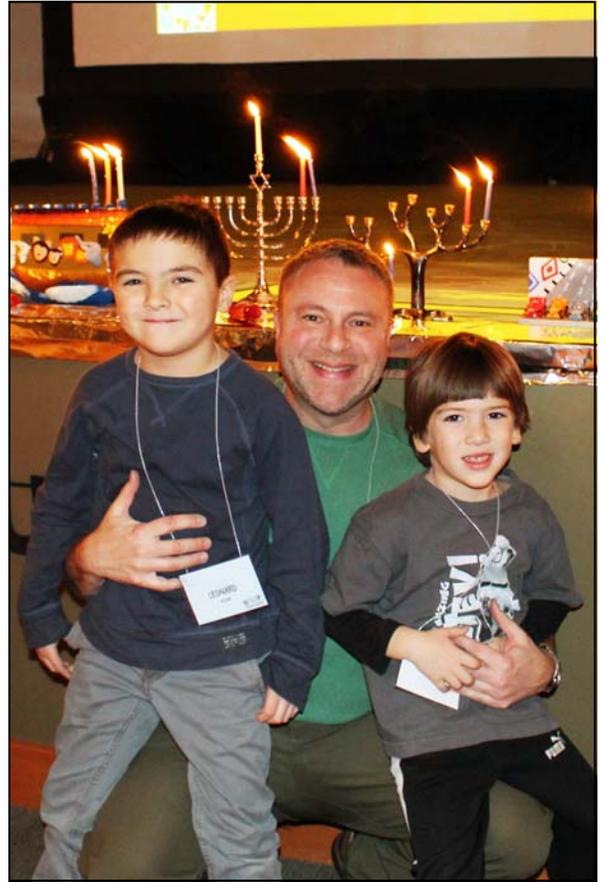
## OFFICE

Phyllis Burg	Jill Nutkis
Sheila Greenfield	Jennifer Rosen
Mike Greenstone	Donna Ryback
Barb Kite	Sarabeth Salzman
Lia Lehrer	Lizzy Scheinkopf

## MAINTENANCE

Jolanta Popielarczyk  
Siomara Hernandez  
Juan Carlos Sanchez  
Frank Pasek  
Jesse Sanchez  
Jean Sanchez

# PHOTOS



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: 1.** A Topsy Turvy Chanukah Party. **2.** JUF Brunch with David Laskin. **3.** First day of Hebrew school. **4.** Temple Jeremiah Night at Dairy Queen. **5.** Women's Seder. **6.** A "Frozen" Purim Schpiel.



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