



REPORT
OF THE
ANNUAL MEETING

**A Caring Community
Open to All**

19 IYAR, 5771 • MAY 23, 2011



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AGENDA
ANNUAL MEETING OF TEMPLE JEREMIAH

19 IYAR, 5770
MAY 23, 2011

Call to order

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

President's Report.....Julie Ford

Financial Report.....Michael Schack

Nominating Committee Report.....Ken Lorch

Final Comments and Questions

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

Adjournment

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Julie Ford

AS OUR YEAR AT TEMPLE JEREMIAH COMES TO A CLOSE and I complete my first year of my three-year term as president, I cannot help but reflect on this year's accomplishments as I look forward to another wonderful year. The presidency has provided me with insights into our Temple community, broadened my knowledge of our local and extended Jewish communities, and enriched my own connections to Judaism and Temple Jeremiah in ways I am only beginning to discover.

I am very proud of our Jeremiah community, as I hope you are. We are a wonderful collection of Jewish and non-Jewish personalities, thoughts, drives, ambitions, passions, and backgrounds, all of which adds to the vibrancy of our Jeremiah tapestry.

This past year has been an exciting time for our board as we delved into discussions of how to move our board from operational to visionary. This cultural shift affects our policies and procedures, which are in the process of assessment and revision. We want to align our actions with our new goals and objectives while maintaining the thoughtful leadership and governance on which our Temple has come to rely. What does it mean to be a more visionary board? It means our focus will be on thoughtful discussion and debate on broad scope topics, such as: how to grow our membership to meet our financial needs, how to develop a meaningful volunteer base that is in partnership with our staff, how to develop a culture of giving among our membership, how to utilize technology to its fullest, and how to strengthen our connections to our members. This year we also evaluated and improved our communication with our members, brought back the printed Covenant, increased participation in our Feed the Homeless and other social action initiatives, expanded our adult education program offerings, made stronger connections and reached out in a more direct way to our members through our board liaison program, and opened our doors to those in need through our Family Promise partnership.

We are well on our way to achieving the goals outlined in our long-range plan. This year we have reduced our building debt to under \$200,000 from the original amount of \$3.5 million from seven years ago. Financially we stayed true to our goals of: providing a balanced budget, holding dues and school fee increases to a minimum to help offset the economic impact on our members, and acknowledging and helping our congregants who require additional assistance in fulfilling their Annual Financial Commitments. This year the number of members we have on dues relief increased from 21% to 24%. This is significantly higher than the averages we saw prior to 2008, which was in the 8 – 11% range. We all hope that as the economy improves this number will drop as our membership gets back on their feet financially. While the last several years have been difficult, the decisions made through the budget process have proved to be correct. We still anticipate achieving a balanced budget through cost savings in expenses and additional revenue from other sources such as Circles of Giving. I want to thank all of those families that have participated in this wonderful program. It has allowed us to continue to provide all of our wonderful services without drastically cutting staff and programs. The Circles of Giving program is a true act of *Tikkun Olam* and I encourage all of our households to participate in some way if their financial situation allows.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This year at Temple we took on some large projects that proved to be very beneficial to the congregation but were difficult to implement. We changed our Temple accounting software, streamlined our accounting processes, and hired and trained new staff to manage our day-to-day financial and operational needs. We revamped our website in order to provide more up-to-date information to our members, as well as added the convenience of online registration and donations for our members and our community-at-large.

This past year we recognized Rabbi Cohen's 10th year at Jeremiah and 20th year in the rabbinate, celebrated Cantor Zussman's 25th year at Temple and Dr. Anne Lidsky's 30th year at Temple Jeremiah. We are so fortunate to have such tremendous staff. This year we added to our senior staff and welcomed Rabbi Emily Segal to our family. She has exceeded all of our expectations, and as she enters her second year at Temple, she is already a much-valued member of our staff.

Our congregation is active, thriving, and enriched because of members like you. My hope and prayer is that 2011 – 2012 will be another opportunity to continue to build upon all of the wonderful work of this past year and strengthen and connect with each of our members in a deeper and more meaningful way. Temple Jeremiah is your extended family and requires constant nurturing and attention like any family member does. Increase your level of participation in 2011- 2012 and let us hear from you either through your voice, pocket book, or your actions. All are equally appreciated and recognized. As always please do not hesitate to contact me at 847-274-3365 or jford4127@comcast.net. I would love to hear from you.

Shalom,

Julie Ford, President

RABBI PAUL F. COHEN, D.MIN.

Dear Friends,

We look back over the past year during a very special time in the Jewish calendar, the time between Passover and Shavuot. Our Torah talks of the fifty days between Passover and Shavuot commonly known as *Sefirat Ha-Omer*, the counting of the *omer*. From the biblical perspective, these days relate to the barley offering brought on the second day of Passover and the wheat brought on the festival of Shavuot. These days are days of hope and prayer that the produce from the ground grow fruitfully and plentifully.

In addition, this period of time certainly has something to do with the counting of time from Passover, the holiday marking our physical exodus from Egypt, to Shavuot, the holiday commemorating the giving of the Torah. So great is the anticipation of Shavuot that we count joyously one day after the other for seven full weeks hoping to reach higher and higher as we approach that moment in history when the Torah was given. It is fitting that we count up to forty-nine. This is because the number seven in Judaism symbolizes completion, wholeness and spirituality, for it is the number of Shabbat. Forty-nine is seven sets of seven, therefore the Omer period is the ultimate completion of the completion, the holiest of the holiest.

As we prepare for the giving and the receiving of Torah once again, let us consider the words of the Mishnah included in our morning worship. There are many things that are of limitless value listed in this Mishnah. But, the text concludes that, “The study of Torah supersedes them all because it leads to them all.” (Mishnah Pei-ah 1:1).

This year we welcomed a new teacher of Torah to Temple Jeremiah, Rabbi Emily Segal. Her impact has been immediate as she has led us in meaningful alternative worship during the High Holy Days, lead and engaged adults in our Shabbat morning Torah Study, and inspired our young people growing our youth program.

This year we celebrated Cantor Zussman’s 25th anniversary as our musical inspiration and teacher of Torah. Through the generous sharing of her spirit and her talent she guides young people and adults to engage with Torah in word and in music. Throughout her years she has had the gifted support of David Lornson. We pray that she and all of us will grow from this strength to new strength.

This year we also marked the 30th anniversary of Dr. Anne Lidsky’s inspirational leadership of our Religious Education program. Dr. Lidsky is a visionary teacher who brings her love of Judaism and her enthusiasm for learning to all who are privileged to be her students. Children and adults continue to benefit from her warm and caring presence. Again, we pray that she and all of us will grow from this strength to new strength.

RABBI PAUL F. COHEN, D.MIN.

This year we marked the beginning of Julie Ford's tenure as our Temple president. It is through our partnership with her and with our entire volunteer leadership that Torah continues to be a guiding force in our lives and the life of our community. We are able to take our study of Torah into practice as she has led us in re-visioning the work of the board and how we reach and communicate with one another. Once, again, we pray that she and all of us will grow from the strength of this year's achievements to new strength.

The study of Torah cannot happen without the support of the people who make the House of Study run. I offer my deepest gratitude to Michael Garlin, Phyllis Burg, Sheila Greenfield, Lindsay Boettcher, Shari Kuhn, Lia Lehrer, Sean Eftekhari, Jola Dabala, and Krystyn Wroblewski.

As we count these days of the Omer we look back on the year that has come to a close even as we look to the beginning of a new year of life and love. May the next year find us celebrating the community of Temple Jeremiah built and sustained by our love for Torah, God, and one another.

Shalom,

Rabbi Paul F. Cohen, D.Min.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Michael Schack, Treasurer

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 2010/11 fiscal year ending June 30, 2011 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, 2011:

- Our Temple continues to operate on a fiscally healthy basis with sound business and financial management. Our balance sheet continues to be strong and our accounting is sound and conservative; the attentiveness of our staff, along with the active involvement of skilled volunteer leaders, ensures that our financial management reporting and planning continue to improve each year.
- The difficult cost reduction actions taken by the Budget Committee over the last several years have provided Temple Jeremiah the opportunity to maintain a balanced budget despite income constraints.
- Many congregants are still having financial challenges and while some members have been able to stabilize their finances, others have recently experienced financial setbacks from the recession. As a result, the number of families that have needed financial support to remain members in good standing has increased but at a lesser rate than in the previous two years.
- Our Temple family has grown slightly over the current year. Through March 31, we have seen a net increase of 17 families to 857 families from 840. While we are

pleased that we have been able to increase our membership despite a natural attrition rate due to lifecycle events and relocations to outside of the area, the number of families in need of financial help continues to grow which negatively impacts Temple Jeremiah's main revenue source, the Annual Financial Commitment.

- Our investment approach has been extremely conservative with investing in only certificates of deposits. While this approach has resulted in no loss of principal during the downturn, it has not yielded any meaningful returns to the Temple over the last year.
- Due to the success of the Partnership of Promise and the 21st Century capital campaigns, our mortgage has been reduced substantially and now represents a minor expense to the operations of Temple Jeremiah. For the upcoming fiscal year, the debt service is projected to be \$10,000 down from the estimated \$15,100, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011. As of April 25, 2011, the remaining principal balance is \$177,000, down from approximately \$465,000 at the end of the last fiscal year. With an estimated \$240,000 remaining to collect from capital campaign pledges over the next few years, we are projected to have enough pledges to retire our debt and add to our endowment for the future.

PROJECTED RESULTS FOR THE 2010/2011 FISCAL YEAR:

Pursuant to our by-laws and consistent with past practices, we have been operating with a balanced budget for the current fiscal year (July 2010 – June 2011). Based upon collecting the remaining outstanding current Annual Financial Commitments, we anticipate that we will finish the year with a balanced budget. However, with 17.3% of the remaining annual financial commitments to collect as of March 31, 2011 (13.2% as of last fiscal year), we are watching expenses closely to assure we reach a balanced budget if the remainder of the financial commitments are not received.

The Board of Directors, in partnership with our senior staff,

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FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

is constantly aware that we are in an environment of increasing operating costs and reduced income and continue to look for opportunities for more efficient business operations. Our senior staff has been instrumental and supportive in prudently managing resources and cutting costs when possible.

THE BUDGET PROCESS:

Approximately halfway through our fiscal year, the Budget Committee of the Board of Directors begins the process of analyzing financial performance for the current year and making projections for the end of the fiscal year. The committee works with great dedication analyzing expenses related to programming (including worship, education, and other programs), salaries, and costs of the building and office operations. As these expenses are quantified, revenue sources are projected and confirmed to ensure we will approach the coming year with a strong financial position and balanced budget.

As we have mentioned in previous years, 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 normal and expected reasons. This increase and decrease in the size of our congregation impacts programming costs, school enrollment, the costs of administration, and other items. It is the intent of the Budget Committee to provide the Board of Directors with guidance as to 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 2011/2012 FISCAL YEAR:

The coming year continues to bring new financial challenges as we continue to meet the needs of the congregation and supporting Temple Jeremiah’s staff and programming.

REVENUES:

The Temple’s revenues are budgeted to be approximately \$2.45 million which is up from our current budget by

\$103,000 or 4.4%. While this figure may seem large given the current economic climate, the approach to budgeting certain items changed which on the surface appear to be increases in revenue when that is not the case. In an effort to lend more transparency, the Budget Committee separated various expenses that were netted against revenues. This separation of income and expenses accounted for \$33,000 of the \$103,000 revenue increase.

The remaining \$70,000 in revenue increases comes from a few sources. The largest increase is from a 3% raise in the Annual Financial Commitment which generates \$47,400 in increased revenue. Two years ago the Budget Committee froze membership commitments and in the current fiscal year, dues were increased a modest 2%. While we continue to maintain vigilance on expenses, the fact remains that expenses have increased including employment-related costs such as health insurance premiums and thus the need to raise the Annual Financial Commitment to pay for these growing expenses. If additional energies focused on increasing the Temple’s full paying membership are successful, it is possible to limit dues escalations.

Other increases are anticipated to come from donations in recognition of the successful Circles of Giving program started this year as well as additional facility income from outside users and Bar/Bat Mitzvah fees due to more of these events. We now have Safe Haven School which brings in additional classroom facility revenue during the day as well as additional special interest groups. School income is expected to drop based upon lower anticipated enrollment and reinforces the need to bring in new members to the congregation. On a positive note, our dependency of transfers from restricted accounts to fund operations has been eliminated. For the 2011/12 budget the only income anticipated to be transferred to the operating budget comes from the endowment which is required pursuant to our by-laws.

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, 23.7% of our households require support from our congregational family in the form of reduced financial commitments. Last year, about 21.3% of our families needed some sort of assistance and this was up from 18.4% the year before. As a frame of

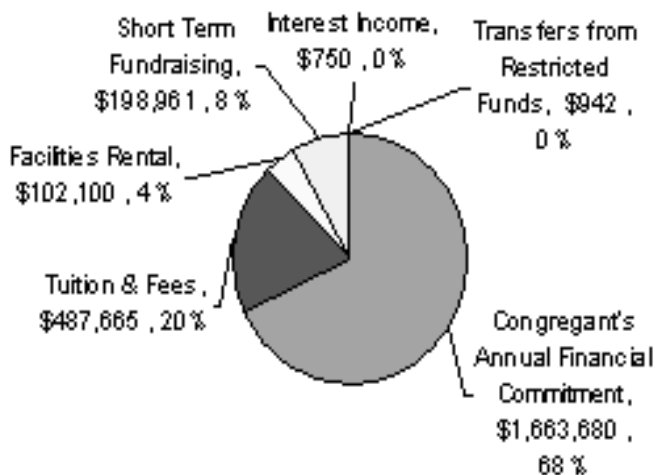
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FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

reference, prior to the current recession, Temple Jeremiah only had roughly 10% of its families that needed financial assistance.

We are hopeful that we have seen the peak in families that need assistance and that we will slowly begin to see an increase in the number of households that can fulfill their full Annual Financial Commitments. Despite this anticipation, the continued support of our Families Helping Families and Circles of Giving programs and other fundraising initiatives such as planned giving provides an opportunity for our generous congregants to support those households in need and continues to remain important.

2011 - 2012 Income Budget



Our endowment continues to grow with an increase of 5.5% over the past fiscal year. This growth has primarily come from additional contributions. We anticipate the endowment will increase more substantially once the mortgage is satisfied and the remaining capital campaign pledges can be directed towards the endowment. In the future, we plan to use more sophisticated investment strategies to grow the fund while mitigating risks on the downside. Higher yields in the future will allow this component of our revenue to increase, removing more of the burden of annual increases we must pass on to our congregants as well as allow us to further expand our programming.

EXPENSES

Viewed as a business with a \$2.45 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 support staff, teachers, and custodial staff continue to be the largest expense of our organization. Approximately 72% of our expenses are related to compensating our most valuable congregational resource.

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.

Our debt service requirements have decreased significantly over the years but still represent a real number. Our budget for the coming year proposes an estimated \$10,000 for mortgage interest, a reduction from the \$15,100 estimated for the current year and a further reduction from \$41,000 from the year before. Overall, debt service is projected to be .4% of next year's operating budget compared to slightly over .96% in the current fiscal year. The effect of reducing this budget expense has allowed us to continue our commitment to a number of critical programs and maintain our staff resources.

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. Over the past few years, the URJ provided discounts to member congregations in recognition of the difficult financial pressures effecting member congregations during the recession. The discounts will end in the current fiscal year and as a result, the 2011-2012 fiscal budget anticipates an increase in this expense.

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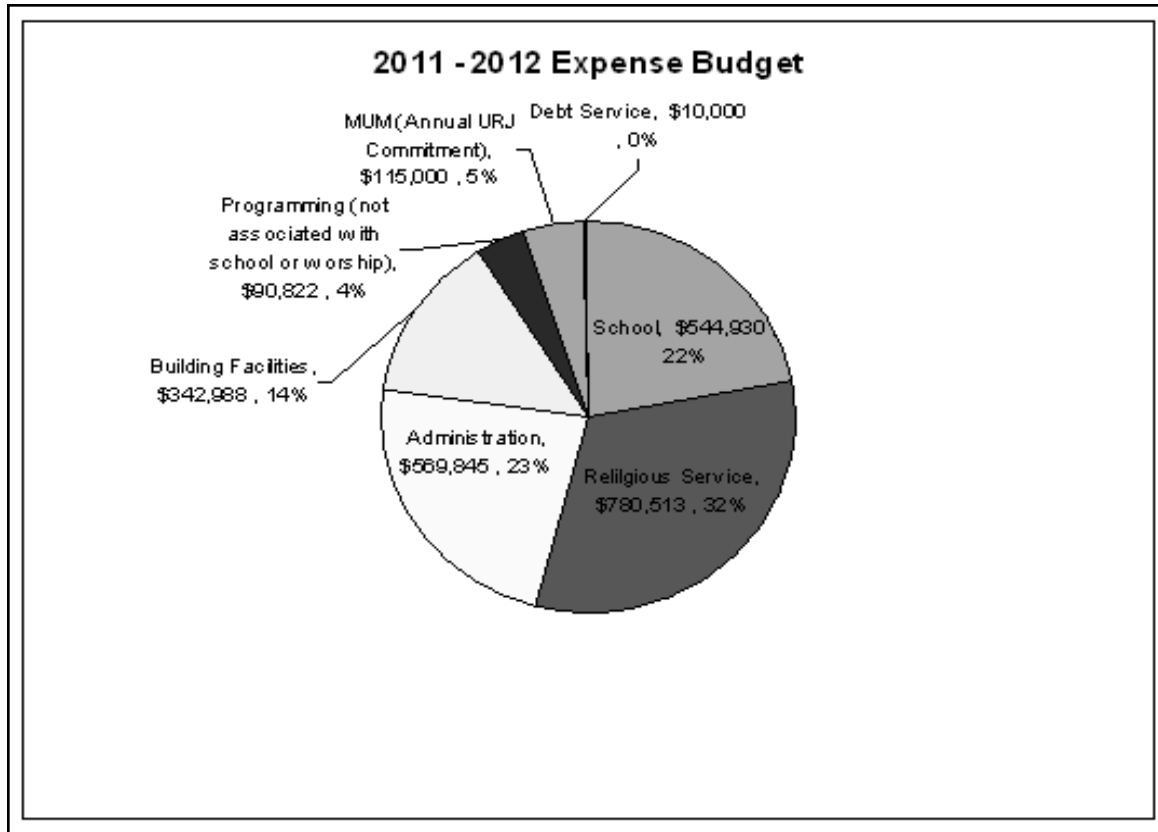
FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

OTHER COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS:

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, 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.

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

Respectively submitted by the Budget Committee: Jeff Krupp, Ron Rooth, Julie Ford, Randi Gurian, Ken Lorch, Rabbi Cohen, Michael Garlin and Michael Schack. With assistance from Cantor Zussman, Rabbi Segal, Dr. Lidsky and Sean Eftekhari.



BROTHERHOOD

Michael Pfeifer, President

BROTHERHOOD CONTINUED TO FOCUS in 2010/11 on its three primary goals: supporting religious events, assisting social action initiatives, and planning events that promote fun and fellowship among all Temple members.

Brotherhood continued to support Temple activities by providing usher coordinators for Bar/Bat Mitzvahs and the High Holy Days, providing Bar/Bat Mitzvah and Confirmation gifts along with Sisterhood, hosting the last day of Religious School Hot Dog Lunch, hosting the prospective members Shabbat barbeque, and sponsoring other Temple events such as:

- Brotherhood Opening Breakfast
- Family Bingo Night
- Family Bowling Night
- Adult Purim Party
- Brotherhood Shabbat Dinner & Service
- Monthly “Kibbitz & Bites” Breakfasts/Dinners
- “Jews and Baseball” movie showing

On the social action front we had several activities:

- Cut down buckthorn at the River Trail Nature Center
- Painted the walls and built shelves for the craft room at the McCormick Boys and Girls Club in Chicago.
- Served brunch at the JUF Uptown Café in Chicago.

It was especially gratifying to see new and different faces at the different activities.

Tzedakah offerings continued with contributions to many worthy organizations such as:

- JUF Cross for emergency aid to Japan
- Northfield Township Food Pantry
- Anister Group
- North Suburban Career and Networking Center

Finally, we had a few social outings. We went to the Green Mill to hear live jazz, and we went to the Chicago Golden Gloves boxing tournament, preceded by dinner at an El Salvadoran restaurant. Both outings were a great success and we plan on having more next year. We also sponsored a Bears party by bringing in a HD projector to watch the Bears play on a big screen.

All of Brotherhood’s community-building activities - both at Temple Jeremiah and outside our community – are made possible by our membership dues and active Brotherhood participation. My hope is that Brotherhood continues to grow and that we will be able to sponsor more events in the coming year. Please let us know if there are activities or causes that you’d like to have the Brotherhood consider for the upcoming year.

SISTERHOOD

Gayle Edmunds, President

MISSION STATEMENT

Temple Jeremiah Sisterhood is an organization of women who enjoy working together to enhance and enrich the lives of its members, the Temple and the community at large.

WE FULFILL THIS MISSION THROUGH:

Social Programs

- Opening Event: Healthy Harvest Cooking Demonstration
- Sisterhood Golf Outing
- Sisterhood Night Out: Silk Scarf Painting
- Sisterhood Night Out: Mahj and More Game Night

Religious and Spiritual Programming

- Sisterhood Shabbat Service and Dinner
- Women's Torah Study
- Women's Seder
- Adult Purim Party

Social Action and Philanthropic Activities

- The ARK High Holy Day Food Drive
- Participation in Social Action Committee projects, including Feed the Homeless and Family Promise
- Women of Reform Judaism's YES Fund
- Council for the Jewish Elderly Luncheon
- Holiday Gift Tag program through the ARK and JCYS

Educational and Temple Programming

- Bar and Bat Mitzvah Gifts
- Youth Group Support
- College Connection Support
- Confirmation Gifts
- New Member Brotherhood/Sisterhood Gifts
- Purim Carnival Lunch

KEY SISTERHOOD GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Sisterhood was proud to support several Social Action initiatives at Temple Jeremiah this year. Our Sisterhood Game Night raised \$2,000 to purchase equipment for a sensory room for autistic children and adults. We also donated more than \$800 in art supplies which were used to create some of the art displayed at the Art Show on April 10. Sisterhood also participated in the Social Action Committee's Feed the Homeless Challenge in March and April. We look forward to continuing our support of Temple projects and initiatives in the coming year.

Sisterhood continues to be the place where women connect at Temple Jeremiah. Through social activities and outings, Sisterhood offers a place for women to get to know and support one another. This year, among the events we offered were our annual Golf Outing at the Glencoe Golf Club, a silk scarf painting event, a Game Night fundraiser, and our Women's Seder using our newly revised Haggadah.

Warm, Caring Environment

We continue to cultivate this by sending YES cards for congregants' life cycle events and welcoming new members. We work with the Temple's Caring Community to seek volunteers to cook, buy, and deliver dinners for congregants in times of need.

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SISTERHOOD

Volunteers

Sisterhood recognizes that that work and family life place many demands on Temple women. Sisterhood is grateful for the time volunteers give in planning and implementing Sisterhood events and programs. While many women have less time to devote to time-intensive committee work, more women are inclined to volunteer for a specific program or project.

A major focus of the monthly Covenant Sisterhood column is recognition and appreciation of volunteers. We also host an annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner in honor of our volunteers.

Leadership Representation

Generally at least one Sisterhood officer attends most Temple events. Some of us have attended the WRJ and URJ conventions as well as local WRJ Kallahs, Area Day and informal Sisterhood president discussions. Consultation with WRJ through its listserv and website also informs Sisterhood programs.

Communication and Visibility in the Community

Sisterhood has improved its communications with its members by opening a Yahoo Newsgroup account. Sisterhood can now send out program updates, Evite invitations and calls for volunteers to more than 450 members. Sisterhood also has a page on the Temple website and is looking forward to advertising and registering participants through the new interactive website.

Gift Shop

The Sisterhood Gift Shop is the second highest revenue resource, second to dues. We are open during Religious School and Hebrew School. The shop is entirely supported by volunteers. In turn, our profits support activities of the organization and often a major gift to the Temple.

ADULT LEARNING COMMITTEE

Randi Gurian, Chair

THE ADULT LEARNING COMMITTEE IS COMMITTED to lifelong Jewish learning at Temple Jeremiah. Our objective is to involve as many congregants as possible in some form of Jewish learning that will enhance their knowledge and appreciation of our rich Jewish heritage. We offer programs designed to appeal to the broad range of needs and interests of our congregants. The categories of programming this year have included: Biblical studies, current events and contemporary issues, Hebrew, Jewish art and culture, and theology, philosophy, and ritual. This year we partnered with the Social Action Committee to offer three programs.

The Scholar in Residence Weekend, sponsored by the Bill and Norma Brown Fund for Lifelong Learning, featured Rabbi Lynn Landsberg as our scholar. She spoke at Friday evening worship and at a brunch on Sunday morning. Rabbi Landsberg spoke eloquently on each occasion about the experience of disability in the Jewish and non-Jewish world and challenged us to reflect and act on encouraging full inclusion of all members of our community.

Pulse of Our World in October focused on current legal issues regarding disability and most particularly on the changing legal landscape for employment and inclusion. Lori Goldstein jointly led this session with Rabbi Cohen.

In January, a panel discussion, "Connecting with Congregants who are Touched by Disabilities," was offered twice, and attended by both adults and some of our religious school students. Both those dealing with their own disabilities and individuals who have family members with disabilities spoke about the experience of their daily lives and the constant impact of disability on their engagement with the world, both Jewish and non-Jewish. This program was taped and will be available to congregants on an ongoing basis.

Our adult learning weekend at OSRUI this year had as the topic "The New Zionism or...How a Good Reform Jew Can be a Lover of Israel." The weekend was intellectually stimulating and offered opportunities for learning, prayer, and social time with with other Jeremiahans.

Our keynote speaker for the Jewish United Fund was Ariel Sabar, author of [My Father's Paradise](#). The program was well attended and highlighted part of our Jewish history that is less familiar to many of us.

Loree Sandler organized a viewing of the film [Prisoner of Her Past](#) which followed jazz critic Howard Reich as he struggled to discover his mother's history and better understand the demons pursuing her as she aged and childhood traumas resurfaced. The viewing was accompanied by a Q & A with Howard Reich and was a powerful experience for the many who attended.

In conjunction with the American Jewish Committee we offered a panel discussion "Immigration Reform: Do Jews Have a Stake?" Rabbi Segal spoke on Torah perspectives on immigration, followed by panelists on the legal, economic, and demographic issues of today. Two of our ongoing programs include Pulse of the World (offered monthly) and Rabbi's Reading Table book discussions on current events and literature. In conjunction with the Dawn Schuman Institute we offered four programs:

"The Spiritual Path Less Traveled" taught by David Strulowitz which looked at some of the ways in which Judaism has approached meditation and spirituality.

"Law and Order BRU (Biblical and Rabbinic Unit)" with Gary Shapiro which looked at the value of human life and how our tradition teaches we should respond to issues of murder and human injury.

"President Obama's Reshaping of the Supreme Court" presented by Julie Strauss which focused on the history and impact of Jewish Supreme Court justices and particularly examined the impact of a court in which there are now three Jewish justices.

"The Gift that Keeps on Giving: Jewish Memory, Creativity, and Identity" presented by David Chack explored ways in which our collective history and memory emerge creatively in modern film, drama, and literature.

Rabbi Cohen offered Lunch and Learn programs in Chicago, meeting congregants and others who broke away from their busy schedules for lunch and study of a various of Jewish texts and issues. Our Torah study class continued every Shabbat morning and included lively discussion along with coffee and bagels. The materials are the oldest in our tradition, but the discussion is fresh every week. Additionally we continued to offer adult Hebrew classes on Sundays and a Hebrew refresher class prior to the High Holy Days.

Committee:

Thanks to Loree Sandler, Joel Greenburg, and Barbara Miller and the Social Action Committee for their work in planning and implementing our programs.

BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Michael Schack, Chair

THE BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE'S OBJECTIVE IS TO preserve and enhance our facility in support of Temple Jeremiah's Mission Statement. 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 2010/2011 we were successfully able to further improve on our home by completing the following projects:

- Installed supplemental air conditioning in the server room to protect the computer servers.
- Installed new HVAC in the Rabbi's study and office area to correct design flaw problems and reduce the need to run the main foyer units for the small space of the Rabbi's study and thus reduce energy costs.
- Repaired the main tile floor and added expansion joints to replace failing floor tiles and reduce the possibility of further damage.
- Replaced the HVAC unit serving the Golder Chapel.
- Installed a new dishwasher to replace the original dishwasher.
- Repaired various roof areas to extend the remaining useful life of the roofs.
- Due to the poor lighting in the social hall, some of our rental income was in jeopardy, so we completed the originally designed lighting plan for the Social Hall and Stage Areas. These upgrades not only improved the lighting levels but provided more specialized controls for achieving different lighting levels.

In light of the current world environment, the committee continues to spend time understanding modern polices and procedures and physical considerations that can be applied to enhance the security of Temple Jeremiah and all those who visit the building. A special security committee has been formed to further this effort and is currently formulating physical improvement recommendations as well as developing a procedural manual for the Temple.

We also continue to examine various major life safety, mechanical systems, and capital items in and around our building and property to estimate their remaining useful life. This study is assisting in preparing an updated five-year capital plan to ensure that there are sufficient resources to meet the needs of the Temple.

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 Michael Schack at 847-509-1717 or Michael Garlin at the Temple if you would like to serve on the Building Management Committee or have any suggestions.

Committee:

Julie Ford, Karen Hoffman, Michael Garlin, Joel Rovner, Vicki Stoller and Michael Schack

CARING COMMUNITY

Rabbi Emily E. Segal

Mission Statement:

To reach out to 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. We serve as partners with God in caring for one another.

The Caring Community has continued its acts of reaching out to congregants in times of need, illness, and grief, as well as in times of great happiness. The areas in which this deeply committed group has been active include:

- Caring cards and calls to congregants who have experienced a sad or joyous occasion.
- Transportation to Temple worship services, activities, medical appointments, etc., as needed or requested.
- Providing meals to congregants as needed or requested, most often homemade meals.
- Linking one congregant going through an illness or life situation with another who has experienced something similar in order to provide support and a caring ear.
- Helping to make a *minyan* for *shiva*.
- Reminding fellow congregants of resources available through the Caring Community, the Temple, and community organizations through the Covenant and other Temple communications.

This year, the Caring Community also updated *Divrei Nechama: A Guide to the Customs and Rituals of Mourning*, a booklet of resources about the Jewish way of death, burial, and mourning, in addition to information on area organizations and resources. It is available electronically through the Temple website and in hard copy in the kiosks in the lobby.

Please join with us to help support our fellow congregants in times of sadness or need and to rejoice with them in times of joy. We are always looking for more volunteers! Please be in touch with Rabbi Segal or a member of the committee to be involved.

Committee:

Lori Goldstein, Vicki Stoller, David Ruskin, Joel Rovner, Art Sutton, Rabbi Emily Segal

Service Volunteers:

We have many, many volunteers who generously offer their time to provide needed services for our congregants. A heartfelt “thank you” goes to all of you who have willingly and without hesitation given a helping hand to our congregants in the true spirit of *g’milut chasadim*, acts of loving kindness.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Sandy Frum and Arthur Reingold, Co-Chairs

THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE was formed in the summer of 2010 to determine the optimal way to communicate with our membership and the greater community.

The Communications Committee has been involved in several initiatives over the past year:

- A Communications Survey was distributed to our membership through email and hard copy. Its purpose was to help Temple Jeremiah better understand how it could improve its communication to the membership. We received a 44% response rate. The Temple implemented a number of changes to their methods of communicating with the Congregants due to the results.
- The Covenant is now being mailed monthly. It is also available by email and online. In addition, the Covenant now includes advertisements, which pays for the cost of publishing and mailing the newsletter.
- The website has been redesigned to be more user-friendly and to accommodate online reservations and donations.
- Emails have been consolidated. Good and Welfare is being mailed once a week, except when information needs to be distributed immediately. The Shabbat Shalom message is mailed on Thursday or Friday. Notice of upcoming events will be mailed on Wednesdays.

For the upcoming year, the Communications Committee plans to continue to look at:

- Website policy (links, etc.)
- Flyer packets
- Other items as suggested by the congregation

Committee:

Deb Dreyfuss-Tuchman, Julie Ford, Michael Garlin, Loryn Kogan, Abby Lasky, Jacki Lutz, Arthur Reingold, Lee Saldinger, Carl Segal, Terri Stat, Nadine Tosk, Patty Turim and Sandy Frum.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

David Ruskin, Chair

Mission Statement:

- We are dedicated to developing resources needed to enhance our ability to fulfill the Temple mission, decrease the Temple's dependence on annual financial commitments, and to secure and strengthen Temple Jeremiah's financial foundation as we grow as a community and a congregational family.

-We are committed to promoting the fundamental and enduring principles of giving.

During the past year, the Development Committee has worked on the following projects:

- Our second year running, the “new” Circles of Giving program was a success, measured by increased participation in numbers of congregants and increased total dollars. The goal for this year was to maintain initial participation while finding ways to increase participation in coming years as well. The number of congregant families on reduced annual dues this year increased from the prior year again, significantly. The Circles of Giving program is essential for the health of our Temple now more than ever. The Committee continues to review historical methods and results and come up with new ways to keep participation growing annually.
- The Committee is excited about the new opportunity to use technology in processing donations by giving directly through the Temple's website. This recently became fully functional and the Committee has plans to generate new development ideas to allow our congregation to take advantage of this option.
- The Committee is energized with the recent addition of Lia Lehrer to the Temple staff. Lia, our Membership/Development Coordinator, will be dedicating a significant part of her time to assisting with the needs of this Committee. She will be a welcomed addition!
- The Committee continues to monitor the processing of donations through the Temple membership management database system and develop new strategies to become more efficient and accurate with our data management historically and going forward.
- The Committee reviewed the current giving opportunities and procedures throughout the Temple and developed new informational tools to further educate our congregants about the available giving opportunities. New publications are being created and will be disseminated strategically next year, as well as posted in the Covenant and on the website.
- The Committee is working to resolve various issues related to donation acknowledgements. New procedures have been implemented for recognition of all donations through “thank you” letters and has consideration is being given to further recognition ideas.
- The Committee maintains its endorsement for recognizing the importance of eliminating the “fear” in asking for money and accepting the need for donor recognition. New ideas have been raised and will be implemented next year.

Development Committee:

Rabbi Cohen, Julie Ford, David Ruskin, Mitchell Slotnick, Marilyn Appelson, Brad Ross, Randi Gurian, and Michael Garlin

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Brad Ross, Chair

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 RELIGIOUS AND HEBREW SCHOOLS at Temple Jeremiah continue to be among the most popular in the Chicago area. We continue to offer exciting, creative and varied ways to teach Jewish culture, rituals, and history to the youth of our synagogue. We were participants in a pilot program called Jewish Lens, and our 8th graders became “photographers” capturing Jewish images through their own lens. We continue to offer our Heart Spark Action program, pairing our senior congregants with our 8th graders for several guided sessions. There is so much to learn from one another. Our Hebrew School program succeeds in educating our students to be active participants in Temple Jeremiah's spiritual services, most often culminating in the leading of a Saturday morning service for a B'nai Mitzvah.

Much time and effort was spent working on the new long range plan. Several meetings were held to update the original plan and review the directions of emphasis the school will take in upcoming years. Clarification of roles and responsibilities of the Education Committee; better communication with our teachers; and expanding opportunities for parents of our Temple families to learn and study together with their children, were just a few of the areas discussed.

This year the Temple Board approved a motion to allow all proceeds from the Annual Basket Raffle to go directly into the Temple Jeremiah Education Fund. The raffle was organized and run by Gail Modro, Susan Ross and the Education Committee members. This year the raffle raised around \$1,500! The money will be used to fund a special project or new technology for the kids of our school. Thank you for all of the donations and our volunteer staffers.

Religious School is the basis for much activity at Temple Jeremiah on any given Sunday. Multiple programs occur simultaneously in various venues around the synagogue. There are small group, all-grade, all-school, and multigenerational programs happening at different times during the year. The teachers have all made a very conscious effort to help the children build a sense of community in their classrooms this year. Our hope is that through these efforts, new friendships arise and a comfort level for both students and parents is created.

The Education Committee is responsible for helping to coordinate our Sukkot Pizza in the Hut as well as the Annual Chanukah Dinner. Committee members are repeatedly called upon to reinforce different activities at our Sunday programs, for which we are extremely grateful.

Our Religious School children were also an integral part of our Temple's social action efforts with Keshet this year, particularly in supporting the powerful Keshet Art Fair that took place in April. The school hosted its own Tzedakah Fair, inviting representatives from a number of organizations to share their stories and passions with our children.

We had a successful Family Retreat this spring and look forward to plans for next year's event. We also were proud to affiliate with Shorashim and create a study program and Jewish New York experience for a number of our high school teens, coordinating this study and trip with several other congregations.

The College Connection program continues to run smoothly by Jani Harris. Having two college students in the program myself, I receive happy text messages ;-) or phone calls whenever my kids receive a note or package from the synagogue. The program continues to grow and the student response is positive and heart-warming. Building connections through the study of the Jewish religion, its history, culture, and language, is our concern as a Religious and Hebrew School. Opportunities for this learning abound at Temple Jeremiah. Many thanks go out to the members of the committee.

Committee:

Anne Lidsky, Becky Altman, Claire Bernstein, Greg Denenberg, Deb Dreyfus-Tuchman, Barb Kite, Marcia Osher, Brad Ross, Laurel Shapiro, Linda Shore and Amy Torf.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Amy Torf, 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. In addition, we promote our Temple, its excellent staff, and Center for Learning programming to the general public and host events geared toward membership retention and recruitment. Our main focus and mission is to create strong, long-lasting connections between our members. Temple Jeremiah's current membership is approximately 860 households. It is the goal of the Membership Committee to increase the size of the congregation to approximately 900 households. This is a number the Board of Directors feels will generate sufficient revenue to sustain us and provide all the wonderful programming, facilities and leadership that Temple Jeremiah has become known for and will reduce our reliance on dues. Our membership is diverse and we draw from more than ten communities and six high schools. Each of the activities below plays an important role in the connection, revitalization, and existence of the Temple. Many successful membership events occurred last year and will continue in the coming year.

- **The Almond Tree Café** (Monica Butler)

Sunday mornings at Temple have a warm feeling to them. The cafe is a gathering place where members can enjoy the quiet, relax, read the newspaper, or engage in lively conversation. We hope you will come and support its wonderful *tzedakah* causes and make wonderful connections at the same time. The purpose of the Bagel Bar is to offer nourishment, bagels and healthy snacks to satisfy the morning hunger of Religious School students and parents, but more importantly to nourish the social connections of those who have grown to enjoy the camaraderie of fellow Temple members. The Bagel Bar has become a weekly routine for many ... a place to relax and get away from all the everyday craziness of carpool, soccer games, dance recitals, etc. Thank you to all the volunteers. They are instrumental in the success of the Bagel Bar. We depend on them to set up, serve, socialize, and clean up every Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

- **Empty Nesters Programs** (Anita Straus)

Empty Nesters offers programming for seniors who are looking to get together for social outings, spiritual learning, cultural enrichment, and making stronger Temple connections. Programs provided by the Empty Nesters Group typically take place at Temple but a few are held out in the community. This past year they hosted a theater and dinner outing, a few Pulse of Our World sessions and an Empty Nester Shabbat.

- **Neighborhood Coffees**

Always a great way for Temple families to interact in an informal setting, the coffees also are an excellent opportunity for prospective families to meet senior staff and other Temple members. All of our members are part of membership development and our best members are your neighbors and family. Consider hosting a coffee for your unaffiliated family and friends and we will have the clergy and senior staff come to you. Temple Jeremiah typically holds 2 – 3 prospective member coffees a year as well as other prospective member events at Temple.

(continued)

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

- **Membership Celebration Dinner** (Gail Belian, Lori Ruskin, and Lindsay Sweet)
This past year our Membership Celebration Dinner was a progressive dinner at which guests switched to a new table for each course. Both new and long-time members enjoyed the chance to meet and reconnect with other Temple Jeremiah members. The dinner was an adults-only event to allow those with children the chance to relax and enjoy a social night out. Babysitting was provided free of charge at the Temple.
- **Welcome Visits** (Julie Ford)
This very successful program is in its seventh year. Each new member is offered a welcome visit in their home. The new member is provided with a welcome gift and information binder. These visits proved to be a great way to get to know and connect with our new members early in their membership and introduce them to Temple life in an intimate and personal way.
- **Member Liaisons**
This year we started a new initiative to provide every Temple Jeremiah member with a liaison. The liaisons, a group made up of board members and other lay leaders, will reach out to Temple members through phone, email, and in person. Our goal is to grow this program over the next few years so that every Temple Jeremiah household has a liaison and has contact with their liaison several times a year, for holiday wishes, casual coffee, or assistance if needed.

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS:

Our best Temple members are your own families and friends, the people with whom you would like to share special moments, celebrations, life cycle events and spiritual connections. If you know of any families interested in joining Temple Jeremiah, please call the office and give us their names. We will call and invite them to the next prospective member event.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Anne and Greg Richards, Co-Chairs

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.

PROGRAMS ORGANIZED BY OUTREACH THIS YEAR:

How Interfaith Families Celebrate Holidays: An Open Discussion

In November, Outreach held an insightful session on what some families call “The December Dilemma,” exploring ways that families honor different holidays in a respectful and meaningful way. Members were invited to share their own questions and perspectives, as well, in an inviting and comfortable setting.

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.

Rabbi Capers Funnye, head rabbi of the 200-member Beth Shalom B’nai Zaken Ethiopian Hebrew Congregation of Chicago, was guest speaker. Funnye is the first African-American member of the Chicago Board of Rabbis and also a first cousin of Michelle Obama.

Shabbat Across America / “Bring a Friend to Shabbat”

In observance of this year’s national “Shabbat Across America,” Temple Jeremiah invited congregants to celebrate Shabbat by bringing a friend from within or outside Temple. In early March, Jeremiah provided a warm, friendly welcome to members and guests, allowing them to reconnect with this most important ritual of Jewish life. Following a congregational dinner, attendees heard from our guest speaker, Rabbi Lynne Landesburg (Temple Jeremiah’s “Scholar in Residence”), and shared in a cordial Oneg Shabbat.

Outreach Column

Outreach continued publication in the Covenant of its occasional column about experiences along the path of Jewish identification and celebration. In addition, Outreach occasionally shared the column space with voices outside the Jeremiah community on relevant topics.

SHERUT L'AM

Monica Lotsoff and Helen Newmark, Co-Chairs

This past year, we have aimed to increase the congregation's awareness of the Sherut L'Am program in order to increase the Temple's volunteer base. The vast changes to the Temple's website were a pivotal part of our goal to publicize, in a user-friendly way, the various ways congregants may become involved in our volunteer program. In addition, we will continue to publicize volunteer opportunities in the monthly Covenant, and this upcoming year, we will be featuring volunteer experiences in the Covenant to provide readers with better insight into how rewarding volunteering can be.

Other ways we will continue to increase awareness for the Sherut L'Am program include highlighting Sherut L'Am at High Holy Day services, maintaining an information table at Committee Fairs in September and October, and sending out email blasts about upcoming volunteer opportunities.

We also are striving to improve communication between Sherut L'Am, on the one hand, and various Committee Chairpersons and other Temple leaders, on the other, so that the volunteer needs of the Temple will be met. This upcoming year, one of our goals is to ensure that Committee Chairpersons communicate, on a regular basis, volunteer requests to Sherut L'Am Chairpersons and/or to the Temple's website coordinator so that the website and the Covenant will reflect new volunteer opportunities. In addition, Sherut L'Am Chairpersons will attend one board meeting per year to discuss with Temple leadership specific needs for volunteers that Committees may have so that we can fully take advantage of the Sherut L'Am volunteer base.

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

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

2010/2011 took Social Action at Temple Jeremiah in a new direction. The Social Action Committee developed an exciting new program to educate our community about the challenges facing individuals with disabilities, an under-served and under-appreciated part of our community. The goal of the project was to cultivate connections between and among Temple families with and without individuals with disabilities and to gain exposure to this important group. This year-long program was designed to improve the Jewish experience of individuals with disabilities while teaching our own members about the lives and needs of this important group. These objectives were met through a partnership with Keshet, Jewish Child and Family Services, and Temple Jeremiah working with all of our Temple groups and will extend for many years. An Advisory group was established of family members from our Temple community with individuals with disabilities within their family. The following programs were completed this year:

Lunch Buddies: One Monday a month TJ Empty Nesters have lunch out at a restaurant with Gadol Program participants.

Youth Group Advocacy Weekend: Rabbi Segal and JeTY members did a great social action advocacy program that was completely student driven and student-run to write letters to senators and representatives on issues important to the disability community; it was a very successful program and generated a lot of enthusiasm.

Put a Keshet Adult to work: Two adults from the Gadol Program work at the Temple cleaning classrooms one day a week.

Shredding Event: More than 1,000 lbs of paper were collected and shredded by 4 Keshet students. The event raised \$281 to support the Keshet Gadol Program.

Sisterhood Game Night: More than 80 people participated and raised \$2,000 to purchase equipment for the sensory room at the Gadol Program.

JCFS Collection Campaign: We delivered 11 bags of toys, winter coats, and school supplies.

Art Show: 8 artists displayed work in the first annual Temple Jeremiah/Gadol Art show. 6 artists attended the show. 55 pieces of work were displayed using watercolors, collage, and acrylic on canvas. We sold all of the paintings to our Temple community and the Sunday school to hang in their classrooms. All proceeds went to the individual artists. "This is a dream come true" and "This was the best day of my life" were just a few comments from our artists. This was an educational and heart-warming event for all groups.

Holiday Party/Choir Concert: The Sunday school participated in a holiday party for Keshet students and Shir Joy entertained Keshet students.

Art Material Donation: Sisterhood donated over \$800 worth of art supplies to Keshet/Gadol program. These supplies were used by the participants to produce the work that was sold at the art show.

Advisory Council- Adult Education: The advisory committee planned and present two continuing education programs. One was a Pulse of the World program where Rabbi Cohen and Board Member and attorney Lori Goldstein discussed many interesting legal issues relating to individuals with disabilities. The second was a panel discussion addressing the challenges faced by the community of individuals with disabilities in which the panels themselves consisted of extended family members: two congregants with disabilities, two siblings, two parents and two grandparents. This program was a moving and powerful event that illuminated the challenges facing each generation in a real and emotional way.

The Social Action committee continued the following programs:

Feed the Homeless continued with approximately 40 families participating throughout the year. We also completed the second annual Feed the Homeless Extravaganza, making over 1,100 lunches this year, beating our first year record of 820 lunches. Rabbi Segal and Rabbi Cohen competed against Anne Lidsky to see who could make the most lunches in a given time period. Our Temple leadership all put in a spirited effort once again!

Thanksgiving Program: We participated in the six-congregation Thanksgiving meal preparation event at the Greater Bethlehem Healing Temple at 12 South Oakley in Chicago, the site of our regular Feed the Homeless Event. The event was a great success and the six congregations prepared and served 600 Thanksgiving dinners to the community.

One on One Reading Program with the Waukegan School District. The program consists of 20 Empty Nesters who assist K-5 teachers by reading in small circles of students. Another successful year of this program led by congregant Roberta Mallon.

COMMITTEE ON SPIRITUAL LIFE

Joel Kaufmann, Chair

We reviewed the High Holidays and concluded that the overall sense of the High Holy Day services left a very favorable impression. The number and variety of the alternative experiences available to all age groups, including teens and youth, was very successful. A few notes and recommendations were made that will be considered for next year.

Shabbat Morning Services remain, for the most part, primarily a focus on the B'nei Mitzvah families. The Torah Study group is considering the introduction of a Shabbat service in conjunction with their Torah Study on all Saturdays that they meet. This would run parallel to the B'nei Mitzvah service when one is scheduled. The conversation continues and will be monitored.

B'nei Mitzvah ushering responsibilities have been greatly simplified for everyone – except Joel Rovner. He has agreed to coordinate the participation by the sixth grade Hebrew School families as ushers for two B'nei Mitzvah services during the year. This policy was in place many years ago and is expected to be successful, if for no other reason than Joel's oversight.

We discussed the Long Range Planning's Worship subcommittee's initial report. Randi Gurian has chaired the subcommittee and presented the ideas and recommendations to us for further future discussion.

The next steps for us are to study and discuss the Strategic Objectives, Key Strategies, and Plan for implementation as they pertain to Worship at Temple Jeremiah. We hope to get all of our committee's input collected, formatted and incorporated into the Long Range Plan.

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

YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Abby Lasky, Youth Committee Chair

Youth Programming at Temple Jeremiah got a fresh start this fall when Rabbi Segal stepped in as our new Assistant Rabbi. Rabbi Segal did not waste any time assessing our immediate needs and proceeded to form three age groupings for Youth Programs at Jeremiah and a schedule for each one. She designated Club 345 for third, fourth, and fifth graders, Junior JeTY (Jeremiah Temple Youth) for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders, and finally JeTY, for high schoolers.

Her primary goal was to create vibrant and sustainable youth groups. The first step was ensuring the high energy and visibility of the youth groups by planning and publicizing a wide array of programs (including social, educational, spiritual/religious, and social action programs). Another key element of Rabbi Segal's vision was to establish a board for JeTY, our high school youth group, knowing that with a core group of committed teens, the success of the high school Youth Group would follow, and this energy and success would flow down to our younger youth group age levels. A board of ten fantastic teens was established. This new JeTY board was empowered with creating their own board meeting schedules and programming. Together, they reached out to their peer group through social media and face-to-face interactions at Temple to generate an active membership. Their year was extremely successful with many great events - a minimum of one per month - including the planning and execution of our annual Purim Carnival, and significantly increased attendance at NFTY-CAR (our region of the national reform youth group) kallah.

Club 345 and Jr JeTY also had many exciting and well attended programs this year, including S'mores in the Sukkah, Top Chef, a pool party, and a Chocolate Seder. Attendance grew steadily at these programs with 8 to 25 attendees per event. The most challenging age group in terms of generating attendance has been Jr JeTY, but we have certainly seen the growth of a nice, steady participant base of 6th-8th graders as well. Rabbi Segal intends to create a board for this group next year with the hope that peer leadership will help generate excitement about programs among their fellow classmates and that their involvement will encourage others to follow.

Partially subsidized by the InterAct Fund, 24 of our teens participated in this year's fantastic JeTY "Alternative Spring Break" trip to New Orleans, marking another great success story in this year's Youth Programming. The students who attended this trip were asked to help clear debris from damaged yards and help build and fix homes that still remained devastated nearly 6 years after Hurricane Katrina. It was an eye-opener for many of these teens and they were deeply committed to their work and even encouraged each other to work as hard as possible on their tasks. This great group of teens bonded with each other and their connection to youth group and Jeremiah was deepened. We are very hopeful that with the help of the InterAct Fund, another spring break trip of the same sort can be planned for next year.

As the year draws to a close, Rabbi Segal has requested that next year's annual budget contain a salary for a part-time Youth Group Advisor. This person would be hired to help Rabbi Segal continue to grow the program, as doing so without this additional help would be unsustainable. Rabbi Segal is excited to remain intensely involved in Youth Programming and continue to ensure its success, partnering with this new Youth Group Advisor to strengthen and grow our youth groups, bringing them to a level they have never previously reached.

The Youth Committee supports Rabbi Segal in this effort, and will be part of the hiring process of the new advisor. The Youth Committee has been responsible for running the Taste of Tikkun program every Sunday between Sunday School Sessions, and has assisted Rabbi Segal with several of the Youth Programs as chaperones and drivers as well as procuring and preparing supplies. We look forward with great anticipation to more exciting growth in our Youth Programming in the years to come! We know that while the growth we have seen this year in our youth groups has been exciting, that making our congregation as youth-friendly as possible and creating sustainability within our youth groups will take many years. We have faith that if we remain committed to these efforts as a committee and as a congregation, this is an attainable goal that will deepen and strengthen the connection of our youth to each other, to the Temple, to the Reform movement, and to *Klal Yisrael*-the people of Israel.

We would like to thank the members of our Youth Committee for their energy and time; you have each been essential to the success of this year for youth programs. We would also like to thank the ten wonderful teens who made up the 5771 JeTY Board—*Kol HaKavod* to: Danielle Markowitz, Doran Zimmerman, Jesse Gamoran, Drew Davis, Julie Sarne, Rebekah Revello, Ellery Marks, Jessica Nebolsky, Sonia Ehrlich, and Logan Walovitch.

APPENDIX:

2010/11 WORSHIP & PROGRAMS

ADULT EDUCATION:

- Adult Hebrew Classes
- Adult Retreat
- Book Discussions
- Film & Discussion: Prisoner of Her Past
- Golder Interfaith Lecture with Ambassador Martin Indyk
- “Judaism On One Foot”
- JUF Brunch with Ariel Sabar author of My Father’s Paradise
- Lunch and Learn
- Panel Discussions: “Immigration Reform: Do Jews Have a Stake?” & “Connecting with Congregants Touched by Disabilities”
- “Pulse of Our World: Our Rabbi Reads the Headlines”
- Rabbi’s Reading Table
- Scholar-in-Residence Weekend with Rabbi Lynn Landsberg

ADULT EDUCATION/DAWN SCHUMAN INSTITUTE

- “Law and Order BRU” with Gary Shapiro
- “The Spiritual Path Less Traveled” with David Strulowitz
- Florence Melton Adult Mini-School
- “President Obama’s Reshaping of the Supreme Court” presented by Julie Strauss
- “The Gift that Keeps on Giving: Jewish Memory, Creativity, and Identity” presented by David Chack

BROTHERHOOD:

- Adults-Only Purim Party
- Barbecue for End-of-School Event
- Ernie Bloch Tzedakah Box
- Family Bingo Night
- Family Bowling Night
- Gifts for B’nai Mitzvah and Confirmands
- “Jews and Baseball” Movie
- Kibbitz & Bites Get-Togethers
- Opening Breakfast
- Saturday/High Holy Day Ushering
- Shabbat Dinner & Service
- Social Action Projects: River Trail Nature Center, McCormick Boys & Girls Club, JUF Uptown Cafe

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Brochures - Adult Education, Annual Report, Membership Special Event, Golder Lecture, Scholar-in-Residence, Weekend, Purim, Shushan Shuffle, Walk with Israel, & Women’s Seder
- Covenants
- E-newsletters
- Facebook & LinkedIn
- Posters
- Membership Directory
- Memorial Book
- Preferred Provider Handbook
- Press Releases & Ads
- New website

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION/ PROGRAMMING:

- Family Havdallah
- Parent-Tot Program
- PJ Library Resources
- Shabbat Yeladim
- Tot Shabbat

HEBREW & RELIGIOUS SCHOOL/ CONFIRMATION/ POST-CONFIRMATION:

- Aleph Celebration
- Chanukah Celebration
- Chavayah
- Confirmation
- Confirmation Retreat
- Consecration Ceremony
- End-of-School-Year Celebration & Barbecue
- “Ethical Wills” Program
- Family Retreat
- Field Trip to Adventure Stage
- Grade-Level Shabbat Dinners
- 4th Grade Creative Prayer Service
- Hebrew School Graduation
- Invisible Children
- Israel Extravaganza
- “Kids on the Block”
- Madrichim (Student Aides)
- Open Houses
- Opening Day School Assembly
- Post-Confirmation Program
- SKIP (Send-A-Kid-To-Israel Partnership)
- Spark HeartAction for 8th Graders and Senior Citizens

SHIR JOY:

- Annual Retreat at OSRUI
- Performance at Keshet and with Joshua Nelson as part of the Northshore Choral Festival at Am Shalom
- Shabbat Dinner
- Sleepover
- Performances at Nursing Homes

MEMBERSHIP:

- Almond Tree Cafe
- Empty Nesters Programs: “Madagascar” Play, “Pulse of Our World” Snacks, Shabbat Dinner & Service
- Chavurah Groups
- Ice Cream Social and Barbecue
- Meet & Greet
- Membership Brochure
- Membership Celebration Dinner
- Member Liaisons
- Neighborhood Coffees
- New Member Welcome Visits
- Sherut L’Am Volunteer Program

OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

- “December Dilemma” Discussion
- “Intro to Judaism”
- Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
- Shabbat Across America/Bring-A-Friend Shabbat
- “Taste of Tikkun”

RETREAT/TRIPS:

- Adult Retreat with Rabbi Cohen - “The New Zionism or... How a Good Reform Jew Can Be A Lover of Israel
- Family Trip to Israel

SISTERHOOD:

- Annual Basket Raffle
- “Break the Fast” after Yom Kippur
- Challah & Honey Sale
- Chanukah Boutique
- Chanukah Wish Tag Program
- Closing & Installation Dinner
- Facebook Page
- Gift Shop
- Gifts for B’nai Mitzvah and Confirmands
- Golf Outing

(continued)

APPENDIX:

2010/11 WORSHIP & PROGRAMS

- High Holy Day Food Drive
- Hosting Lunch for the CJE
- Opening Event: “A Healthy Harvest Cooking Demonstration”
- Purim Carnvial Lunch Counter
- Shabbat Dinner & Service
- Sisterhood Nights Out: “Silk Scarf Making” & “Mahj and More”
- Torah Study
- Women’s Seder

SOCIAL ACTION & ADVOCACY:

- AA, Al-Anon & AlaTeen Meetings at Temple Jeremiah
- Blood & Bone Marrow Drive
- B’nai Mitzvah Tikkun Olam Projects
- Caring Community
- Cell Phone Collection for SHALVA
- Family Promise
- Feed the Homeless
- Feed the Homeless Challenge
- Job Search/Job Skills Coaching
- MAZON Donations
- Support of Our Sister City, Yerevan, Armenia
- Tzedakah Boxes in the Lobby
- Tzedakah Fair
- Visit by Greater Bethlehem Church
- Keshet
- Advisory Group
- Lunch Buddies Program

TEMPLE EVENTS:

- Adult Purim Celebration: “Motown, Megillah, and Meshugganahs”
- “The Decade of the 1930s”
- Israeli Scout Friendship Caravan
- Shushan Shuffle 5K Run/Walk
- Walk with Israel

5771 WORSHIP PROGRAMS:

- Selichot Dinner, Havdalah, Worship, and Program: Viewing of God on Trial
- Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur Worship
- JeTY (high school youth group) Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur Worship
- Youth (3rd-8th grade) Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur Worship
- Alternative Rosh Hashanah programs: *Tashlich* service, “Unetane Tokef: Who Shall Live and Who Shall Die” study program
- Alternative Yom Kippur Programs: Guided Meditation, “Sin &

- Forgiveness” study program
- Erev Shabbat Worship
- Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
- H(OUR) Shabbat Worship
- Tot Shabbat Worship
- Shabbat Yeladim Worship
- Friday Night Live!
- Torah Study
- Shabbat Morning Worship B’nei Mitzvah
- Sukkot evening worship and “Pizza in the Hut,” Sukkot morning worship and “Starbucks in the Sukkah”
- Simchat Torah Worship with Maxwell Street Band, Simchat Torah Worship and Yizkor
- Passover Worship and Yizkor
- Shabbat/Chanukah Dinner & Worship
- Purim Schpiel & Megillah Reading: “Esther and the Beast”
- Yom HaShoah Commemoration at Illinois Holocaust Museum
- Erev Shavuot Dinner & Tikkun, Shavuot Worship and Yizkor
- Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship
- Shabbat Across America/Bring-A-Friend Shabbat
- Erev Shabbat Worship honoring Rabbi Cohen’s 10th Anniversary at Temple & 20th Anniversary of his ordination

YOUTH GROUP/YOUTH DEPARTMENT EVENTS:

Ongoing/Regularly Scheduled:

- Madrichim Gatherings
- Nosh & Mingle
- Taste of Tikkun
- JeTY Board Meetings

Club 345 (3rd-5th Grade)

- Rosh Hashanah Youth Service
- Yom Kippur Youth Service
- Picnic in the Sukkah
- Bowling
- Dreidel tournament
- Indoor Pool Party
- Havdalah in Pajamas & Shul-In
- Purim Carnival (attending)
- Chocolate Seder & Seder Plate/Kiddush Cup-Making
- Shabbat Lunch Picnic with Outdoor Games & Tie-Dye

Jr JeTY (6th-8th grade)

- Kick-off Hangout & Pizza Dinner
- Rosh Hashanah Youth Service
- Yom Kippur Youth Service
- S’more Sukkot
- Top Chef Jr JeTY
- Dreidel Tournament
- Volunteer at Soup Kitchen on Xmas
- Chinese food & Movies on Xmas
- Hot Chocolate, Movies, & Shul-in
- Bowling and Pizza Lunch
- JYG Kallah at OSRUI (NFTY)
- Purim Carnival (attending, helping to run)
- Chocolate Seder & Seder Plate/Kiddush Cup-Making
- Regressive Picnic Shabbat Dinner

JeTY (High School)

- Kick-off Hangout with Pizza Dinner
- JeTY Rosh Hashanah Service
- JeTY Yom Kippur Service
- S’mores & Social Action in the Sukkah
- NFTY-CAR Kickoff
- Top Chef JeTY
- JeTY Oneg & Shul-In including Disability Advocacy
- NFTY-CAR Winter Kallah
- Volunteer at Soup Kitchen on Xmas
- Chinese food & Movies on Xmas
- Study Break at Starbucks during winter exams
- Challah! Hangout & Havdalah
- L’taken Social Justice Seminar in Washington, DC
- Dinner & Comedy Sportz in the City
- Purim Carnival (planning, setting up, running)
- InterAct Alternative Spring Break: New Orleans
- NFTY-CAR Kol Bo
- Post-Pesach Carb-fest & Bagel Olympics Dinner
- Shul-In with Beit Café, Karaoke, & Elections

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Frank Pasek Krystyn Wroblewski
Peter Lundholm

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Here are some glimpses into our congregational life ...



Our staff entertaining guests at our Adults-Only Purim Party



Some of our 4th graders at our creative prayer service



Ambassador Martin Indyk led our Stanley Golder Interfaith Lecture Series



2011 Adult Retreat: "The New Zionism or...How a Good Reform Jew Can Be A Lover Of Israel"



The Temple welcomed Rabbi Emily E. Segal



Alternative Spring Break in New Orleans

(continued)

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Jr JeTY members showed off their cooking skills at the Top Chef Extravaganza!



The Hebrew School students mastered the Four Questions and as promised they were able to throw a pie at Dr. Anne Lidsky



Our JeTYites gathering in the Sukkah



The Keshet Art Fair was a huge success thanks to the Keshet students and the Social Action Committee



Rabbi Cohen, Ambassador Martin Indyk, and David Golder at the 2011 Stanley C. Golder Interfaith Lecture



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