

Temple Emanu-El

Annual Report 2017-2018



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

Devorah Marcus, Senior Rabbi ✧ Benj Fried, Rabbi Educator
Shiri Haines, Executive Director ✧ Tamara Levin, Preschool Director
Martin S. Lawson, Rabbi Emeritus ✧ Morton J. Cohn ל"ר, Founding Rabbi
Madeline Gershwin, President

6299 Capri Drive San Diego, CA 92120 ✧ (619) 286-2555
<https://teesd.org> ✧ temple@teesd.org ✧ facebook.com/teesd

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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
Debbie Macdonald, Recording Secretary
Madeline Gershwin, Immediate Past President
Aaron Cohn, Executive Past President

DIRECTORS

Lynn Grady, Marc Hamovitch,
Barry Handler, Stacey Kasendorf, Jessica Kort,
Stefani Lenett, Howard Lyon, Cathi Marx,
Ira Moskowitz, Robert Patterson, Marie Raftery,
Cathy Sigismonti, Janice Steinberg, Mark Tukeman,
Ron Turner, Leah Feinberg

TEMPLE STAFF

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Devorah Marcus, Senior Rabbi
Shiri Haines, Executive Director
Benj Fried, Rabbi Educator
Tamara Levin, Preschool Director
Martin Lawson, Rabbi Emeritus

SUPPORT STAFF

Donna Lander, Executive Assistant
Rodney Rubio, Bookkeeper
Star Laddon, Torah School Administrator
Janet Arkin, Assistant Preschool Director
Natalie Fritz, Receptionist
Victor Palos, Maintenance Director



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Congregants,

It is hard for me to believe that the 2 year term as your president that I began in 2016 is now at an end. Being a Temple President is a sacred responsibility and an opportunity for personal growth, but it is also a lot of work to insure the smooth running of a synagogue. There, are oys and joys in being president and, although it would be lying to say I've had no oys, even oy veys, in the main it has been a profoundly meaningful and rewarding experience to be the president of Temple Emanu-El.

I have been blessed by the most wonderful Board of Directors who have been encouraging and supportive. I have served on other non-profit Boards and never have I served with a group of people whose concern for the common good far outweighs any personal interests they might have. Certainly we have had differences of opinion but always expressed with respect for those differences. Jeff Schindler and Eric Rosenzweig, co-presidents elect, have been generous in their support and encouragement and out of a respectful acquaintanceship has evolved a deep appreciation and, dare I say, love for these two men who will lead the congregation for the next two years if you choose to approve the recommended slate of officers and directors.

We have a staff whose dedication to their jobs goes way beyond the ordinary and no president can be successful with out the support of Temple staff. Natalie is the ever cheerful, friendly and welcoming face of Temple Emanu-El. As Rabbi Devorah's assistant, Donna knows everything about everything in my experience, and on the rare occasions she does not know something, she finds out. My go-to person during these two years has been our extraordinary Executive Director who has made me look good at every turn and gave me an education that I will treasure forever. She is critical to the effective functioning of the synagogue and having learned what it takes to run this place, I know that Shiri Haines is a big reason we are doing so well.

Of course no synagogue would be able to carry out its mission without dedicated clergy. Rabbi Devorah and Rabbi Benj have brought enthusiasm, dedication and vision as well as rabbinic wisdom. Their collaborative relationship is an example for everyone. I hear that in some synagogues there is a disconnect between rabbis and lay leadership but I have not experienced anything but support and encouragement from our rabbis.

The best way to feel included in the community that we are is to become involved. Join a committee, work on a project, help in the office, come to events and classes. Let us get to know you!

With gratitude and peace,

Madeline Gershwin

President

SENIOR RABBI, DEVORAH MARCUS



This year marks a very special time for me personally - less than one month ago, I was blessed to celebrate a double milestone. Ten years of marriage and ten years of being a rabbi. As one friend on Facebook commented, it's my Rabbiversary! Naturally, as I prepared to write this message, I have been thinking a great deal about what these milestones mean and how they inform my life and my work.

Being a rabbi of a congregation is very much like being in a marriage. It is a profound commitment, a great deal of work, and rewarding beyond measure. Being a rabbi here, at Temple Emanu-El continues to be an incredible experience of sacred covenant. Our synagogue has grown. We have new committees working hard to make the world a better place. We have well-seasoned committees working hard to make the world a better place. We have the most amazing volunteers who created an incredible gala that has strengthened our future. We have the most wonderful, apolitical board who work together in an atmosphere of respect and mutuality to lead our synagogue and ensure our institutional wellness. We have a robust community of learners who engage in deep thinking and vigorous debate all while modeling respectful and healthy dialogue. There is no way that I could be the rabbi that I am without having such amazing partnership from our incredible community.

On the other side of my life, I have spent ten years now in sacred partnership with an amazing and humble man who will not enjoy being bragged about publicly. Being a rabbi means accepting a very different life that is filled with constant business, many celebrations, and many moments where the needs of congregants come first. For ten years, Sebastian has understood this delicate balance and has supported me totally and completely in my career and in this sacred calling. He is a true partner and he strengthens me in my work. He also makes sure I rest and refresh after I run myself ragged.

On this fifth year anniversary of our sacred partnership between myself and our Temple Emanu-El family, and on this ten year Rabbiversary, I continue to be in awe at the blessing of being the senior rabbi here. I'm especially happy that today we will affirm continuing our sacred partnership with my next contract that will carry us through our own ten year anniversary. May we continue together in growth, in meaningful engagement, in building our future and in sacred partnership. May we continue from strength to strength. May this be God's will as it is our own.

With Deepest Respect and Gratitude,

Rabbi Devorah Marcus

Senior Rabbi

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SHIRI HAINES

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

These were truly reflected this year at Temple Emanu-El. All the successes of the cooperative efforts of our community show that you all can dream and brighten the light of our future Temple Emanu-El. I see a successful past forged in hard work and determination, in steadfastness and love for your faith community, and I see a future full of the fruits of those labors and the bright light of hope with even more determination to keep adding to these accomplishments. Each year we achieve more and more and I am justly excited about the future Temple Emanu-El. Every year I think it can't get any better, and yet it does!



The plans, preparations and groundwork put in place last year flourished in this year's many successes. There were so many I couldn't possible list them all. We welcomed Rabbi Benj with an amazing Installation Shabbat, a new Rabbi's office, a renovated Torah School office, and new furniture for all the students in the Torah School. This was all possible because of your generous donations at last year's Gala. Torah School, our Youth Groups and our Adult Education program thrived this year with the addition of Rabbi Benj to our amazing staff. We are a great team!

Temple Emanu-El introduced a new secure website, thanks to the incredible efforts of Donna Lander. Our music programing is even more jubilant and joyful as we welcomed back Marshal Voit for the High Holy Days, a new Shabbat Band, and the Zimriyah Choir is back! We welcomed Dr. Daniel Matt, renowned Kabbalah scholar, for an entire weekend of Scholar-in-Residence learning activities.

Stefani Lenett once again hit it out of the park, as we all knew she would, with another incredibly successful and festive Gala Fiesta. Stefani inspired her hard working team of volunteers and friends, some of whom were not even Temple members, to create an amazing event. What a great achievement! I am so proud of the Gala Committee! We are excited to see who will step up and take the challenge for next year's Gala event and make it their own.

After many months of hard work, the Temple Board and By-Laws Committee, led by Marilyn Pongeggi with the assistance of Steven Mashal, completed a major update of the Temple Emanu-El By-Laws. For the fourth year in a row the Temple Budget will end with a surplus, the solar loan was paid off early, the endowments are growing, and Temple Emanu-El continues to thrive. Looking forward, as we always should, I know there is even more to come!

Shiri Haines

Executive Director

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.

We had a very eventful year in the Torah School. We enrolled 126 students this year, ran the Avodah Mitzvah Core, and graduated five enthusiastic Madrichim in Training.

Our teachers in the Torah School continue to be our best role models for our kids and exemplify passion, dedication, and kindness. We brought on two new teachers, both of whom did exemplary work for us this year. I led our teachers in professional development sessions dedicated to discipline with dignity, project based learning, and encouraging connoisseurship in teaching. Teacher morale is up significantly this year, and all teachers who are staying in town have committed to teaching this upcoming school year.

The Torah School has piloted several new programs this year. Most prominently, our social media intern Rachel Rosenzweig, has set up the Torah School with a Facebook page, which has been instrumental in breaking down the barrier between the home and Torah School. Parents can see pictures of their kids having fun at Torah School, get updates on events, and see what their kids learned that week. Star and I have also amplified the Parents and Children Together (PACT) programming. We now provide a light breakfast and after the parents and students learn together in class, I take the parents and do adult learning with them. It has been a big hit and really underscores our belief that Jewish learning is a life-long process.

Our electives continue to be the favorite part of Torah School for our kids. We have offered new electives this year including Dance and Jewish music. Our drama elective has not only put on the annual Hanukkah Play and Purim Spiel, but it also serves as a fantastic example of project based learning.

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 sleepovers. Our high school youth group SanETY has not only been a programming success for social events, but they have also done tremendous good in our community from working on MLK day, to doing beach clean ups, to the Midnight Run.

One particular success the Torah School has had this year has been in fundraising. Our Cabaret Night exceeded our fundraising goal for the first time ever and was a fabulous evening of entertainment from our very talented students and temple members. With the generosity of the Cohn family, our Hamantashen bake and Purim Carnival raised over \$20,000 for Camperships. We were able to provide scholarships for 27 students to go to over half a dozen Jewish summer camps.

Other programming successes this year have included the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Camp at Camp Marston in Julian and our monthly Family Shabbatot, which continue to be very well attended.

Overall, it has been a fantastic year in the Torah School. I look forward to the fall and this coming year of learning, fun, and Torah.

Rabbi Benj Fried

Rabbi Educator

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR, TAMARA LEVIN

The school year is drawing to a close and once again we are listening to the sweet voices of our graduating class swaying to, 'Three Little Birds' as the school gears up for the Shalom program. We have grown as a preschool community, forged friendships, and supported one another. Together we have participated in yoga classes, parenting classes, and professional development for the staff. We hosted a pancake breakfast and introduced our new preschool logo and apparel. We collaborated on yet another amazing fundraiser which netted \$10,000 allowing us to purchase a brand new listening library, bikes, balls, play structure for the small playground, STEM manipulatives, and two sheds.

The staff and I are committed to providing a nurturing, vibrant, developmentally appropriate, discovery-based environment, which allows children to develop to their maximum potential. The 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. Another important goal is to ensure a meaningful partnership with the larger Temple Emanu-El community. To this end, we participated in activities with Jewish Family Service such as creating butterflies, singing in the sukkah, lighting the Menorah, and parading in Purim costumes.

We have been 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 and are encouraged to volunteer, attend special celebrations, and accompany their children on field trips.

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-a-long every Friday with the entire preschool.

An exciting addition to our preschool is the new toddler component class (18-30 months), which completed its first successful year. We welcomed 11 new toddlers to our program that has grown to a daily intake of 66 children.

Our 9-week summer program was divided into three 3-week sessions. This format is so successful that we are opening a third classroom during Sessions 1 and 3 to accommodate additional children and to ensure a premium camp experience. Each session explores a different theme with the third week focusing on science and nature exploration relating to the topic.

Thank you to the congregation, Temple staff, and board members for being so supportive of our preschool. We look forward to continuing our collaboration as the next school year approaches.

Tamara Levin

Preschool Director

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Cathi Marx

MEMBERS: Patrick Farber, Jon Gordon, Linda Greenberg, Greg Houska, Josh Krimston, Matt Smith

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 recommended an additional security guard for 2.5 additional hours each day during pre-school hours.
- Provides continuous and ongoing assessment of physical conditions throughout the Temple property to identify potential threats and areas that require improvements.
- Conducts emergency drills with the staff and participants of the College Avenue Senior Center. The committee has recommended to the board that the guards be converted to armed guards as budget allows.
- The committee invited the local Department of Homeland Security liaison to the facility to conduct a site assessment, review current protocols and advise on recommendations for improvement
- The committee advised on security for the 2018 Gala along with the Gala committee chairs
- A representative from the committee meets on a regular basis with the Temple Executive Director to keep abreast of challenges and opportunities
- The committee meets with the Pre-school Director and parents as needed to stay current on questions and ensure safety measures are being followed
- The committee conducts annual lockdown, fire / evacuation and earthquake drills with the Torah school, Preschool and Senior Center JFS staff
- The committee coordinates annual High Holy Day security efforts, actively participating in security guard coordination; SDPD community liaison officers and Usher training
- The committee offers periodic safety and security classes to congregants on Sundays such as disaster preparedness and situational awareness.
- The committee contributes to a monthly safety and security column for the temple bulletin.
- The committee submitted two grants through FEMA and Cal-OES for funding for fencing along College Ave. Both were denied. An additional grant will be completed in summer.
- The committee is in the process of updating the emergency manual and safety manual to comply with CAL-OSHA regulations for staff.

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. This past year, the website was updated to a WordPress platform and has a new, fresh look.

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: Natalie Fritz, Claire Fritz, Marilyn Pongeggi, Madeline Gershwin, Barbara Pollack, Roni Breite, Josh Morse

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 been meeting every few months, with 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.

2017-2018 Agenda Items

- High Holiday--- Assign Aliyot Honors
- Organize Lay Led services throughout the year – Shelli Stein
- Address any concerns which are brought up to either the committee or to the rabbi.
- Contribute a monthly article to the temple newsletter regarding Worship Committee plans and events.
- Organize candle lighting at Temple each night of Chanukah
- Committee members volunteered at both Purim and Passover second night events
- Plan an 18th birthday celebration for our Mi Shebeirach tapestry
- Invite Temple Chavurot to lead Shabbat services

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.

Attendance: 4-6 members per meeting

Programs: None scheduled at this time

Goals: Fulfill our new function as a "task force". Responding to the immediate needs. The scheduled 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, Judy Faitek, Lisa Garcia, Barbara Pollack, Barbara Saltzman, Fern Siegal

Following the positive response to the 2016 Yom Kippur Limmud on "A Conversation on Mental Health in the Jewish Community," the Mental Health Subcommittee of the Caring Community was formed. Our mission is to shine a light on behavioral and mental health issues through education, resources and programming. We meet monthly and have a presence in the monthly bulletin and on the Temple website, featuring books and carefully vetted websites.

- Purchased books on a variety of mental health topics for children and parents with funds provided by the Caring Community. These are available in the Torah School office for congregants to borrow.
- Organized a presentation at the Torah School Open House in Fall, 2017, to 25 parents. Cindy Marten, San Diego Unified School District Superintendent, spoke on mental health awareness and stressors for school children.
- Developed a section of questions to be included in the Temple's survey to congregants to encourage feedback for current needs and help with future programming.
- Presented a talk in March to Torah School parents on digital technology and stress in children. Pediatric Psychologist Dr. Marni Nagel included signs to watch for and positive steps parents may take.
- Partnered with the Adult Education Committee in April for a program after a Shabbat Service featuring Gail Braverman speaking on "How to be Happy in an Uncertain World." More than 75 people attended, and feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

Thank you to Rabbi Devorah Marcus and Rabbi Benj Fried for their guidance and support. We are actively looking for more ideas for programs in the coming year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Lee Loventhal

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Betsy Arnold, Helen Elias, Lisa and Fred Goldberg, Barbara Pollack (Secretary), Larry and Marilyn Pongeggi, Ron Reff, Suzanne Schulman, Jean Seager, Lara Shumer, Saul Snyder, Char Sultan

All Jews are called to do Tikkun Olam (repair of the world). Our goal is to make a positive impact on San Diego, the country and the world. As a committee, we feel very strongly that Social Action activities are the external face of Temple Emanu-El in the community.

Through your generous donations to the Social Action Fund, the committee votes to allocate money each month to carefully vetted organizations such as Meals on Wheels, International Medical Corps, American Jewish World Service and South Bay Community Service Therapeutic Preschool.

The Social Action committee organizes, promotes and directs congregational efforts to implement programs. Our programs are diverse. and there is something of interest for those of all ages, financial means and physical ability.

Our projects and activities for this year include:

- Mitzvah of the Month - a collection of specific items such as school supplies, pet items, blankets, infant and children's items, books to be distributed in the San Diego area to groups such as the Alpha Project, Light One Little Candle, Words Alive, Veterans Village, Ibarra Elementary School and Rancho Coastal Humane Society. Requested items change each month.
- Bagel Brigade - each week, volunteers pick up unsold bagels at Einstein Bagels and deliver them to Rachel's Women's Shelter. Project coordinated by Lara Shumer.
- 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.
- 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. This interfaith project in January attracts over 500 participants to clean up and beautify Balboa Park, followed by a picnic, music and time to socialize with other groups.
- Pride Parade, held in July each year, is San Diego's largest parade. Our participation shows that Temple Emanu-El is a supportive and safe community for all Jews.
- Stand Down for Homeless Veterans provides food, shelter, clothing, medical screening, legal and military benefit assistance, as well as referrals to shelters, rehab centers and permanent housing. Stand Down is held each July on the grounds of San Diego High School.
- High Holy Day Food Drive for the Hand Up Food Pantry at Jewish Family Service. Food, cash donations and gift cards are accepted. We also collect pet food, toiletries and more to distribute to other organizations. Though most synagogues collect food during the High Holy Days, Temple Emanu-El normally 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.
- Dreams for Change provides safe parking for those people living in their cars and working to end their homelessness. We organize people to bring home cooked dinners to the group. Project coordinated by Suzanne Schulman.

We appreciate your support of these programs, and look forward to having you work with us in the coming year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Beverly Victor

Committee Members: Wendy Ponomarenko, Lois Shive, Arden Winokur
(Lois & Arden have taken a leave from active participation at this time.)

The library has a new software system to put the book collection online. All Temple members may get a library card. Torah School students may check out books as well with their teachers. We are currently setting up the website and then seeking volunteers to catalog the collection by scanning barcodes. Mature students who wish to get community service are invited to participate.

The goal is to have the library collection added to the website. This will allow patrons to see what is available and self checkout what they want to borrow. Overdue notices will be automatically generated. It still is an honor system but with more access by the congregation. New books from donations will be added and with barcodes, inventory is automated. Links to useful sites may be added.

There was one training session attended by Wendy and myself. A second session is scheduled for May 4th for catalogers. The software vendor provides 24/7 Customer Service and cloud maintenance of the website.

The more volunteers, the sooner the website will be up. Wendy will have a table at Torah School to solicit volunteers.

ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Madelynn Micon

Committee Members: Laurie Baron, Judy Faitek, Cecile Fleetwood, Madelynn Micon, Sheri Rosenberg, Hayley Salazar, Lois Shive, Dennis Shive, Yvonne Williams, Sarit Wosicki

Our Mission: “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

A very special Scholar-In-Residence weekend was the highlight of our year. On the weekend of February 9th-11th. Danny Matt, the foremost authority on the Jewish mystical tradition, gave us several learning opportunities on Kabbalah. His presentations were educational, thoughtful and most of all inspirational.

We were also privileged to have Dr. Sandy Lakoff again. His presentation on “Israel at 70...” was enlightening. Mr. Lakoff provided attendees with an insightful and through look at the past and current situation in Israel.

Adult Hebrew beginning and intermediate Hebrew classes were offered in Fall and Spring.

The on-going programs, Coffee with the Rabbi, and the popular Torah for the Table, brought congregants together for times of friendship, fun and shared learning, as did our wonderful Movie Series, “Hollywood Holy Days”, led by Laurie Baron.

Finally, as always, the classes led by Rabbi Devorah, Rabbi Benj and Rabbi Lawson were educational, wonderfully presented, and well received. This year’s courses included: “Judaism and Environmentalism”; “Introduction to Kabbalah”; and “Israel: A Nation Reborn.”

We are very happy to welcome Rabbi Benj, our new Rabbi Educator and liaison with the Temple administration. He has provided us with guidance, insight and ideas that have helped this committee to a better provide this congregation with both on-going and new opportunities for adult life-long learning. We are happy to be working with him.

To all Temple members who have joined us and participated in this year’s activities TODA RABA. We hope you received as much enjoyment and knowledge out of them as we had in planning and participating in them. 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 is 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:

- *Dr. Gloria Harris, author talk
- *Artisan Festival
- *Chanukah Party
- *TuBiSh'vat Seder
- *Jewelry Repair Night
- *Sisterhood Shabbat

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

We purchased, engraved and presented kiddush cups to Bar and Bat Mitzvah students.

We also supported the following with monetary donations:

- *Gala Tribute
- *Torah School Fundraiser
- *SanETY Midnight Run
- *Giving Tuesday
- *Rabbi Benj's Discretionary Fund
- *Fire Victims
- *Camp Newman

Our current Board Members are:

Judi Schecter, President
Tammy Lampke, Treasurer
Lynn Grady, Secretary
Mary Loera and Becca Bierman, Membership Chairs
Rhonda Schwartz, Mitzvah Chair
Cecile Fleetwood, Historian
Nancy Marcus, WRJ Liaison

Our new Board Members are:

Rhonda Schwartz, President
Judy Becker, 3rd Vice President/Programming
Barbara Chancy, Treasurer
Marcia Berneger and Becca Bierman, Recording Secretaries
Elean Levens Craig, Mitzvah Representative
Nancy Marcus, District Liaison
Lynn Grady, Temple Board Liaison

Our two 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.

Without you we are one woman short!



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