

Temple Emanu-El

Annual Report 2019-2020



Temple ✧ Emanu-El
A Home, A Family, A Warmth to Tradition

Devorah Marcus, Senior Rabbi ✧ Benj Fried, Associate Rabbi
Janet Arkin, Preschool Director ✧ Martin S. Lawson, Rabbi Emeritus
✧ Morton J. Cohn ל"ו, Founding Rabbi
Eric Rosenzweig & Jeff Schindler, Co-Presidents
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Jeff Schindler, Co-President
Eric Rosenzweig, Co-President
Marilyn Pongeggi, First Vice-President
(President Elect)/Financial Secretary
Lane Cogan, Treasurer
Cathi Marx, Recording Secretary
Madeline Gershwin, Immediate Past President
Aaron Cohn, Executive Past President

DIRECTORS

Adam Breslow, Trish Freund, Marc Glazer,
Lynn Grady, Marc Hamovitch,
Barry Handler, Stacey Kasendorf, Jessica Kort,
Stefani Lenett, Stuart Morse, Ira Moskowitz,
Robert Patterson, Marie Raftery, Cathy Sigismonti,
Howard Somers, Janice Steinberg, Mark Tukeman,
Leah Feinberg, *Youth Representative*

TEMPLE STAFF

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Devorah Marcus, Senior Rabbi
Benj Fried, Associate Rabbi
Janet Arkin, Preschool Director
Martin Lawson, Rabbi Emeritus

SUPPORT STAFF

Donna Lander, Executive Assistant
Star Laddon, Torah School Administrator
Natalie Fritz, Bookkeeper
Sharon Snyder, Receptionist
Victor Palos, Maintenance Director



PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Shalom Chaverim,

As we approach the close of our second year as co-Presidents of Temple Emanu-El we find ourselves in some of the most challenging times we have had as a community and as a congregation. As we expressed a year ago at the 2019 Annual Congregational Meeting, as the economy was running hot and firing on all eight cylinders, "we need to be cognizant of the reality that nothing lasts forever". We certainly did not expect our economy to be vastly different today than it was only a year ago, but it undoubtedly is. Lean times have officially arrived, and without any real advance notice.

The purpose of this letter is to express gratitude for our sacred community here at Temple Emanu-El, and all we have accomplished together over the past year, but equally as important, to encourage each of you to attend our upcoming Annual Congregational Meeting that will be held on June 6th at 7:00 PM. The evening will begin with a Havdalah service followed by the Annual Congregational Meeting, all being held digitally via Zoom. While Rabbi Devorah has been sending out regular communications throughout the Covid-19 crisis, this important congregational event will present an opportunity for you to hear what have and are doing in response to the crisis, and what we intend to do going forward as we look to toward re-opening the Temple and welcoming you all back. Throughout the Covid-19 crisis we have been blessed by the many members of our Temple Emanu-El community that have stepped up and assisted in a variety of ways. We are grateful that Ron Marx, Marc Glazer, and Layne Cogan worked so diligently on the CARES Act SBA Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) loan and the "elusive" fiscal 2020/2021 Budget. We thank Claire Fritz for running the newly created Temple Emanu-El food pantry, and Dr. Adam Breslow, Cathi Marx and others for helping to formulate very-detailed plans and guidelines for re-opening the Temple. This has truly been a community effort and we could not be prouder of how willing our members have been to give so much their time and energy to help work toward getting us to the other side of this unfortunate situation.

We would also like to recognize our Board of Directors who, through these last three trying months, have been faced with making a multitude of difficult and quick decisions, some of which we will vote on at the upcoming Annual Congregational Meeting. We could not be prouder of how the Board has worked as a synchronous and cohesive team to ensure the future stability of Temple Emanu-El. In just a few short weeks, Lynn Grady, Barry Handler, Jessica Kort, Marilyn Pongeggi and Mark Tukeman will be leaving the Board. Lynn, Barry, Jessica, Marilyn and Mark, please accept a most sincere Todah Rabah" for your years of dedicated service to our beloved Temple family. Your participation, contributions and presence will be missed. Thanks to the work of the Nominating Committee led by Debbie Macdonald, we are excited to present the nominations of Amy Blum, Gail Braverman and Steve Mashal as our incoming Board members. We will be voting on the 2020/2021 Board slate at the Annual Congregational Meeting. We look forward to working closely with the three new Board members in the coming months and years!

Last, but certainly not least, we need to express a gigantic THANK YOU to the entire staff. Even before the Covid-19 crisis hit, our dedicated staff had taken on many of the Executive Director duties. Add the crisis to that and you can only imagine why we are so grateful for our staff's ongoing selfless efforts. With the Covid-19 crisis, although the Preschool and JFS Senior Center were closed, and the Torah School and so many other activities quickly went virtual, our staff continued to work diligently to keep the operations of the Temple running smoothly, ensuring that effective and regular communications continued flowing. Janet, Star, Donna, Natalie, Sharon and Victor never missed a beat, and we truly appreciate their heroic and tireless efforts.

While the Covid-19 crisis over the last few months has dominated many of our thoughts and actions, we would like to stop and briefly reflect on the past year. We have seen overall attendance rise at Friday evening Shabbat services, and our weekly Saturday morning Torah study group continues to grow. Due to the amazing leadership and foresight of Rabbi Benj, the opportunities for a Jewish education at all levels continue to thrive here at Temple Emanu-El. Thanks to Janet Arkin, our coveted Preschool continues to provide wonderful development opportunities for our little ones. Our High Holy Days and other festival services continue to offer excellent opportunities for personal and spiritual growth and connection. Just last month, we had a completely new annual "Gala" experience. We want to express our most sincere thanks to

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE (continued)

all of you that participated in our Havdalah "Saturday Night Love" fundraiser. We thank Sally Tukeman and the entire Gala committee for their insight and quick action in pivoting from an in-person celebration to a virtual gathering and fundraiser. It was a big success and the funds we raised could not have come at a more important time. We are proud to announce that a portion of the funds raised this year will be used to launch a new Torah School and Campership Endowment Fund to support these vital efforts over the years to come.

Finally, we want to thank you all for putting your trust in us during this past year. We cannot close this letter without recognizing how blessed we all are to have Rabbi Devorah at the helm of Temple Emanu-El. Her compassion, wisdom and grace ensure that we always remember the lessons of the past, seize the opportunities of the present, and continually plan for the future.

Jeff Schindler, Co-President

Eric Rosenzweig, Co-President

SENIOR RABBI, DEVORAH MARCUS



What a long, strange trip its been...

5780 has certainly made sure that we will not forget her. From the joy of our previous High Holy Day season, to the unprecedented third Israeli election, from the Coronavirus pandemic, to the deep and painful processing of the murders of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and George Floyd. It has been a time of deep reflection, learning, and growth for us all. God willing, we will continue this ongoing deep and holy work in the months and years to come.

Reflecting on this year I want to most especially use this time and space today to express my deep and abiding gratitude for our incredible team. In times of stress and difficulty, our synagogue community has come together to meet the challenges we have faced with grace, dignity, creativity, kindness, support, and love. The partnership between our lay leaders, our amazing staff, and our professional team cannot be understated. Together, we have been in sacred partnership, working together to keep our community safe, vibrant and strong. We are nothing without the teams we build and our team has been amazing.

I am thankful to each of you for continuing your involvement, your membership, your partnership, and your dedication. Even in the face of profound difficulties and change, we have demonstrated again the mettle of who we are – a community of love, compassion, inclusion, strength, integrity, and creativity. Our blessings are too numerous to count but we will continue to count them together each and every day here with our synagogue family and our community partners.

It is an honor and privilege to get to be your rabbi, your partner, and your friend.

With Deep Love and Gratitude,

Rabbi Devorah Marcus

Senior Rabbi

RABBI EDUCATOR, BENJ FRIED



On behalf of myself and Star, I would like to thank the Emanu-El community for supporting the Torah School and helping us ensure that we continue to make an impact on the lives of our students.

This year has been a year of transition and adaptation in the Torah School. We enrolled 113 students this year and had many of our high school students stay involved with Torah School as Madrichim. In fact, between our Madrichim program and Community Jewish High, we had 100% retention of our 8th grade class who stayed involved.

Our biggest change in the Torah School this year was in our curriculum. We changed our program to a project-based learning curriculum for our 3rd-7th graders who had the opportunity to learn about Creation and Genesis Torah stories through art, drama, science, music, and other exciting “Majors.” The results of our project-learning were incredibly exciting – a fantastic video made by our Media Arts Major, science projects and dioramas made by the Science Major, and a stunning mural in our Torah School painted by the Art Major.

Our staff at the Torah School has continued to exemplify the best of Jewish learning and convey their passion and care to our kids. We brought on two new staff members, both of whom have done exemplary work.

Our youth groups continue to thrive and provide meaningful programming for kids of all ages in our synagogue. Our youth group directors have put on monthly programs which have included scavenger hunts, holiday parties, bowling, movie nights, and even an escape room. Our high school youth group SanETY has continued to do excellent programming, focusing both on social and social action events. We continued our partnership with JFS to serve a hot meal for the Safe Parking Lot program through our Midnight Run. It was a hugely successful event, and it will be repeated more than once next year.

The Torah School has had another successful year in fundraising. Our Cabaret Night exceeded our fundraising goal and was a fabulous evening of entertainment from our very talented students and temple members. Our Purim Carnival and Hamantaschen bake sale were continued areas of strength, and when camps reopen next year, the proceeds will support our students in going to Jewish summer camp.

The recent pandemic has been a tremendous challenge for us to keep Jewish life and Jewish education at the synagogue running. When in-person programming had to end, we quickly moved our Torah School classes online to Zoom. Our teachers rose to the challenges posed by technology and distance, and we successfully completed the year in Torah School. Our youth group directors have led Zoom board game events, and our b’nai mitzvah have continued through Livestreaming. There have been a lot of obstacles to overcome, technical difficulties to navigate through, and distance learning is far from perfect. But we continue to persevere and learn through our challenges, because Jewish learning at Temple Emanu-El will continue, even in the toughest of circumstances.

Thank you all for your continued participation and support for education at our synagogue!

Rabbi Benj Fried

Associate Rabbi

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR, JANET ARKIN

Dear Temple Emanu-El Congregants,

The Price Family Preschool staff and I are committed to providing a nurturing and developmentally appropriate environment, which allows children to develop to their maximum potential. Our program focuses on encouraging children's social, emotional, cognitive and physical growth and development, along with developing a love and understanding of what it means to be Jewish and the importance of being a kind and respectful member of our community.

The preschool teachers are dedicated to developing creative and stimulating curriculum that integrates Jewish celebrations, values and traditions. Shabbat is celebrated each week; it is explored through role-play, group activity, stories and music. Becky Combest, our music specialist, meets with each class individually during the week and shares a special Shabbat sing-along every Friday with the entire preschool. Our wonderful Rabbis Devorah Marcus and Benj Fried visit the preschool for special story time every month.



An important goal is to ensure a meaningful partnership with the larger Temple Emanu-El community. We are very active in fostering an accepting, welcoming, and inclusive preschool community so that every family, staff member, and volunteer feels valued and appreciated. Parents are an integral part of our programming.

We participate in activities with Jewish Family Service such as singing in the Sukkah, lighting the Menorah, and parading in Purim costumes. As a community, we collaborate and support one another, while friendships develop and flourish.

As you all know, the 2019-20 school year was cut short by the COVID 19 pandemic. San Diego Public health guidelines required that we close the school on March 13, 2020. Since that time, our staff was in communication with our preschool families to provide support through zoom meetings, story time videos, and resources.

We will be re-opening for 10 weeks of Summer Camp. The hours will be from 9 am to 2 pm. Each session explores a different theme through science, art, dramatic play, gross and fine motor activities.

We are adapting to the constantly changing public health guidelines to maintain the health and safety of our preschool families and staff as we prepare for an exciting new school year.

We are grateful for all the support and look forward to continuing our collaboration with our parents, congregation, Temple staff, and board members.

Janet Arkin

Preschool Director

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Cathi Marx

MEMBERS: BJ Brose, David Cherrick, Patrick Farber, Claire Fritz, Greg Houska, Matt Smith, Nate Stein, Steve Youel

Purpose: To provide guidance and recommendations to Temple Staff and the Executive Board on safety and security related policies and procedures to assist in safeguarding Temple Staff, Students and Congregants.

Goals / Accomplishments: The safety and security committee members provide a link to the larger community comprised of local law enforcement agencies, the Anti-Defamation League and other Jewish congregations and organizations. Together we share information, best practices in faith based safety and security policies and provide a continuous data link that allows for a continuous assessment of vulnerabilities and calculated controls.

This past year the committee participated in multiple forums where security intelligence was shared with the Jewish community and relayed to staff. In light of the current political climate and threats to Jewish communities all over the United States our committee responded by evaluating our current standards, made some changes and ensured we stayed in contact with the local authorities.

The committee:

- Applied for two Homeland Security Grants. One grant was not issued, the other is pending.
- Worked with maintenance team to install a secondary locking system leading from the office into the pre-school stairwell.
- Worked with the maintenance team to install multiple solar motion lights to increase visual safety and security in the courtyard area.
- Worked with a camera company to install additional perimeter cameras around the back of the facility. Includes one facing the toddler playground and one where persons can be observed walking down the stairs not the pre-school .
- Worked with the camera company to install two large dedicated monitors to show camera footage; one in the front office and one in the maintenance team office.
Committee members provided extra “eyes and ears” for all family shabbat services to provide additional visual security.
- Is responsible for managing the college avenue fence project; coordinating the general contractors, managing the SDG&E easement approval, survey of fence line and ultimate installation. Estimated completion date late summer 2020.
- Provided feedback on the “bathroom project” fence extension from the new college avenue fence to establish a consistent perimeter.
- Monitors the quarterly security checklist to be used by maintenance staff to check security related functions on a proactive basis such as cameras, locking mechanisms, exit routes, alarm systems etc.
Meets with the Pre-school Director and parents as needed to stay current on questions and ensure safety measures are being followed.
- Conducts annual lockdown, fire / evacuation and earthquake drills with the Torah school, Preschool and Senior Center JFS staff.
- Coordinates annual High Holy Day security efforts, actively participating in security guard coordination; SDPD community liaison officers and Usher training .
- Offered two active shooter drills/ situational awareness for congregants.
Contributes to a monthly safety and security column for the temple bulletin.
- Is working with the pre-school and Temple office to meet COVID restrictions, put policies in place to meet requirements and assist in creating protocols for re-opening.
- Assisted in extra eyes and ears during Purim 2020 and coordinated a first aid station with congregant and RN Patrice Breslow.
- Continues to develop the relationship with the outsourced security company, assisting managing guard schedules and congregational concerns as they may arise.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Staff: Shiri Haines, Donna Lander

Volunteer: Barbara Pollack

The Publicity Committee promotes events, activities, services and other matters of interest both to our congregation and to the community. We also create policies and set a tone for Temple publicity. We strive to gather complete and accurate information from the Temple committees to distribute.

Our congregation receives information via regular biweekly email Shofar Blasts, the monthly Ha-Sofer bulletin and special email blasts. Donna constantly adds new information to our Temple website.

Thanks to Amy Besnoy, our Facebook page is updated on a regular basis to provide the latest news.

Thank you to all who submit information to us, and to all who read our work.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Shelli Stein

VOTING MEMBERS: Claire Fritz, Madeline Gershwin, Marilyn Pongeggi, Barbara Pollack

NON-VOTING MEMBERS: Rabbi Devorah Marcus, Rabbi Benj Fried and Shiri Haines

The Worship Committee is charged to handle ritual and religious questions and concerns. We've met a few times during the year, and when needed, stay in good email contact with each other. We have additional meetings prior to the High Holy Days. We work directly with Rabbi Devorah to discuss and implement new ideas, moving Temple Emanu-El forward while keeping true to our traditions.

2019 -2020 Agenda Items

- High Holidays - Assign Aliyot Honors, Organize Tapestry High Holy Days Honors, Implement High Holy Days book lending project. The committee took an in-depth look at aspects of the High Holy Days under our purview. Each committee member contacted different groups of temple members asking them to fill out a survey that Chair Shelli Stein crafted. Members were assured anonymity in providing feedback. The committee then reviewed all the answers and our findings were presented to Rabbi Marcus and discussed during a post High Holy Days meeting.
- Address any concerns which are brought up to either the committee or to the rabbi.
- Contribute articles to the temple newsletter regarding Worship Committee plans and events.

As a committee, we are always looking for new members and ideas to ensure that Temple Emanu-El remains a warm and inviting place of worship where Jews and Non-Jews alike feel both welcomed and embraced in the warmth of our congregation. But above all we aim to maintain a family-friendly and diverse atmosphere.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CARING COMMUNITY

CHAIR: Ira Moskowitz

ACTIVE MEMBERS: : Bonnie Baron, Marcia Berneger, Judy Faitek, Barbara Pollack, Dana Quittner, Barbara Saltzman, Ed Spilkin

Purpose: "Those who Care" reach out in various ways: visit the sick, make phone calls, send wishes in times of joy and in times of need, provide transportation to doctor, temple etc.

Accomplishments:

Generally bridging the gap of communication challenges.

Programs:

None scheduled at this time

Goals:

Fulfill our function as a "task force" responding to the immediate needs. Meetings have been temporarily postponed. Recognizing the superior and anticipated supportive functions of the many Havurot at Temple Emanu-El.

MENTAL HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE

CHAIR: Lisa Goldberg

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: : Carol Arkin, Bonnie Baron, Judy Becker, Bobbi Cohen, Peggy Cohen, Steve Davis, Lisa Garcia, Ddidane LeCover, Madelynn Micon, Ira Moskowitz, Barbara Pollack, Barbara Saltzman, Fern Siegal, Abigail Weissman

Mission Statement:

Our purpose is to educate and shine a light on mental illness by connecting our community with resources and providing a platform for opening discussions.

Programs:

- Presentation "Reading Aloud to Children" at the Temple Preschool and Torah School parents at a Parent Open House, September 22. Rebecca Bellingham, literacy consultant, teacher and actor was the presenter. (Approximately 35 parents attended.)
- In partnership with the Adult Ed Committee, we hosted an After Shabbat Service dinner and presentation "Jewish Family Service Programs and Services available to members of the San Diego community," November 1. This was a presentation by two JFS staff members. (Approximately 50 adults attended.)

Other Activities:

- Continue promotion of our Online Resources <https://teesd.org/caring-community/#subcommittee> which contains vetted hyperlinks on the Temple's website (more than 2,000 hits).
- Prepared a "reading aloud" book list handout for the September 22 presentation and posted the list on our "Online Resources" list <https://teesd.org/caring-community#subcommittee>.
- Prepared and posted a COVID-19 Resource List for families and community members of all ages on our Online Resources list.
- Lisa Goldberg met with the Caring Committee members at Temple Solel, March 6 sharing our vision, goals and successes of our Temple's Mental Health Subcommittee. Lisa was invited to the committee by Mona Angel, member of this committee.
- **Cancelled due to COVID-19** In partnership with the Adult Ed Committee, we planned an After Shabbat Service dinner and presentation, March 13 "The Journey of Women-Activitst Couples: Getting the vote, gaining education and moving into the professions" with Temple member and LGBT historian and literature expert, Lillian Faderman.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Lee Loventhal (z"l)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Becca Bierman, Angela Canin, Helen Elias, Cindy Flynn, Lisa and Fred Goldberg, Leslie Gollub, Stacey Kasendorf, Elizabeth Leventhal, Barbara Pollack (Secretary), Larry and Marilyn Pongeggi, Ron Reff, Suzanne Schulman, Jean Seager, Saul Snyder, Laurie Spiegler, Jim Stengel, Char Sultan, Nubia Swain

As we submit this report, the country has been impacted by the Coronavirus Pandemic since mid-March, 2020. This report contains projects we have done since July, 2019, but many moving forward have already been postponed, changed or cancelled, including the Pride Parade and Stand Down for Homeless Veterans. Some of our planned collections were impacted as well. We are proud that the Hunger Project and the Bagel Brigade have both continued each week through these stressful times.

We are also very sad to report that our longtime committee chair, Lee Loventhal, died on May 6, 2020. He was always a champion of the committee's work and felt that Social Action was the external face of Temple Emanu-El in the community, and the heart of Jewish activities. Lee felt strongly that all Jews are called on to do Tikkun Olam, repair of the world.

Through your generous donations to the Social Action Fund, the committee votes to allocate a monthly donation to carefully vetted organizations, such as Feeding America, HIAS, Doctors without Borders and the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Project.

Our committee organizes and promotes a diverse group of programs in our committee to appeal to those of all ages, financial means and physical abilities.

Since July 2019, our projects have included:

- Mitzvah of the Month - a collection of specific items each month, such as blankets for the Alpha Project, children's books for Words Alive and Light One Little Candle, and household items for kids aging out of the foster system.
- The Hunger Project at St. Vincent De Paul - first Sunday of each month. We have been participating for over 30 years. Project coordinated by Debbi and Gordon Krass.
- Bagel Brigade - each week, volunteers pick up unsold bagels at Einstein Bagels and deliver them to Rachel's Women's Shelter. Project coordinated by Ron Reff.
- Monarch School for Homeless and At Risk Children. We collect toiletries on an ongoing basis. Project coordinated by Bill Seager.
- Martin Luther King Day of Service. January's interfaith project attracts over 500 participants to clean up and beautify Balboa Park.
- Pride Parade, held in July each year, is San Diego's largest single day civic event. Our participation shows that Temple Emanu-El is a supportive and safe community for all Jews.
- Stand Down for Homeless Veterans which provides food, shelter, clothing, medical screening, legal and military benefit assistance, as well as referrals to shelters, rehab centers and permanent housing during an annual three day weekend.
- High Holy Day Food Drive. Food, cash donations, gift cards, pet food, toiletries and more to benefit the Hand Up Food Pantry at Jewish Family Service and other organizations. Though most synagogues collect food for JFS during the High Holy Days, Temple Emanu-El regularly collects more than any other, and sometimes more than all others combined.
- Thanksgiving Dinner at The San Diego Center for the Blind provides a festive dinner for more than 240 clients. For some, this is the only Thanksgiving dinner they will have. Project coordinated by Lee Loventhal.
- Safe Parking program of Jewish Family Service provides secure lots for people living in their cars and working to end their homelessness. Project coordinated by Suzanne Schulman.

We appreciate your support of these programs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

CO-CHAIRS: Janice Steinberg and Barbara Learner

Committee Members: Mark Berger (incoming Co-Chair), Roni Breite, Joe Castiglione, Steven Davis, Ellen Goren, Nancy Herzfeld-Pipkin, Alec Irwin, Mat Kostrinsky, Joanne Lavin and Dana Quittner

The Advocacy Committee was formed with the intention of adding another layer to our Tikken Olam efforts at Temple Emanu-El. Part of the work of this committee is to engage with community partners, adding a Jewish voice to advocate for change and impact policy on important issues affecting us all. Our efforts are directed at the local, state and Federal levels. We present educational programs exploring what is Jewish about a particular issue. We also engage topic experts giving us an in-depth look at the issue from many perspectives. We are mindful of the Temple's 501C3 status and the fact that we are a diverse congregation with many views and differing opinions.

We have very active committee members and because of them have accomplished a great deal in the past year. Here is some of what we have done:

- **Limmud Hour at Yom Kippur** - We organized a panel on Gun Violence Prevention, presenting many aspects of this difficult issue. It was well attended with attendees very engaged in the topic.
- Temple Emanu-El hosted the community wide **Sandy Hook Vigil to End Gun Violence** on December 14, 2019. There were approximately 75 people in attendance.
- **Ghost Guns at the Del Mar Fair Grounds Gun Show** - We were instrumental in getting the word out that these dangerous guns would be sold during the gun show. In a short period of time in conjunction with other congregations we generated over 40 letters to the Board of the Del Mar Fair Grounds asking them to ban ghost gun sales at the gun show. The gun show was cancelled due to the Corona Virus.
- **Misinformation Session at Coffee with the Rabbi** - On May 6, 2020 committee member Alec Irwin presented to this group of over 40 people how to identify misinformation in regards to the virus and election issues.
- **Gun Storage Safety** - We published information on the Temple's website to help educate people and bring awareness to this issue.
- **Lobbying Education** - We held a training for committee members on how to conduct lobbying visits. We began by meeting with Members of Congress Susan Davis and Scott Peters.
- **Visits to State Legislators** - In conjunction with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC), Mark and Janice went to Sacramento last August for the RAC lobby day and met with several of our representatives. This spring, as part of a statewide RAC effort, we joined forces with the other Reform congregations in San Diego County and held virtual meetings with the following elected officials: Ben Hueso, Todd Gloria, Brian Maienschein, Randy Voepel and Brian Jones. Other meetings are currently being scheduled. The focus of these meetings was to impact how they thought about the State budget. We encouraged them to consider additional sources of revenue with the goal of making California a more fair, equitable place.

We accomplished a great deal in the last year. None of it would have happened without the amazing support of Rabbi Devorah Marcus.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Madelynn Micon

Committee Members: Laurie Baron, Judy Faitek, Cecile Fleetwood, Claire Fritz, Hayley Salazar, Yvonne Williams,

Mission Statement: The Adult Education Committee of Temple Emanu-El is dedicated to meeting the life-long educational needs of every adult member of the congregation by offering a variety of learning experiences.

Programs and Courses:

- **SHABBAT SERVICE DINNER AND PRESENTATION:** “Jewish Family Service Programs and Services available to members of the San Diego community.” This was co-sponsored with the Mental Health Committee.
- **SPECIAL SHABBAT DINNER:** “What do you know about Rabbi Morton Cohn?” Dr. Bonnie Harris, Lecturer in SDSU Department of History gave an interesting talk on our founding Rabbi.
- **FALL COURSE:** “Anti-Semitism: A Long and Sordid History,” taught by Rabbi Devorah and Rabbi Benj. As always this was a well-received course of learning for many members.
- **INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM:** Rabbi Devorah and Rabbi Benj introduced the fundamentals of Jewish thought and practice for any interested in exploring Judaism or reviewing the basics.
- **ADULT HEBREW CLASSES:** Both beginning and intermediate Hebrew classes were offered in Fall and Spring.

On-Going Programs:

- **TORAH STUDY:** Saturday mornings before services.
- **COFFEE WITH THE RABBI:** two Wednesday mornings per month, then weekly after COVID restrictions.
- **TORAH FOR THE TABLE:** “The Foods of Israel,” Rabbi Devorah provided us with food for the mind paired with delicious themed menus prepared by Barry Lander.

Programs cancelled due to COVID-19. We hope it will be possible to present these programs next year.

- **PIONEERING WOMEN DIRECTORS:** presented by Professor Laurie Baron
- **AN EVENING WITH ROSE SCHINDLER**
- **ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE WEEKEND**

To all Temple members who have joined us and participated in this year’s activities, TODA RABA. Your feedback told us you received as much learning and enjoyment from of them as we had in planning and participating in them with you. We also hope some of you will consider joining us as we continue to build our Adult Education programming. We welcome your input. For questions, information, or to make program suggestions, or to join the committee, please contact committee chair Madelynn Micon at (619) 200-3237.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM

Our Goal: To bring women together to foster the ideals of Reform Judaism through the bonds of sisterhood.

We Support: *Programming of interest to women

- *Youth leadership-scholarships to NFTY leadership development events
- *Higher education-Post High School Education Scholarships
- *Bar & Bat Mitzvah students-presentation of an engraved kiddush cup
- *Torah School, Camperships, and Youth Groups-monetary donations

Our programs this year have been attended by 20-25 ladies. They included:

- *Artisan Festival
- *Chanukah Party
- *Attendance at the La Jolla Playhouse production of "Fly," a world premiere
- * Tu B'shevat seder for the Introduction to Judaism Class
- *Jewelry Repair Nights
- *Succulents in the Sukkah



We gave scholarships to Temple high school seniors to help with their continuing education.

We purchased, engraved, and presented kiddush cups to each Bar and Bat Mitzvah student

We supported the Preschool and Torah School fundraisers with donations

We also supported the following with monetary donations:

- * San ETY Midnight Run
- * JFS Safe Parking Lot meals
- * Havdalah Love (Temple Gala)

Our Current Board Members are:

Rhonda Schwartz, President

Barbara Chancy, Treasurer

Judy Becker, 3rd Vice President/Financial Secretary

Becca Bierman, Recording Secretary

Judi Schechter, Immediate Past President/Membership Chair/ Artisan Festival Chair

Elana Levens-Craig, Mitzvah Chair

Cecile Fleetwood, Historian/ Artisan Festival Liaison

Nancy Marcus, Pacific District, WRJ Liaison

Lynn Grady, Temple Board Liaison

Our Three Regular Fundraisers are:

- * Artisan Festival, a day of shopping from local artists selling their handmade designs.
- * Honey From the Heart, an online program where you buy Kosher honey to be delivered for Rosh Hashanah.
- * Tupperware sales

Without you we are one woman short!

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Chair: Wendy Ponomarenko

The Library Committee promotes the revitalization of our underused library and provides upkeep to maintain it. The committee also promotes the updating of the resources and programs that will increase the utilization of those resources by our Temple community. Currently the library is in the process of being updated to a digital check-out system. The library books have been inventoried, new books added, and decrepit books removed. Currently our librarian is adding the books one by one into a digital inventory system linked to an online database that includes membership data so that members will be able to check-out books without staff presence with merely a barcode system. Once the books are all added to the database, they will then need to be jacketed and labeled, and then the membership data updated. Once that is complete, programs like author book signings, guest readings for children and educational programs, and summer reading programs can all be instituted. Currently our librarian is spending her weekdays entering each book into the database, and to promote the use of the library and to bring our library resources to our members, she is creating video content of her reading a book every night and posting it on the Torah School Facebook page.



Temple ✧ Emanu-El
A Home, A Family, A Warmth to Tradition