

Temple Emanu-El

Annual Report 2020-2021



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

Devorah Marcus, Senior Rabbi ✧ Benj Fried, Associate Rabbi
Shaun Copans, Executive Director ✧ Janet Arkin, Preschool Director
Martin S. Lawson, Rabbi Emeritus ✧ Morton J. Cohn ל"ו, Founding Rabbi
Eric Rosenzweig & Jeff Schindler, Co-Presidents
6299 Capri Drive San Diego, CA 92120 ✧ (619) 286-2555
teesd.org ✧ temple@teesd.org ✧ facebook.com/teesd

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Jeff Schindler, Co-President
Eric Rosenzweig, Co-President
Cathi Marx, Vice-President
(Co-President Elect)
Marc Glazer, Financial Secretary
(Co-President Elect)
Layne Cogan, Treasurer
Debbie Macdonald, Recording Secretary
Madeline Gershwin, Immediate Past President
Aaron Cohn, Executive Past President

DIRECTORS

Amy Blum, Gail Braverman, Adam Breslow,
Patricia Freund, Marc Hamovitch, Stacey Kasendorf,
Stefani Lenett, Steven Mashal, Stuart Morse,
Ira Moskowitz, Robert Patterson, Marie Raftery,
Cathy Sigismonti, Howard Somers, Janice Steinberg
Aly Arkin & Miriam Rosen, Youth Representatives

TEMPLE STAFF

EXECUTIVE STAFF

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

SUPPORT STAFF

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



PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Shalom Chaverim,

As we approach the close of our third and final year as your Temple Emanu-El Co-Presidents, we find ourselves (hopefully) nearing the tail end of a global pandemic that has resulted in a challenging year for us all. It is only through the tireless dedication of our wonderful Temple staff and volunteers that we weathered the storm, along the journey finding new and innovative ways to stay connected to our sacred Temple Emanu-El community.

The purpose of this letter is to express our deepest and most sincere gratitude to you all. What we have all accomplished together over the past 15 months was nothing short of amazing, with so much to be proud of and grateful for. It is that time again! Our Annual Congregational Meeting is once again upon us. We request and encourage each of you to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting, being held this year on June 6th at 10:00 AM via livestream.

While you have received many regular updates throughout the year, this important annual congregational event presents an opportunity for you to hear what we have accomplished throughout the 15-month COVID-19 pandemic period, as well as what we **are** doing to re-open our doors for the return of in-person worship and other events. We have learned so much during this crisis and look forward to leveraging the knowledge gained to position our congregation for strength as we continue with a secure forward momentum. As we also articulated in our 2020 annual letter to the congregation, we have again been blessed with many volunteers that came to our aide when the COVID-19 pandemic crisis began, and have maintained their dedication throughout the past year, navigating the financial, emotional, and health and safety needs of our community. The fortitude through this long year by people like Cathi and Ron Marx, Marc Glazer and Adam Breslow has been nothing short of heart-warming.

We would also like to express our deepest gratitude to our wonderful Board of Directors who, through this past year, were faced with making so many difficult decisions. We could not be prouder of how the Board has worked as a synchronous and cohesive team to ensure the future strength and stability of Temple Emanu-El. Thanks to the benefit of Zoom technology, we have enjoyed the highest level of attendance at our Board meetings eva'!

In just a few short weeks, Layne Cogan, Aaron Cohn, Madeline Gershwin, Debbie Macdonald, Stuart Morse, and Marie Raftery will sadly be leaving the Temple Emanu-El Board. Layne, Aaron, Madeline, Debbie, Stuart, and Marie, please accept a **MOST SINCERE** "Todah Rabah" in recognition of your years of dedicated service to our beloved Temple family. Your participation, contributions and mere presence will be missed. Thanks to the focused work of our esteemed Nominating Committee led by Tom Lincoln, we are excited to present the nominations of Adrian Benjamin, Barbara Braasch, Matt Meis, Gary Steres, and Felise Zollman as our proposed incoming Temple Emanu-El Board members. The entire Board slate will be voted on at the Annual Congregational Meeting. We look forward to working closely with you all in the coming months and years.

Last, but certainly not least, we need to express a gigantic THANK YOU to the office staff. Led by our amazing new Executive Director, Shaun Copans, these tirelessly dedicated individuals rose to every challenge and have kept our operation functioning at the highest levels in support of **YOU**, without even missing a beat, while keeping the communication flowing, not to mention creating and organizing our four separate congregant deliveries and other important activities.

While the COVID-19 crisis has dominated the bulk of our thoughts and actions, we would like to stop for a moment and briefly reflect on the past year. While we were not able to meet in person, we moved forward and completed many needed projects and capital improvements in preparation for our ultimate return to in-person activities. Improvements that were made across the campus included updating the kitchen in the Preschool to refinishing our beautiful sanctuary entry gates and constructing a security perimeter fence along College Avenue. As our viewership on Shabbat rose to new heights during the pandemic, we upgraded our Sanctuary's audio/video system to provide an enhanced viewing experience for those enjoying our livestream services and other events from the comfort of their homes. While we know many of you are anxious to get back into our beautiful Sanctuary, and nothing can replace an in-person spiritual experience, many of you will opt to continue enjoying services from home. Thanks to the leadership and creativity of Rabbi Benj and Star Laddon and the entire Torah school staff, opportunities for a Jewish education at all levels thrive at Temple Emanu-El, regardless of the limitations caused by the pandemic. Thanks to Janet Arkin and her amazing Preschool team, our coveted

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE (continued)

Preschool did not miss a beat, even after weathering a water intrusion incident that impacted a large area of the Preschool. More importantly Janet's hard work and uncompromising dedication has set up our Preschool for a great Summer and Fall.

In closing, we want to thank you all for putting your trust in us over these past three years. We cannot end this letter without recognizing how **INCREDIBLY BLESSED** we all are to have our beloved Rabbi Devorah at the helm of Temple Emanu-El. Her compassion, wit, wisdom and grace ensure that we will never forget the important lessons of the past, that we will seize the opportunities of today, and that we will plan for our future with sharp focus and great intent.

Jeff Schindler, Co-President

Eric Rosenzweig, Co-President

SENIOR RABBI, DEVORAH MARCUS



Dear Temple Emanu-El Family,

As a rabbi I am not often at a loss for words. Yet, as I write this greeting, I find an impoverishment of vocabulary. How can I begin to describe what an incredible feeling it is to sit at the edge of a global pandemic, knowing that we, as a community, weathered this storm with grace, strength, creativity, and mutual commitment to our highest values and ideals? From the moment the pandemic began we found ways to continue our learning and our praying. We found ways to connect to each other as fellow congregants. We found ways to ensure that those who were unemployed or food insecure had access to support to see them through these difficult days. We found ways to reimagine our High Holy Days and every single Jewish holiday on the calendar. This has been a year of fellowship, familyhood, connection, invention, and discovery.

The work continues. Even as we prepare to wrap up this Jewish year, we are already in preparation for the coming year of 5782. We are again re-imagining our High Holy Days, Preschool, Torah School, adult education, holiday observances, and our synagogue activities. The deep well of creativity from which we have been drawing inspiration has proven an incredible resource and we look forward to continuing to innovate in the year to come.

On a personal note, I want to express my gratitude to our amazing outgoing presidents, Eric Rosenzweig and Jeff Schindler. This dynamic duo worked tirelessly and endlessly to lead us all through this great storm and we are forever in their debt. I must also express my gratitude to our incredible team of lay leaders and volunteers. Our presidents were supported in all of their efforts by an incredible executive team, past presidents, and an energetic board who showed up for every meeting, began new initiatives to help congregants feel more connected, delivered care packages throughout the year, and ensured our financial survival in a time when other organizations were facing collapse. I am also expressing my gratitude to our wonderful team of lay volunteers who supported our presidents and our board in these heroic efforts. From helping with driving to running drive-through holidays, from calling members to check in to creating online content for our minds and our souls – our amazing volunteers have been an army strength and support for our every effort this year. Of course, no thank-you list would be complete without thanking our incredible teachers, staff, and senior professionals. For the past 15 months, our team has worked non-stop to ensure the fastest re-openings possible for our schools, a safe learning environment for our students and teachers, and smooth ongoing operations from our offices and for our programs. There is no finer team of professionals in the entire Jewniverse and I am thankful for each and every member of our amazing team.

One last special thank you... Thank you to each and every member of Temple Emanu-El. In a year where other congregants saw memberships decline and people quietly leave, each and every single one of you chose to stay. Each and every single one of you chose to affirm your commitment to our community, our synagogue family, and our sacred shared purpose – to create a place for vibrant, kind, and meaningful Jewish learning and

RABBI MARCUS' MESSAGE (continued)

Jewish living here in our small part of this very large world. Without our congregation, without our members, we would not exist. Thank you for your commitment to yourselves, to each other, and to the future generations we are privileged to raise up here at this synagogue in this very precious and special synagogue family.

As we look back on this year and forward to the next, I hope that each of us will find inspiration in the sheer vastness of what we have achieved and accomplished. I hope that each of us will have found new and deeper appreciations for the institutions that we too often take for granted but miss terribly when they're gone (I'm looking at you schools and you synagogues). I hope that each of us has found new ways to connect and new connections to life and how we WANT to live our lives in the months and years ahead. May they be filled with health, wholeness, and deep appreciations for all of our blessings. While I still feel that no words I can offer could ever adequately describe the profound nature of this year, I hope that these are a good beginning.

With Deep Love and Gratitude To You All,

Rabbi Devorah Marcus, Senior Rabbi

ASSOCIATE RABBI, 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 adaption as we at the Torah School have made our program accessible and safe during this time of profound challenge. Our program served 81 students, which represented a high retention rate during this COVID year amongst religious schools nationally.

To meet the needs of as many of our families as possible, our Torah School ran two parallel programs: an online program and an in-person program. The in person program brought our students to the campus every Sunday and taught outside with masks and social distancing. The online kids learned over Zoom and received the same curriculum content. Our curriculum this year taught our students about world Jewry. Our students learned about Jews from different communities and focused on their history and the different customs they observed. The students then had opportunities to meet and interview Jews who came from the communities they studied. Our students learned about Jews from Iran, Yemen, Ethiopia, Argentina, the Sephardic tradition, and so many other places.

Our staff at the Torah School has continued to exemplify the best of Jewish learning and convey their passion and care to our kids. They adapted to our different curriculum and teaching methods, and I am immensely proud of the work they accomplished this year.

Our Youth Groups adapted to the new COVID reality in ways that are both exciting and novel. Instead of our usual programming for our younger students, we instituted clubs where our kids could engage in an activity of interest with other kids in the community. Our clubs included Art, Theater, Dungeons and Dragons, and Gardening. The programming was both enjoyable and instructive and can serve as a model for youth engagement going forward. Our SanETY group for the High School students also continued to create social events that were both safe and fun.

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. Hamantaschen bake sale was a continued area of strength, and since camps are reopening this summer, the proceeds are going to support our students attending Jewish summer camp. During the Pandemic, we also engaged our community in creative ways. We had Sukkot, Simchat Torah, and Purim drive through experiences, which though different than our usual holiday programming, still brought joy to our community.

Overall this year has been a year of challenge, a year of experimentation, but also a year of joy, a year of meaning, and a year with many successes, both big and small.

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

Rabbi Benj Fried, Associate Rabbi



SHAUN COPANS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Just before I walked into the Temple office on my first day of work on September 1, 2020, I took a deep breath. Starting a new job is intimidating at the best of times, but add the fact that I was returning to the synagogue where I grew up AND we were in the midst of a once-in-a-lifetime global pandemic, it's safe to say I was anxious and nervous. However, my fears were put to rest almost immediately as I began to work with the talented professional team and incredible group of volunteers at Temple Emanu-El. I am so pleased to be a part of this synagogue family (again).



We have so much to be proud of from the past year. First and foremost, I would like to thank the amazing volunteers who served (and continue to serve) on the Health & Safety Committee. Chaired by Board Member Dr. Adam Breslow, their task was daunting; to continually advise the staff on how to conduct all aspects of Temple life safely with the ever-changing guidelines coming from the CDC, state and county officials. Based on their recommendations we were able to safely open preschool at the beginning of September, in-person Torah School at the end of September and provide volunteer opportunities and safe events and celebrations throughout the year. We cannot thank them enough for their guidance.

Staying connected to our Temple families during the pandemic was constantly on our mind. Before the start of the High Holy Day season in September, families from our Torah school volunteered to help put together care packages that included prayer books, apples and honey, activities and other items. Board Members and other congregants pitched in to personally deliver these packages to EVERY congregant across the county. We received such a great response we decided to put together packages and deliver them for Hanukkah, Purim and the Havdalah fundraiser. Thank you to the many dozens of volunteers for assembling packages and all the volunteer drivers. We could not have done it without you!

I would like to thank Temple Co-Presidents Jeff Schindler and Eric Rosenzweig for their support and consistent availability during the year, as well as Nate Stein, Ron & Cathi Marx and Marc Glazer for their guidance and assistance.

It's easy to forget that I was not the only person on the Temple staff adjusting to new things, they had to get used to me! It has been a pleasure getting to know and working with Rabbi Devorah, Rabbi Benj and the educators at the Torah School, Janet Arkin and her dedicated team of Preschool teachers, Victor Palos, Donna Lander and Natalie Fritz in the front office. I am grateful to each of you. Here's to many more years of success at Temple Emanu-El!

Shaun Copans, Executive Director

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR, JANET ARKIN

Dear Temple Emanu-El Congregants,

As we all know, this has been a year unlike any other. At the Price Family Preschool, our primary goal has been to create a safe, warm, engaging, and nurturing learning environment for our children and families. While maintaining our standard of excellence, I am proud to share that our school was able to overcome a great deal of obstacles and has continued to thrive through it all. With this in mind, accomplishing many milestones this year feels especially monumental. Our wonderful team of teachers and staff devoted ourselves to finding new ways to create developmentally appropriate classrooms where children were given the tools to reach their maximum potential. Our program lovingly encourages children's social, emotional, cognitive, and physical growth, while instilling respect and empathy for others.



At the beginning of the year, days before the first day of school, our campus suffered a large water intrusion that significantly affected the preschool office and three of our classrooms. Our teachers, along with members of our Temple Emanu-El staff, board, and youth community, worked together to completely restore our classrooms to prepare for the school year. Additionally, while adapting to the ever-evolving health and safety protocols, our team created new systems for streamlined pickup and drop-off. We helped children say goodbye to parents at the front gate, and practiced mask wearing, social distancing, hand washing, and classroom disinfecting. These practices allowed us to keep our doors open, with zero Covid-19 cases!

We are beyond fortunate to have an incredible team of educators who make the magic happen each day. Through each challenge the year presented, our staff rose to the occasion - rallying together to show up and ensure a fun and safe experience for our children. Our teachers are dedicated to the individual success of every child.

Creating innovative curricula, integrating Jewish life, traditions, and values are essential components to our program. Shabbat is celebrated each week and Zane Shrem-Besnoy, our music specialist, meets with each class for a special sing-along every Friday. Additionally, our wonderful Rabbis, Devorah Marcus and Benj Fried, visit the preschool for special story time every month. These combined efforts have allowed us to create something beautiful in the midst of a pandemic. I am humbled by the passion of our entire staff and forever thankful for the ways they have stepped up this year.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the Price Family Preschool and Temple Emanu-El staff, teachers, and families who were there for my family and I this year. While undergoing treatment for breast cancer, my husband, daughters and I were truly touched by the ways that this community lent us their love and strength when we needed it most. There are simply not enough words to express this gratitude. Every phone call, meal train, and moment of loving kindness meant the world to us. I will remember your love and generosity for the rest of my life; from the bottom of my heart, thank you.

After an incredible year, I am thrilled to announce that we will be opening Summer Camp for eight weeks. Furthermore, with the guidance of our Health and Safety Committee, we are excitedly preparing for the upcoming school year. Our dynamic team is looking forward to another school year of laughter, smiles, love, and a whole lot of learning. Thank you, Temple Emanu-El, for your love and support for our Price Family Preschool through this truly unprecedented year.

With love and gratitude,

Janet Arkin, Preschool Director

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

CO-CHAIRS: Barbara Learner, Mark Berger and Janice Steinberg

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Rhonda Amber, Whitney Burch, Joe Castiglione, Steven Davis, Ellen Goren, Marlene Hamovitch, Rachel Hamovitch, Nancy Herzfeld-Pipkin, Alec Irwin, Mat Kostrinsky, Joanne Lavin, Lane Mashal, Mica Pollak and Dana Quittner

The Advocacy Committee was formed with the intention of adding another layer to our Tikkun 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.

This year we created a short video to show you what we are about and what we have accomplished. Here is a link: <https://youtu.be/5KTumngW5I>

ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

CO-CHAIRS: Laurie Baron and Madelynn Micon

Committee Members: Cecile Fleetwood, Claire Fritz, Ellie Mout, 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.

During this unusual and stress-filled year, through the magic of Zoom, the Adult Ed committee has been able to provide our congregants a wide variety of programs, from talks, movies and classes.

TALKS:

Dr. Marc Drollinger: "Quest for Inclusion: Jews and Liberalism in Modern America"

Naftali Aklum: "Being Black, Jewish and Israeli"

Diane Ashton: "Hanukkah in America: A History"

Jeff Demsky: "Achoo, Achoo: Let's Blame the Jews: Disease Tropes in Covid-19, Cartoons and Memes"

Professor Pamela Nadel: "America's Jewish Women: A History of Colonial Times to Today"

Rose Schindler and Dr. Edith Eger: their personal experiences on the Holocaust and Survival

HAMSA CLASSES:

Temple Emanu-El joined together with 4 other Temples in a program to provide members of all congregations with classes taught by each of the Rabbis. The courses ranged from: Introduction to Prayer; Mussar; Mitzvah; Judaism and Environmentalism; Purim; The History of Israel of the State of Israel: How did we get here and What's next."

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM:

Rabbi Devorah and Rabbi Benj introduced the fundamentals of Jewish thought and practice for anyone interested in exploring Judaism or reviewing the basics.

ADULT HEBREW CLASS with Rabbi Benj

MOVIES:

Crown Heights; An American Tail; Marshall; Above the Drowning Sea; On the Basis of Sex; Bottle in the Gaza Sea

ON-GOING PROGRAMS:

- TORAH STUDY: Saturday mornings before services.
- COFFEE WITH RABBI: Wednesday mornings

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

CARING COMMUNITY

CHAIR: Ira Moskowitz

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Bonnie Baron, Marcia Berneger, Gail Braverman, Judy Faitek, Barbara Pollack, Dana Quittner

Purpose: "Those who Care" reach out and respond by visiting the sick, making phone calls, sending wishes in times of joy and need, Providing transportation to doctor, medical locations, and Temple.

Accomplishments: Bridging the communication gap.

Programs: None scheduled at this time

Goals: Fulfill our purpose as a task force by responding to members' appropriate needs. In person meetings have been postponed. Virtual meetings have been conducted concurrently through the Mental Awareness Committee.

We recognize the superior and supportive nature of the wonderful Havurot at Temple Emanu-El.

MENTAL HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE

CHAIR: Lisa Goldberg

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Carol Arkin, Bonnie Baron, Judy Becker, Gail Braverman, Bobbi Cohen, Peggy Cohen, Steve Davis, Diane LeCover, Madelynn Micon, Ira Moskowitz, Barbara Pollack, Marie Raftery, Barbara Saltzman, Fern Siegel, Abigail Weissman SanETY Youth Group members: Aly Arkin and Miriam Rosen

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 Held

- Planned, organized, and orchestrated a Shabbat San Diego event on Sunday November 8, 2020 (the Day of Learning) focused on parents of pre-school and elementary age children who are juggling work and online school at home. The title was "A Toolbox of Tips and Strategies for Parents of Young Children during This New School Year." The panelists who volunteered included:
 - ◊ Cindy Marten-Superintendent of the San Diego Unified School District
 - ◊ Dr. Marni Nagel, Pediatric psychologist at the Children's Hospital in of Orange County
 - ◊ Shelli Stein, Health, Fitness coach/teacher, author

This panel event of experts was recorded and web resources were placed on the Mental Health Subcommittee's website (under the Caring Community) and continues to remain available.

Other Activities

- Continued promotion of our Online Resources, <https://teesd.org/caring-community/> which contains vetted hyperlinks on the Temple's website. Periodically additional hyperlinks were included.
- Wrote articles for the Ha-Sofer that
 - ◊ Provided helpful website resources regarding COVID-19 for adults, parents, and children
 - ◊ Provided possible preparations for COVID High Holy Days on Zoom by creating a sacred space at home as well as connecting with friends and relatives who cannot physically join members. (This article was written in collaboration with Bonnie Baron and Shelli Stein.)
- Discussed expanding our committee to include teens and created a "Proposal for SanETY"
- Welcomed two SanETY seniors and one junior to our committee (although they have yet to attend)
- Promoted San Diego JFS Behavioral Health Committee virtual events such as Community Conversations, "Making It Work: Life Lessons from Global Fashion Icon Tim Gunn," and "Aging with Resilience: Combating Loneliness and Enhancing Your Mental Health"

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Amy Blum

Committee Members: Joe Castiglione, Melissa Cogan, Karen Eisman, Barry Lander, Jill Linares, Jane Muschenetz, Audrey Patterson

Goal/Purpose:

To serve as ambassadors to our new Temple families, to reach out to new members to foster relationships, to engage and to help them feel more comfortable. We are also available to answer questions or concerns of interested community members.

Activities:

Assigned committee members to serve as ambassadors to new members.

Shared our experiences and explored various ways to engage in ways that are authentic and consistent.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Staff: Shaun Copans, 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 weekly Shofar Call emails, the monthly Ha-Sofer bulletin and special email blasts. Donna constantly adds new information to our Temple website.

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

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. Work closely with local law enforcement such as the SDPD, the San Diego Law Enforcement Coordination Center (LECC) which is San Diego's Regional Threat Assessment Center and the San Diego Chapter of the ADL

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 year we:

- Applied for one homeland security grant (awards to be announced in August 2021)
- Wrote the COVID plan for Temple Emanu-El as required by Cal OSHA.
- Worked closely with the safety & health committee to assist Pre-school and Torah school in re-opening plans for fall 2020 and summer 2021.
- Met with Pre-school teachers to review COVID symptoms and review our COVID plan.
- Finalized the permit process for the college avenue fence and oversaw the installation. The original fence was rejected by the committee and Temple leadership. A replacement fence was installed in June 2021.
- Conducted annual lockdown, fire / evacuation with the Torah school.
- Are 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.
- Provided assistance for managing the Purim Carnival 2021 traffic.
- Continue to develop the relationship with the outsourced security company, assisting managing guard schedules and congregational concerns as they may arise.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM

We are a part of the Women of Reform Judaism. We support programs within our Temple and programs around the world. We perform mitzvahs here and all around the world through our membership in WRJ.

We support:

Programs of interest to women
Scholarships
Camperships
B'nai Mitzvah students with the presentation of the Kiddush Cup
Torah School
Preschool
Adult Education programs



We have Zoomed these events:

Dinner for One or Two
Chanukah Bingo
Rose Schindler Program
Edith Eva Eger Program
"On the Basis of Sex" Film Night
Craft Classes: polymer clay creations
Upcoming: The Judith Leiber Collection on June 9th

Incoming Board:

Co Presidents:	Barbara Chancy and Nancy Marcus
Membership Trustees:	Darlene Oolie and Judy Becker
Treasurer:	Barbara Chancy
Secretary:	Sara Maltzman
Mitzvah Chair:	Elana Levens-Craig
TEESD Board Liaison:	Becca Bierman
Honey from the Heart Chair:	Becca Bierman
Theater Parties:	Rhonda Schwartz
Historian:	Cecile Fleetwood
Artisan Festival:	OPEN
Immediate Past President:	Rhonda Schwartz

We look forward to returning to in-person programming when possible, but will continue on Zoom. Our Board Meetings (2nd Wednesday of the month) will be on Zoom. If you have 2-3 hours a month, please join our Board. Reach out to us at wrj@teesd.org.

Your Membership form will be in the TEESD Membership packet, Please return it!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

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

Our last face-to-face meeting was held in March, 2020. During the past year, we have met monthly on Zoom to review and plan activities. Though many have been cancelled, some have continued live, and some transitioned to a virtual format.

We are proud that the Hunger Project at St. Vincent de Paul has continued each week, though in a more limited way. The Bagel Brigade has also continued each week, with volunteers delivering unsold bagels from the Einsteins on Lake Murray to Rachels Women's Center downtown. We did some informal collections from our committee and friends, to bring to Rachels Women's Center and St. Vincent de Paul, but collections at the Temple are not an option yet.

Our involvement with the JFS Safe Parking Program, to provide a safe place for homeless people living in their cars, has also continued. Though people are still not able to bring home cooked meals as we had in the past, we have encouraged donations to our Fund, earmarked for this project, and signed up to purchase healthy, nutritious dinners.

On October 11, the committee sponsored a Zoom forum, led by Jason Bercovitch, on the state and local propositions before the November elections. As in prior years, Jason did a great job reviewing the information and answering questions submitted via the chat box from the community. We had more than 160 Zoom participants that day, and others watched the recording later, which included the slides he presented.

October was also the ADL Walk Against Hate, held virtually. Temple Emanu-El had 24 people who registered for our team, and we raised almost \$1000 for the ADL.

Martin Luther King Interfaith Day of Service was held on January 18, with Temple Emanu-El as one of the sponsors, and several members of our committee involved on the steering committee for the event. The Zoom presentation included speakers from the Environmental and Climate Justice Committee of the NAACP. Trees, either free or at low cost, are available through the Kate Sessions Commitment Project for underserved communities, especially San Diego Districts 4, 8 and 9. Money collected from each participating congregation was donated to both local branches of the NAACP and the Kate Sessions group. The program, attended by hundreds that day, was recorded and has been watched by hundreds more.

Through generous donations to the Social Action Fund by congregants and friends, the committee has been able to allocate a monthly donation to carefully vetted organizations. During the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the committee voted donations to Feeding America, the San Diego Rapid Response Network, Magen David Adam, Kitchens for Good, and others. Information on the month's donation is included in the Temple bulletin.

We administered a generous donation from a congregant family to support refugees in the community, and researched the best places for that donation. We allocated the funds to South Bay Community Services, which is running the shelter at the San Diego Convention Center, and to the Rapid Response Network, which helps refugees in the San Diego community.

These projects are currently on hold or limited until pandemic restrictions ease. We hope they will come back as in-person events in the coming year.

- 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.
- Monarch School for Homeless and At Risk Children. We collect toiletries on an ongoing basis.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SOCIAL ACTION CONTINUED

- 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. In 2021, as in 2020, the Parade will not be held, but some programs will be virtual.
- 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.

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

We appreciate all support.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Dr. Bob Rubenstein

The Endowment Committee and its subdivision, the Investment committee is Chaired by Dr. Bob Rubenstein and composed of Tom Lincoln, Aaron Cohn, Marc Hamovitch, Ron Marx and Arnold Saltzman. The committee has met virtually during the years 2020-2021 with the following recommendation:

That Temple Emanu-El establish four true endowment funds. These funds are for the long-term support of Temple needs and available for Legacy gifts, transfer of excess Temple funds or results of fundraisers, current contributions. These funds include:

- Rabbinical Endowment Fund
- Torah School and Campership Fund
- Preschool Fund
- Temple Emanu-El Building Fund

The first two have been established with early funding and the intent to increase funding in order to support future needs. The Preschool Fund has been approved by the board and is in the process of being set up by the Jewish Community Foundation.

Discussions are ongoing regarding the uses of the income from funds allocated from the Building Fund and it has not yet been approved.

The committee has also recommended that distributions from the funds of 4% per year be released to help pay operating expenses of the Temple and with time expects the amount to grow to represent a significant benefit to the operating budget.

We look forward to the support of this enterprise by Temple members and thank you for it.



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