

# TEMPLE ISRAEL-ANNUAL MEETING 2023

## AGENDA

24 Iyar 5783 ♦ May 15, 2023

*Please take the time before the meeting starts to review the committee reports that have been provided. They represent the results of many hours of volunteer work by your fellow congregants. There is no precedence implicit in the order of the reports.*

1. OPENING PRAYER
2. WELCOME
3. CLERGY REPORTS
4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT
5. Q & A ABOUT PRESENTED AND WRITTEN REPORTS
6. ELECTION OF 2023-2024 OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES
7. FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT
8. TREASURER'S REPORT:
  - CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION (INCOME/EXPENSES JULY 1, 2022 – APRIL 30, 2023)
  - PRESENTATION OF THE 2023-2024 BUDGET AND DUES STRUCTURE
  - REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL PROPOSAL.
9. AVODAH AWARDS
10. NEW BUSINESS
11. CLOSING PRAYER



## DATES TO REMEMBER

Always check [www.templeisraelsiny.org](http://www.templeisraelsiny.org) & weekly News & Notes e-mail for latest information  
Erev Shabbat services at 7:30 PM on Fridays except first Fridays at 7:00 PM.  
Torah Study Saturdays at 10 AM followed by Shabbat morning services. Via ZOOM except 5/20.

- 05/15** Congregational Annual Meeting
- 05/17** UJA Community Celebration @ JCC Russell Kaminsky Temple Israel honoree
- 05/19 Erev Shabbat; Torah Service (Jesse Siegel reader,) Consecration of the Confirmands  
Oneg sponsored by Cantor Bernstein, Ballow & Siegel families.
- 05/20 Sisterhood Shabbaton
- 05/21 Final day of Religious School (Celebration)
- 05/25** Erev Shavuot; Confirmation.
- 05/26 10:30 am Festival Morning service with Yizkor (in-person)  
7:30 pm Erev Shabbat; Oneg sponsored by Judy Lee
- 06/04 Brotherhood End of Year Breakfast
- 06/05 Executive Board  
Calendar Planning meeting
- 06/06** Fundraising – Dining to Donate at Jimmy Max
- 06/09 Erev Shabbat; Board installation
- 06/12 Board meeting
- 06/13 Sisterhood End of Year Dinner
- 06/16 Erev Shabbat; Brotherhood / Sisterhood Installation

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• **Please remember there is a way to donate to Temple Israel with ZERO out of pocket cost to you:**

**Purchase gift certificates at face value for your favorite stores and Amazon. Larry Hanibal will deliver them to your door! See page 16 for details**

**DON'T BE LEFT OUT**

Are you staying informed about Temple Israel?

- Get our Weekly News & Notes email on Wednesdays with family happenings, calendar reminders and Temple information.
- Shabbat Program with Streaming & Zoom links sent on Friday.
- E-Shalom is mailed monthly, including the summer!

Send an email to the Temple office at [OFFICE@TEMPLEISRAELSINY.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@TEMPLEISRAELSINY.ORG) and you need to be added to the mailing lists.

**TEMPLE ISRAEL – ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – MAY 2023**

Temple Israel Reform Congregation of Staten Island

March 26, 2023

The Nominating Committee would like to thank all the Board for their work as we emerged from COVID isolation to in-person services and expanded the diversity of our congregation.

We would particularly like to thank Linda Brill and Sandy Mazzucco for taking on the task of guiding the congregation this year with Bryn Biren and Felicia Otto and are stepping back from their roles as co-Presidents. Our thanks also go to Alan Siegel who took on the job of Financial Secretary not only this past year but covering it during the last year of his presidency after the tragic loss of Jennifer Straniere. Vice President Larry Hanibal, our key player in the certificate program, is also leaving the Executive Board. Finally, we thank Polina Leibovich who served as Trustee this past year.

The nominating committee is proud that we have brought three people to the Board – Chad Rachman and Sarah Sarfati and increasing their commitment to the Temple, and Bob Zuckerberg has returned to the Board after many years and is a valuable source of past practices.

Below is our proposed slate.

Executive Board Terms ending May 31, 2024

Co-Presidents: Bryn Biren and Felicia Otto

First Co-Vice Presidents: Remy Smith and Russell Kaminsky

Second Co-Vice Presidents: Nina Rohan and Sandy Mazzucco

Treasurer: Jeffrey Chason

Financial Secretary: Jackie Rabinowitz

Recording Secretary: Claire Guttsman

Corresponding Secretary: Jerrold Gross

Trustees for a One Year Term ending May 31, 2024:

Linda Brill, Deanna Feder, Rebecca Hand, Larry Hanibal, Judith Pessah, Chad Rachman, Sarah Sarfati, Alan Siegel and Robert Zuckerberg

Trustees for their first 3-year Term ending May 31, 2026:

Fern Barris and Marni Blit

Trustees for the second 3-year term ending May 31, 2026:

Cheryl Levine; Judy Scher & Lissa Winchel

Trustees continuing in their first 3-year terms:

Blanche Ricci: (ending May 31, 2024)

Samuel Gornstein; Beverly Mazer; Joanna Meltzer and Jodi Siegel (ending May 21, 2025)

Trustees continuing in their second of two 3-year terms:

Barbara Fried; Pamela Rogozin and Inez Singer (ending 5/31/2024)

Alina Shteynberg and Phil Straniere (ending 5/31/2025)

Honorary Trustee

Arnold Grossman

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Baver (chair,) Barbara Feigelman, Barbara Fried, Jim Rohan Alina Shteynberg

Nominating Committee

## **Co-Presidents' Annual Report to the Congregation**

This year we transitioned fully from pandemic life to on site life at our congregation by taking off our masks and seeing each other's smiles once again. It felt good! At the same time, we followed city and state guidelines and we recommended masking at High Holiday Services where many people gathered in one place.

We welcomed Cantor Bernstein's return to Temple Israel after an absence of 16 years. She began rehearsals with the adult choir on September 1st and has been with us 2 Shabbats each month. She re-established a junior choir after many years, and was involved in community outreach with our congregation. She wrote and executed a terrific Purim Shpiel, with the highest attendance in years, and got three generations of congregants involved in the show. We have recently contracted her to return next year with a third Shabbat service per month on average throughout the year. Her contract was written with the intention and option of a third year following next.

On Saturday morning September 24th, one day before Rosh Hashanah, Rabbi Howald came down with COVID and two hours later Cantor Bernstein was set, prepared and ready to lead Rosh Hashanah services on her own. We thank her and we are grateful for Rabbi's full recovery.

A week before the new year, our office manager John Burman, received a great job opportunity and we hired Nilaja Troy as our office manager. Nilaja came onboard in the beginning of January 2023, learning the office quickly and working with us to modernize some of the office systems. She has helped us move to Quickbooks for easier record keeping and payroll, she has worked closely with our Treasurer as they meet three times a week, and she helped in making our 75th anniversary event and journal a success. While the office runs smoothly, so does our building thanks to our long-time, valued custodian Gerard Altieri, our part-time custodian, Justin LaPierre, and House Co-Chairs: Russell Kaminsky and Alan Siegel. This year we experienced several needs for the House Committee not only to facilitate building needs but to literally clean, take out garbage and break down and set up social hall use time and again. Thank you Russell and Alan!

We are proud that post-pandemic we were able to maintain our annual membership commitment figures as they have been for several years. The last increase was in 2019 and the one before that was in 2015. This year we are in the process of replacing our handlift in the lobby which enables congregants and extended family members who have difficulty with the stairs to enter our sanctuary and social hall. This was a large expense; one that required us to draw on our cash reserves. We are dedicated to our commitment structure with respect to dues for this upcoming 2023-2024 year, however, we do expect a minimal, across the board increase for members in the 2024-2025 year.

On Friday November 18th, we hosted an evening Kavod Society cocktail reception honoring our most generous congregants who make membership commitments at the Kavod Level. As a result of the reception, we gained an additional Kavod Society family and one Kavod Society family increased their commitment level. We are so appreciative of the congregants who are able to give at the Kavod level and do so.

At the end of December, we negotiated a new two -year contract with Rabbi Howald with the option of a third year. We worked with Rabbi to meet the needs of four different Bar Mitzvah students and to provide them and their families the milestone lifecycle event that worked for them. Throughout the year with our full support, our Rabbi has thrived in ensuring lifecycle events are meaningful and rooted in prayer and spirituality. He has been the face of the Temple within our community and in social justice outreach throughout Staten Island. He has led our religious school and we thank him immensely.

A KADIMA- USY group was established with Congregation B' Nai Jeshrun, for the first time in years, to provide activities for children in Grades 6-12 from Temple Israel to join with other Jewish teens on Staten Island.

The Parent's Committee revitalized and strengthened the Religious school and increased individual and family participation and attendance at our Family services. What's more we watched lasting bonds and friendships among the students and their families form. We hired three new teachers for our school.

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In February, we began group work-and we will have more- for our Board of Trustees to work together to identify areas of need for our congregation and how we can best create solutions and strategic plans moving forward to best communicate with congregants, mentor new congregants stepping into leadership roles, and create transparent policies. From this work, we plan to create a handbook for both congregants and Board members over the summer.

This spring we began discussions with the JCC to partner with us in promising ways and which will include joint programming, grant opportunities and the hope for increased Temple membership for families as a result. We are actively involved in working with the JCC in this endeavor.

Throughout the year, Shabbat after Shabbat, we watched the leaders of Sisterhood ensure that our Onegs were set up and ready for us to relax and be together. Thank you to Sisterhood Presidents Judy Lee, Pamela Rogozin and Anita Zuckerberg. Thank you to Brotherhood Presidents Alan Siegel and Bob Zuckerberg.

Each month, we have worked with the Ritual Committee led by Linda Brill, Jerry Gross and Nina Rohan. Some notable Shabbats included Torah reading from congregants and a beautiful Pride Shabbat with help from Ritual and Membership Chairs Sandy Mazzucco and Claire Guttsman. Back in the start of the year, we held in-person high holiday services thanks to the Ritual committee and the time, dedication and true love and detail that goes into making high holiday services happen. Linda, Jerry, and Nina- you make it look easy but anyone who knows, knows it is not. Thank you.

Finally, just two weeks ago, we celebrated the 75th anniversary of Temple Israel on May 6, 2023 with 130 people in attendance in our Social Hall, including a very successful commemorative journal. We well exceeded our fundraising goal, but more importantly, we witnessed joy, friendship, spirit and fun together on a Saturday night spanning multi-generations of Temple members. The future is bright and there are many more years to come of future generations of Temple Israel.

None of these accomplishments would be possible without the support of all of our congregants, the tireless work of our Executive Board and the leaders of Sisterhood and Brotherhood. Thank you to Board Vice Presidents: Larry Hanibal, Russell Kaminsky, and Nina Rohan; Corresponding Secretary Jerry Gros; Recording Secretary Remy Smith, and Treasurer Jeff Chason. A special recognition to two executive board members who will be stepping down from their posts next year. Larry Hanibal, who has been a long term member of our executive board and has spearheaded our certificate program to ensure that funding comes into our congregation at no cost to members, and to Alan Siegel who has held virtually every office there is on this board for many years and took on the role as financial secretary when we needed it most. Both Alan and Larry will continue on as Trustees of our Board.

On behalf of my Co-Presidents: Bryn Biren, Linda Brill, Sandy Mazzucco and myself, I thank you all for entrusting us to help lead this congregation, it is a privilege, one we do not take lightly.

Felicia Otto  
Co-President

## **Rabbi's Report for Congregational Meeting**

The past year has been an eventful year in the life of the congregation. This past year we rekindled the synagogue's relationship with Cantor Suzanne Bernstein and adapted to a new schedule of services and religious school operation as a result. Cantor Bernstein brought life and vitality into our services made possible by her experience and long association with Temple Israel. As a result, attendance at our family services typically reaches over 50 and includes, for the first time in years, the presence of a junior choir. I am pleased that Cantor Bernstein will be with us next year as well, helping to lead Holiday services as well as almost 3 Shabbat services a month. I look forward to continuing our productive and enjoyable collaboration in the year ahead.

I also want to acknowledge two people who have stepped up to help lead services with me when Cantor Bernstein is not available. Jim Rohan has done everything I have asked of him and more over all my years at Temple Israel and I am so thankful and gratified that he has accepted even more responsibility this year. Jim brings joy to every service he helps lead, whether on Shabbat or on Sundays at religious school, and it's fitting that I acknowledge all his assistance and accompaniment in my report.

Sim Lenner, one of our confirmation students, also volunteered to help lead religious school services this year. Her ability and confidence have increased over every service. Where once she played along with either Jim Rohan or Cantor Bernstein, Sim is now capable of leading services with me on her own. She brings competence and enthusiasm to every service and her participation is, I believe, an inspiration for the other young people in our congregation. I am so thankful for her presence on the bima on Sunday mornings and I wanted to bring her efforts to the attention of those in the congregation who might not be aware of all her efforts!

Our religious school has also seen a number of changes in the past year. We lost almost all of our teachers from last year as the result of career changes and family relocations. Accordingly, we began this year with 3 entirely new teachers. To help guide their instruction, we purchased a multiyear curriculum from ShalomLearning.org geared to the needs and traditions of a Reform congregation. We also met with them a number of times to provide additional materials and advice from teachers with past experience with our school. A number of parents also stepped in to assist the school on a consistent basis, especially Felicia Otto and Remy Smith, and I am grateful for the time and attention they devoted to students and the school over the past year as well as to all the other parents who provided food and supplies to supplement our instruction. As we look forward to the end of this school year and the beginning of the next, we believe we have set the foundation for an even more successful year in the coming year.

On a personal note, I signed an extension of my relationship with Temple Israel that runs through the end of 2026. Whatever my end date, however, rest assured that I intend to devote my entire professional energies into this congregation until my final day. I am also committed, when the time comes, to assist in the hiring of my successor to insure a smooth transition to new clergy leadership. Being your rabbi has been one of the singular honors of my life and I look forward to fulfilling my duties as your rabbi over the years ahead.

Rabbi Michael D. Howald

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A NOTE FROM CANTOR BERNSTEIN:

Dear Members of Temple Israel

Thank you for your warm welcome and all your support this year. It truly has been a privilege to return to Temple Israel as your cantor. To me it feels like coming full circle. Rabbi Michael Howald is a real mensch, and I could not ask for a better clergy partner.

Here is a snapshot of the events of the past year: The senior choir sang beautifully on the High Holy Days and each month for Shabbat. The small but mighty junior choir enlivened each Family Service. The Rock of Israel band put the simcha in Simchat Torah.

Choir and temple members brought the joy of Shabbat, Chanukah, Purim and Passover to folks residing at the Brielle. Thanks to Jodi Siegel who made all the arrangements, and brought along a beautiful kiddush to each visit.

I've enjoyed singing with confirmand, Sim Lenner for Sunday morning Tefillah in religious school. Sim is a gem!

The Purimspiel was definitely a highlight of the year for me. Thanks to all the brave performers, and especially to the amazing Brooke Lopez who co-directed and went above and beyond to put the spiel together.

Another highlight was the return of some of the Jr Choir alums for the 75 to anniversary party. Their singing of "The Youth Shall See Visions" gave everyone tremendous hope for the future of our congregation.

I am absolutely delighted that I will be continuing as your cantor next year. Together we will continue to build on our accomplishments.

May we go from strength to strength!

Respectfully submitted,

Cantor Suzanne Bernstein

## Ritual Committee Annual Report to the Congregation

This year, as the world returned to a more usual pace, our committee met regularly, in person during the summer months but mostly on Zoom during the balance of the year. The members of the committee are Co-Chairs Linda Brill, Jerrold Gross and Nina Rohan, and members Sue Freedman, Barbara Fried, Jeffrey Ganz, Shariann Ganz, Silvia Gornstein, Claire Guttsman, Cheryl Levine, Beverly Mazer, Jodi Siegel and Remy Smith as well as new member Lee Brooks. Rabbi Howald attends our meetings regularly as well as the Co-Presidents of Sisterhood and Brotherhood who serve as non-voting members of the Committee. This year Alan Siegel attended our meetings representing Brotherhood and Judy Lee, Pam Rogozin and/or Anita Zuckerberg attended representing Sisterhood when they were able.

As a standing committee of the congregation, the Ritual Committee is charged with interacting with our clergy to assure that the form and substance of worship and ritual at Temple Israel meets the needs and desires of the Congregation. Specific duties can include but are not limited to:

- A) Planning worship services in consultation with the clergy;
- B) Support of worship services including prayer books;
- C) Working with clergy to ensure coverage of services during scheduled and emergency absence of clergy;
- D) Life cycle event planning, including guides for congregants;
- E) Ritual related policies, and
- F) Supporting the spiritual life of the Congregation.

Subcommittees may be appointed at the discretion of the committee chairs in consultation with the President(s) to accomplish certain tasks e.g.: ushering, bookplates, the annual Memory Book, High Holy Day honors, framing of the Confirmation pictures; Memorial Walls and the review of new prayer books.

In keeping with the above delineated responsibilities, we note the following for the year 2022-2023.

In the spring of 2022, we transitioned to the new year by saying farewell to Student Cantor Shirel Richman and Lincoln Richman and welcoming back to Temple Israel Cantor Suzanne Bernstein on a part time basis. Although not officially starting until September she participated in the Erev Shabbat Service in June for the Board Installation. Also, in June 2022 were the Sisterhood/Brotherhood Installation, the Bar Mitzvahs of Jacob Holden Chason and Ethan Jacob Schwartz and the observance of Shavuot.

The summer, as usual, required the support of lay leaders. Jim Rohan provided musical leadership for Friday night Services starting June 24<sup>th</sup> and throughout the summer. Libby Gershansky and Jerrold Gross each were a prayer leader for a Friday night Service in July when Rabbi Howald was on vacation. And with Rabbi Howald taking his usual break from Saturday morning Torah Study and Service for the summer we thank Torah Study leaders Linda Brill, Arnie Grossman, JR Rich, Barbara Fried, Kathi Kass, Maxine Cohen and Judy Lee. Our summer Saturday morning prayer leader was Pamela Carlton with Jaimie Blackman and Dr. Ken Pickover. We note that Saturday morning Torah Study and Service remain on the Zoom platform except for special dates and events. Jaimie Blackman and Dr. Ken Pickover provide musical accompaniment on Saturday mornings throughout the year when they are available, and Jim Rohan provides musical leadership on most Friday nights when Cantor Bernstein is not here. It is important to recognize Sim Lenner for musical accompaniment at Sunday morning school Services this year with Jim Rohan or Cantor Bernstein or on her own.

During the summer, the main responsibility of the Ritual Committee with Rabbi Howald and the guidance of the Temple Israel leadership is to plan for the in-person and streamed High Holy Day Services. As usual, the updating of honors and cues were required.

In preparation for the High Holy Days, Selichot was observed in person on Saturday evening September 17<sup>th</sup> led by Rabbi Howald and Cantor Bernstein and included light refreshments, a study session “The Power of Regret”, Havdalah and the Selichot Service during which the Torah Covers were changed.

Additional preparation included finalizing the Memory Book with the help of Cheryl Levine, Silvia Gornstein, office manager John Burman; the computer expertise of Jerrold Gross; and the printing services of Luke’s Copy Shop as well as the polishing of Ritual Silver and Silver trays with the assistance of Sisterhood members Pamela Carlton, Sue Freedman, Blanche Ricci, Pamela Rogozin, Nina Rohan and Linda Brill and having the white Torah covers dry cleaned with the help of Jeff and Shariann Ganz and having the white Bimah flowers refreshed.



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When Rabbi Howald tested positive for COVID right before Rosh Hashanah we were blessed to have Cantor Bernstein lead us both in prayer and song for Rosh Hashanah and have Terry Baver and Remy Smith read the Sermons Rabbi had prepared. Fortunately, Rabbi Howald recovered rather quickly and was able to join us again for Shabbat Shuvah where we welcomed guest Cantor Bandman. Rabbi Howald and Cantor Bernstein led Kol Nidre and our various Yom Kippur Services. The presence of the adult choir and musicians including organist Elona Migirov and cellist Vincent Moncada (Yom Kippur) beautified our High Holy Day Services. We are grateful to all congregants who accepted honors, and to our shofar blowers and ushers. The 5783 Memory Book was distributed at the Yizkor Service of Yom Kippur. Copies were available for pick-up in the Temple lobby and copies were mailed to those who do not live on Staten Island and members and non-members who were not currently coming to Temple in person.

We note that although COVID restrictions had been relaxed before September, for High Holy Day Services only adults and children sixteen and older had to show proof of vaccination or present a negative Covid 19 test result taken within the previous 36 hours.

Holiday observances and celebrations continued with Sukkot Services both in the evening and morning where we were able to wave our Lulav and Etrog in six directions and bless our wine and challah in the new Sukkah provided by Brotherhood. Thank you to Jim Rohan for driving with Linda to Young Israel to pick-up the 6 Lulav and Etrog Sets ordered through Roy Shmuckler at The Jewish Foundation School. The observance of Simchat Torah followed, again with both Erev and Morning Services. During the Erev Service students new to our Religious School were blessed and received a gift, new Temple members were blessed and formally welcomed, and we waved flags and danced with the Torahs with music provided by the Rock of Israel Band led by Cantor Bernstein. Rabbi Howald and Cantor Bernstein led both Erev Sukkot and Simchat Torah Services with Cantor Bernstein joining Rabbi on Simchat Torah morning as well. That morning Service included a Yizkor Service.

We thank Ritual Co-Chair Nina Rohan for scheduling our congregant ushers throughout the year and the congregant honors for Sukkot and Simchat Torah as well as Torah Service honors during the year.

And at the conclusion of our High Holy Days and fall Festival Services we were grateful to be able to celebrate life cycle events in the month of October with the baby naming of Sadie Rae Safier, daughter of Elizabeth Rohan and Jereme Safier and granddaughter of Nina and Jim Rohan and congratulate Mia Illiana Shperling and Alexa Gabrielle Shperling and their family as each was called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

At the November 11<sup>th</sup> Erev Shabbat Service members of the Adult Choir coordinated by Jodi Siegel provided musical leadership and accompaniment when our scheduled musical leader Jim Rohan was under the weather and could not sing.

In December in a continued effort to enrich our Services we invited congregants to participate in a Torah Service with Rabbi Howald and Jim Rohan. Chad Rachman read Torah, Libby Gershansky gave the D'Var Torah, Dr. Ira Gershansky did the Aliyah and approximately eighteen other congregants participated in the Service.

We were able to celebrate Chanukah in many ways, including the Sisterhood sponsored Holiday Fair, Hanukkah/Pajamika and the Hanukkah/New Member Dinner on December 16<sup>th</sup> and the Erev Shabbat Hanukkah Service with Rabbi Howald, Cantor Bernstein and the Adult and Junior Choirs and the School Hanukkah Party. We note that as the first candle was lit on December 19<sup>th</sup>, the actual Shabbat in Hanukkah was on Friday December 23. That Service led by Rabbi Howald and Jim Rohan was moved to the Zoom platform due to anticipated inclement weather.

Phineas Larson read Torah at the Erev Shabbat Service of January 13<sup>th</sup> while his mom Remy Smith did the Aliyah. Congregants who had accepted the honor of being on the Bimah, Cheryl Levine and Co-President Sandy Mazzucco helped with the undressing and dressing of the Torah, ark door opening and closing and Rabbi Howald lifted the scroll (Hagba'ah) The Erev Shabbat Service of January 20<sup>th</sup> was an Island wide Scout Shabbat and we were happy to welcome members of The Staten Island Jewish Girl Scout and Boy Scout Committees and all the Leaders and Scouts who joined us. And on Friday evening January 27 our Erev Shabbat Service included a life cycle event with the Baby Naming of Diana Evelyn Kolsar, daughter of Shannen and Jordan Kolesar, granddaughter of Pamela and Michael Rogozin.

Shabbat Shira was observed at the Erev Shabbat Service of February 3 led by Rabbi Howald and Cantor Bernstein which included the Adult and Junior Choirs with Cantor Bernstein chanting Torah. And although it was also a Family Service with the celebration of February Birthdays and Anniversaries, the regular Mishkan T'Filah prayerbook was used.

On February 10<sup>th</sup> we were honored to have Carol Bullock from the Pride Center as a guest speaker at our Erev Shabbat Service. Rabbi Howald took some time off during the last week of February. We thank Past President Jerrold Gross for leading the Erev

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Shabbat Service on February 24<sup>th</sup>, Arnie Grossman for leading Torah Study and Pamela J. Carlton for leading the Saturday morning Service with the musical accompaniment Dr. Ken Pickover on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

Purim was celebrated and observed in many ways at Temple. We thank Brotherhood and the Parent's Committee for the Purim Carnival on the evening of Saturday March 4<sup>th</sup>, Sisterhood for organizing and arranging for the purchase of and/or sponsorship of Shalach Manot Bags that enabled bags to be distributed to all congregants attending on Erev Purim on March 6<sup>th</sup> along with the sharing of Hamantaschen. Erev Purim started at 6:30 PM that night with the Megillah reading. Congregants were asked to volunteer to be readers prior to the services and a schedule of readers was made. Seventeen congregants participated. We are grateful to Rabbi Howald, Cantor Bernstein, the Megillah readers, Brooke Lopez, Jodi Siegel and the cast and crew of "Schlep Back to the Purim Spiel" and to all those who joined in person (over 100) or on the stream. On Saturday March 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM Ma'ayan Feldman was called to the Bimah as a Bat Mitzvah. Ma'ayan also helped lead the Service on Friday night Erev Shabbat on March 10<sup>th</sup>. We congratulate Ma'ayan and all her family.

The Erev Shabbat Service of March 17<sup>th</sup> included Torah reading by Rabbi Howald. Kevin Lipsitz brought the Torah to the Congregation (Hakafah), Barbara Fried had the Aliyah, Bryn Biren and Barbara Fried were the Dressers, Rabbi lifted the Torah (Hagba'ah) and Kevin and Bryn were Ark Door Openers.

And the Erev Shabbat of March 24<sup>th</sup> included the Auf Ruf of Alexa Layne Winchel and Christopher D'Antonio. Alexa is the daughter of Lissa and Neil Winchel.

Sisterhood hosted the Jennifer Straniere Memorial Passover Community Seder on Wednesday evening April 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. Thank you to Jodi Siegel and her committee for their dedication and commitment to the Seder and to Rabbi and Cantor for the meaningful and joyful Seder Service. The scheduled first day Passover Service on Thursday April 6<sup>th</sup> did not happen as no congregants attended. The 7<sup>th</sup> day Passover Service including Yizkor on Wednesday April 12 at 10:30 AM with Rabbi Howald and Cantor Bernstein proceeded with low attendance.

The usual schedule of Erev Shabbat Services in April was changed due to Passover and the Spring Break school schedules. April 7<sup>th</sup> was a regular Erev Shabbat Service starting at 7:30PM with a Kosher for Passover Oneg. April 21<sup>st</sup> was the Family Service at 7:00 PM and included a Torah Reading and the April Birthday/Anniversary Oneg. Thank you to participants – Torah Service: Ark Openers-Jessica, Gregg and Hannah Brown, Reader-Elliot Rachman, Torah Holder-Sim Lenner, Aliyah-Jacob Chason, Torah Reader-Cantor Bernstein, Torah Translation-Jeffrey Chason, Torah Lifter-Rabbi Howald, Ark Openers-Jackie, Michael, and Emilia Rabinowitz, other Readers during Service: Nora Sarfati, Evelyn Sarfati, Austin and Arielle Otto, Candle Lighting: Rian Silverman.

Erev Yom HaShoah was observed on Monday April 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM. Rabbi Howald presented a PowerPoint program on "The Coming of the Third Reich" followed by a Memorial Service. Light refreshments were provided. Approximately 30 plus people attended.

On Saturday morning April 29<sup>th</sup> Ethan DeVito was called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Ethan is the son of Remy Smith and Thomas DeVito.

On Saturday afternoon May 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM in the Sanctuary, Oren Shagenov was called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Oren is the son of Michelle and Eugene Shagenov.

Looking ahead: Erev Shabbat May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM is the Consecration of the Confirmands. There will be a Torah Service that evening with Jesse Siegel as the Torah Reader.

Sisterhood is hosting a Shabbaton on Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Thursday Evening May 25<sup>th</sup> is Erev Shavuot. The Service that starts at 7:00 PM includes Confirmation. The Confirmands are Jacob Chason, Nathaniel Lee, Sim Lenner and Genevieve Lopez.

We note that the Presidents have given the Ritual Committee the task for arranging streaming. It has and continues to be a work in progress. We thank the Board for voting to authorize the purchase of an additional computer which will enable streaming to be done on a dedicated computer. We hope to be able to stream some evening Holiday Services in the near future. Other topics we continue to discuss include Temple Policy with regard to events on Shabbat or around Shabbat and the Ritual Guidelines for Bar/Bat Mitzvah Onegs.

**TEMPLE ISRAEL – ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – MAY 2023**

On behalf of the Ritual Committee, we want to offer special thanks to our office and custodial staff members, including Nilaja Troy, Gerard Altieri, Justin and Susan

Finally, we want to express our gratitude to all those whose efforts have enabled us to continue together as a congregation with worship, study and community. Thank you to Rabbi Howald, Cantor Bernstein, the Adult Choir, Junior Choir, Musical Accompaniments, Temple Leadership including the Officers and Trustees of the Board, Sisterhood, Brotherhood, The Avis Foundation, Committee Chairs and Members (especially our committee members) and all our Congregants. We look forward to working with all of you in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted.  
Linda Brill, Jerry Gross and Nina Rohan



**Ushering Report for 2022 to 2023**

This year the President’s established a procedure by which Board Members would be assigned three dates rather than volunteer for a specific date. In addition, to Board Members we also had other congregants volunteering. A heartfelt thank you to the following for ushering on Shabbat evenings, and various Festival Services:

Fern Barris, Bryn Biren, Marnie Blit, Jeffrey Chason, Deanna Feder, Barbara Feigelman, Barbara Fried, Jeff Ganz, Sam Gornstein, Jerry Gross, Larry Hanibal, Russell Kaminsky, Polina Leibovich, Cheryl Levine, Beverly Mazer, Joanna Meltzer, Felicia Otto, Ilene Pappert, Judy Pessah, Jackie Rabinowitz, Blanche Ricci, Pamela Rogozin, Jim Rohan, Judy Scher, Alina Shteynberg, Alan Siegel, Jesse Siegel, Jodi Siegel, Inez Singer, Remy Smith, Phillip Straniere, Rhonda Trontz-Allen and Lissa Winchel.

In addition the following were on the High Holiday Ushering team (Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur):

Steven Baver, Terry Baver, Alan Brill, Jeffrey Chason, Larry Flaum, Barbara Feigelman, Barbara Fried, Larry Flaum, Matthew Ganz, Joyce Goldring, Russell Kaminsky, Blanche Ricci, Judy Scher, Alina Shteynberg, Jesse Siegel, Inez Singer, Phillip Straniere, Rhonda Trontz-Allen and Lissa Winchel.

A heart felt thank you to all who served.

Respectfully submitted;  
Nina Rohan, Ushering Committee Chair

As a reminder, we have a few simple traditions to make our worship experience as meaningful as possible. The most important are:

- Please do not enter the sanctuary when the congregation is standing.
- Please do not leave the sanctuary when the Ark is open.
- Please silence or turn off your cell phones and keep them in your purse or pocket.

Thank you for your cooperation.

## The Dr. Ronald Avis Foundation for Temple Israel Report for 2022-2023

This year, the Avis Foundation supported 26 families.

Our wonderful Family Shabbats have continued. Cantor Bernstein has worked wonderfully with the young children and we now have a young children's choir!

Felicia Otto has continued to arrange for children who attended to receive a star and if they attended all the Family Shabbats they received a gift certificate for ice cream or donuts! Very popular. Tot Shabbats also continued for this year's young children.

Over last summer we had an Art Class for our children at the JCC and a day at the JCC pool and we are hoping to have a day for our temple members this summer too.

We have continued sending Birthday cards to all our congregation's children. We want them all to feel very connected to their Temple family.

We made the decision to end the zoom yoga class because now that the families are back in person at our temple, we want to continue to provide good activities for the children.

We have provided some additional salary payments for some of our Religious school teachers.

Our children attended a Chanukah Cutest Cookie event and the young ones enjoyed designing beautiful Chanukah cookies! We also provided funding for the Chanukah celebration for our children.

We had a lovely dinner with some of the new mothers.

We have provided funding for the Magician who will be performing at the school graduation and for Brian the Animal Guy on June 11th.

We provided a wonderful Challah making class for the children and hope to do it again next year.

We provided an evening for the families at the Staten Island Children's' Museum.

We continued to provide virtual programs for our temple adults. We scheduled Art Classes with Mark Meyer, Music classes with Donna Demilio, Food programs with Pam Silvestri, Ancestry programs with Scott Kalmikoff, a Recorder class, We feel it is very important to continue these adult classes. The adults temple members need to feel connected to each to each other and to the congregation. There has been much expressed gratitude from so many of our congregants, including the parents of our young children.

We continued to spend some money on marketing, as we are always looking for new members.

We funded the wonderful 75th Anniversary Cabaret. The money for the Journal has all gone to our temple because the evening's event was covered by our Foundation.

Terry Baver & Bryn Biren

E-Shalom E-mail statistics

| Sent     | Campaign Name   | Sends | Opens | Open Rate | Mobile Open Rate | Desktop Open Rate | Clicks | Click Rate | Unsubscribes | Unsubscribe Rate |
|----------|---|-------|-------|-----------|------------------|-------------------|--------|------------|--------------|------------------|
| 05/01/23 | TEMPLE ISRAEL E-Shalom BULLETIN: MAY 2023-5783 EDITION                | 208   | 162   | 79.00%    | 5.60%            | 94.40%            | 9      | 4.40%      | 0            | 0.00%            |
| 04/17/23 | YOM HASHOAH CANDLES Created 2023/04/17, 9:18:21 AM EDT                | 188   | 116   | 62.40%    | 2.50%            | 97.50%            | 0      | 0.00%      | 0            | 0.00%            |
| 03/28/23 | TEMPLE ISRAEL E-Shalom BULLETIN: APRIL 2023-5783 EDITION              | 208   | 142   | 69.30%    | 6.40%            | 93.60%            | 20     | 9.80%      | 0            | 0.00%            |
| 03/20/23 | PASSOVER SEDER REMINDER 2023 Email Created 2023/02/21, 4:27:32 PM EST | 208   | 129   | 62.90%    | 1.50%            | 98.50%            | 0      | 0.00%      | 0            | 0.00%            |
| 03/16/23 | TEMPLE ISRAEL E-Shalom BULLETIN: MARCH 2023-5783 EDITION              | 209   | 172   | 83.50%    | 7.70%            | 92.30%            | 33     | 16.00%     | 0            | 0.00%            |
| 03/01/23 | PASSOVER SEDER 2023 Email Created 2023/02/21, 4:27:32 PM EST          | 208   | 155   | 75.60%    | 6.70%            | 93.30%            | 10     | 4.90%      | 0            | 0.00%            |
| 02/01/23 | TEMPLE ISRAEL E-Shalom BULLETIN: FEBRUARY 2023-5783 EDITION           | 206   | 162   | 80.20%    | 6.50%            | 93.50%            | 21     | 10.40%     | 0            | 0.00%            |
| 12/30/22 | TEMPLE ISRAEL E-Shalom BULLETIN: JANUARY 2023 EDITION                 | 207   | 165   | 80.90%    | 9.60%            | 90.40%            | 34     | 16.70%     | 0            | 0.00%            |
| 12/15/22 | TEMPLE ISRAEL E-Shalom BULLETIN: DECEMBER 2022-5783 EDITION           | 208   | 164   | 79.60%    | 8.30%            | 91.70%            | 36     | 17.50%     | 0            | 0.00%            |
| 12/07/22 | Chanukah Card Reminder 2022/12/07, 1:06:00 PM EST                     | 206   | 133   | 65.20%    | 3.00%            | 97.00%            | 7      | 3.40%      | 0            | 0.00%            |
| 11/27/22 | ARE YOU READY?  | 206   | 149   | 73.00%    | 7.60%            | 92.40%            | 26     | 12.70%     | 0            | 0.00%            |
| 11/18/22 | Be A Part of the Service  | 184   | 138   | 75.40%    | 4.20%            | 95.80%            | 0      | 0.00%      | 0            | 0.00%            |
| 10/31/22 | TEMPLE ISRAEL E-Shalom BULLETIN: NOVEMBER 2022 -5783 EDITION          | 208   | 171   | 83.00%    | 8.10%            | 91.90%            | 20     | 9.70%      | 0            | 0.00%            |
| 10/10/22 | Upcoming Events Email Created 2022/10/09, 10:10:54 AM EDT             | 206   | 157   | 77.00%    | 8.50%            | 91.50%            | 15     | 7.40%      | 0            | 0.00%            |
| 09/29/22 | TEMPLE ISRAEL E-Shalom BULLETIN: OCTOBER 2022 -5783 EDITION           | 206   | 167   | 81.50%    | 5.80%            | 94.20%            | 24     | 11.70%     | 0            | 0.00%            |
| 09/20/22 | HHD STREAMING INFORMATION Email Created 2022/09/18, 5:22:14 PM EDT    | 179   | 139   | 78.10%    | 4.50%            | 95.50%            | 0      | 0.00%      | 0            | 0.00%            |
| 09/07/22 | TEMPLE ISRAEL E-Shalom BULLETIN: SEPTEMBER 2022 EDITION               | 198   | 171   | 87.20%    | 7.60%            | 92.40%            | 32     | 16.30%     | 0            | 0.00%            |
| 09/07/22 | High Holiday Tickets Created 2022/08/31, 8:52:21 AM EDT               | 175   | 141   | 81.00%    | 6.00%            | 94.00%            | 9      | 5.20%      | 0            | 0.00%            |

**TEMPLE ISRAEL – ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – MAY 2023**

| <b>Sent</b>     | <b>Campaign Name</b>                                 | <b>Sends</b> | <b>Opens</b> | <b>Open Rate</b> | <b>Mobile Open Rate</b> | <b>Desktop Open Rate</b> | <b>Clicks</b> | <b>Click Rate</b> | <b>Unsubscribes</b> | <b>Unsubscribe Rate</b> |
|-----------------|--|--------------|--------------|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>07/27/22</b> | TEMPLE ISRAEL E-Shalom BULLETIN: AUGUST 2022 EDITION | 196          | 141          | 72.30%           | 5.50%                   | 94.50%                   | 18            | 9.20%             | 1                   | 0.50%                   |
| <b>07/01/22</b> | TEMPLE ISRAEL E-Shalom BULLETIN: JULY 2022 EDITION   | 205          | 158          | 77.50%           | 5.90%                   | 94.10%                   | 12            | 5.90%             | 0                   | 0.00%                   |
| <b>06/13/22</b> | TEMPLE ISRAEL E-Shalom BULLETIN: JUNE 2022 EDITION   | 206          | 164          | 80.00%           | 5.20%                   | 94.80%                   | 16            | 7.80%             | 0                   | 0.00%                   |

# FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

The FUNdraising committee would like to thank everyone for their support this year.

Our first annual Game Extravaganza FUNdraiser, initially planned for November 2022 was postponed to January 21, 2023. It was very successful. The Feedback from attendees was positive, and we plan to host a similar event next year. We made \$1333.57.

Our Karaoke event that was scheduled for April 29, 2023 was cancelled at the request of the board because it was to close to the Gala Event.

For those of you wishing to support the FUNdrasing committee please join us on June 6, 2023 for our last FUNdraiser of the 2022-2023 year, at Jimmy Max Restaurant, Noon to 11pm. Just mention that you are there for Temple Israel and 50% of the food portion of your bill will be donated back to Temple Israel. Please see the flyer in the ebulletin or in the Temple lobby.

Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Lissa Winchel, Karen Frey-Gamoran, Rhonda Trontz-Allen, Co-Chairs



## FUND FOR THE FUTURE REPORT TO CONGREGATION MAY 2023

The Fund for the Future Committee was formed in 2012 with the guidance and input of Dr. Ron Avis who was instrumental in the last major Capital Improvement campaign for Temple Israel the Next Generation Fund. The Fund is intended to fund the capital improvements of our building and grounds – that is major improvements and repairs rather than routine maintenance. The fund’s initial drive raised over \$500,000. To ensure proper use, all work and decisions are brought to the Board of Trustee’s for approval.

The majority of the collected funds have been used to completely replace the air conditioning system and upgrade heating from oil to gas. This summer, the handicap lift will be replaced.

As you know this building is aging and definitely in need of Capital Funding to keep it in a state of good use. We wish to thank all those that have made a pledge and invite new pledges to help replenish the fund. A pledge can be paid over a period of 5 years and will help replenish the fund after the recent expenditures. This Temple is ours let’s make sure it is here for all of us for many more years

## CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Temple Israel's Certificate program is a painless, no-cost-to-you, fundraiser for Temple. Temple gets a small commission on each sale – you pay and get face value!

☆☆

The certificate program is very much alive.

I make my pilgrimage to Staten Island once a Week delivering certificates from one side of the island to the other. It is a contactless exchange.

The program has earned many thousands of dollars for Temple. It can make even more if there were more participants involved in this wonderful program.

Respectfully submitted by  
Larry Hanibal

These certificates are in stock:

These are special order and can take some time receive.



**NOW AVAILABLE: TARGET & CARVEL**



## Sisterhood of Temple Israel



As another year has come and gone, Sisterhood has continued to keep alive its traditions and celebrations of holidays and festivals. Some members are still observing Covid safety measures, and we have been able to accommodate those members.

We started off the year in July with a casual meeting to welcome our new Officers and Directors with food and drink and fun ice-breaker activities. This enabled everyone to get to know each other and to discuss the responsibilities of Sisterhood leadership.

During July and August, we continued our tradition of providing home-baked goods and store-bought desserts for our informal summer onegs.

One of our first fall gatherings was a joint Sisterhood/Brotherhood breakfast to begin the Temple year.

For the New Year, every member of Temple Israel received a beautifully designed New Year's Card designed by JD Lee. This has been a Sisterhood tradition but is also a major fundraising event. In preparation for the High Holidays, a group of Sisterhood members carefully cleaned and polished all our Torah crowns, yads, and breastplates.

For Sukkot, we celebrated with Sisterhood's sponsored "Pizza in the Hut," followed by a Havdalah service led by Jim Rohan, and "Sippin in the Sukkah" for adult members. The Sukkah was put up by members of Brotherhood and the religious school children decorated the Sukkah with pictures and hand-made items.

During the year, we welcomed new members to our Congregation with Sisterhood presenting each family with a gift bag containing all the essential items for having a good Shabbat: candles, challah, wine, and a list of prayers, along with a beautiful mezuzah. The Shabbat Packages were assembled and personally delivered to our new congregants' homes by Membership Vice-Presidents Sandy Feuerstein and Claire Guttsman.

Sisterhood activities always contain a Tzedakah component. At every meeting we collect donations to support worthwhile charities each month, such as: Tunnels to Towers Foundation, Mazon: Jewish Response to Hunger, and Union of Reform Judaism

In addition, we continued to collect sneakers through "GotSneakers?," a recycling initiative. We supported our Religious School financially and by providing supplies.

In November Sisterhood presented a special cabaret with singer and song writer Kama Linden. This was a pleasant, entertaining evening as well as a fundraiser with raffles and prizes.

In December Sisterhood held its Annual Chanukah/Holiday Gift Fair sponsored by the Judaica Shop. We were not able to hold our Chanukah Gelt Mosaic Mural as supplies were difficult to obtain.

Sisterhood was very happy to hold our Hanukah Pajamakah and Chanukah New Member Shabbat Dinner. A delicious dinner was served with lots of traditional Chanukah food. There were plenty of opportunities to snap photos of the stickers, toys, and props for the children. Felicia Otto presented a menorah shaped Challah at the Kiddish.

Again, we held our delightful Sampled Sale organized by Jodi Siegel which offered a wonderful shopping experience to your Sisterhood ladies and community.

## TEMPLE ISRAEL – ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – MAY 2023

Our Shalach Manor Gifts Project, chaired and organized by Linda Hanibal, Blanche Ricci, and Deanna Feder., was a great success! It is a wonderful tradition as well a very profitable fundraiser for Sisterhood. Every single family who attended the Erev Purim service received a gift because of the generous donations of those who sponsored Shalach Manot. Sisterhood was also able to make generous donations to three different Jewish charities.

A successful Bingo/Raffle event was held in March which brought many temple members as well as JCC members and community to our temple. Stacie Magnus, Jodi Siegel, and the Kaplan family worked tirelessly to purchase gifts and to fill the baskets in preparation for the event. We supported the Temple gift card program by using them as prizes.

Once again, we were able to sponsor the Jennifer Straniere Community Seder for Temple Israel members and friends and those from the community who might not have been able to attend. Stacie and Mel Kaplan, with help from Alyx, provided a sumptuous traditional Passover meal. Rabbi Howald and Cantor Bernstein led us in the seder.

Before Passover Maxine Cohen collected donations for the Kosher Pantry which enabled the JCC to purchase needed Passover supplies and foods for those in need.

We were proud that four members of sisterhood were able to attend Women's Reform Judaism Convention this March, where Jodi Siegel was presenting. Each participant came back with excellent ideas which they shared with Sisterhood. They discussed issues and concerns, and shared ideas for leadership development and engagement. In addition, the four representatives are planning to have an outstanding Rabbi, who was also at the conference, provide a program for us next year.

Sisterhood's annual Paid-Up Membership dinner took place in the middle of April in Temple Israel's social hall. We thanked our dedicated members with a lovely Chinese meal.

We have been able to make our annual commitment to Temple Israel in the amount of \$3000. We have covered all the costs for maintaining the kitchen, which included all supplies, such as doilies, paper plates, cuts, plasticware, to mention a few, as well as paying for laundering of the linens. Our Sisterhood also covers the cost of unsponsored onegs, wine, grape juice, challah, and candles. This year, we have professional hired help in the kitchen when it was needed.

During the year we encouraged our members to purchase Certificates to ShopRite, Carvel, Stop N Stop, Macy's, and many other stores to benefit Temple Israel. Whenever we could, Sisterhood purchased certificates to pay for necessary grocery items for Sisterhood events. We also bought certificates to present as prizes or gifts as we did for the Bingo/Raffle event.

We are still preparing for our Sisterhood Shabbaton organized by Sue Freeman and her team, the End-of-Year Dinner arranged by our Membership Committee, as well as the Installation Shabbat Service in June.

We are glad to report that two of our dedicated members, Linda Brill and Felicia Otto, were honored for their service to the Jewish community. Linda Brill was recognized as a Woman of Achievement by the Staten Island Advance and Felicia Otto was honored by the Jewish Community Center. Several of our Temple members attended the celebrations.

We take pride in maintaining our Judaica Shop, from which we obtain gifts for relatives and friends, and gifts to all B'nei Mitzvah students.

We have worked harmoniously with Temple Israel's many committees, such as the Ritual, Adult Learning, Membership and Social Action, School Parent committees. In addition, we work with the Avis Foundation to service our congregants and Temple Israel. We also work closely with the Social Action Committee, which aids during shivah and helps with needed supplies and food. We are very supportive of Caring Committees, which are of great assistance as well.

## TEMPLE ISRAEL – ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – MAY 2023

As usual, we continue to recruit new members, especially young families. This has not been an easy task. Often younger families will join but are less willing to participate more fully in Temple affairs. However, this has not been true of all new congregants. A few of our newest members are becoming more actively involved.

We wish to thank the Sisterhood Nominating Committee under the leadership of Cheryl Levine, for working so conscientiously to present a slate of officers and directors for the new year.

A special thank you to Russell Kaminsky for being of enormous help when Sisterhood called upon him to assist in moving tables and chairs, rearranging the social hall, and doing all this without complaint. Even though it was not always convenient, Russell always responded to our call.

We also want to thank Nalija Troy, Temple Israel's office manager, for taking on the many new tasks required to efficiently run the office and its many responsibilities.

All the Sisterhood officers and directors who have supported our efforts this year deserve a special thank you. We especially want to thank Blanche Ricci who takes care of the candles each Friday and runs the Judaica Shop with Deanna Feder as well as serving as treasurer. Thank you, Fern Barris, for your excellent advice.

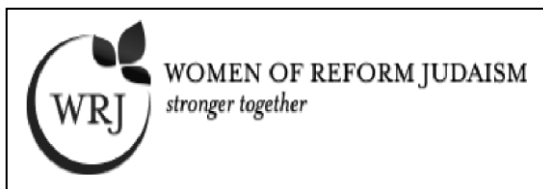
We want to thank the Board of Temple Israel for being extremely supportive of Sisterhood. We hope to continue a beneficial relationship going into the next year.

Thank you too to our Programming VPs for the wonderful programs you have scheduled for us each month, Membership VPs for working so diligently, and our Ways and Means VPs for the fundraising events you planned and carried out. Each of our VPs and their committees have aided and assisted in their special way for the success of our activities!

During our first year as Co-presidents, we have had to learn a great many things. We have gained a great deal of experience and hopefully will continue to grow in knowledge and skills.

The survival and success of our Sisterhood is vital to the life of Temple Israel. Thank you to our Sisterhood members and Friends of Sisterhood who have supported Sisterhood goals and endeavors. Thank you for a good year. We look forward to the next one!

Pamela Rogozin, Judy Lee, Anita Zuckerberg  
Co-Presidents



## **BROTHERHOOD END OF YEAR REPORT**

Following a joint meeting with Sisterhood early in the year, current and prospective members of Brotherhood met to discuss activities for the year. On-going concerns were voiced about ‘group gatherings’ in consideration of lingering Covid-19 issues.

As one of the Auxiliary organizations of Temple Israel, we focused our attention on supporting the following:

- ✧ Sukkah building and decoration for Sukkot, religious school use as well as "Sippin' in the Sukkah with Sisterhood;
- ✧ Annual Simchat Torah Ice Cream Sundae making for our children;
- ✧ Assistance with Purim Carnival activities, allowing our children to interact with each other with challenging games in our Social Hall;
- ✧ Sponsoring our annual Chanukah Community Celebration Card;
- ✧ Organizing and hosting a ‘Dine-Around Dinner’ at a local restaurant;
- ✧ Honoring and Memorializing Holocaust commemoration by sponsoring and dispensing the Yom Hashoah Yellow Candle Project.

The participation of our Congregants in these activities has again enabled Brotherhood to make a generous financial donation to Temple Israel to help ensure its continued mission of serving the Reform Jewish population of Staten Island. Please feel free to join us in our continued efforts in the coming years.

For Brotherhood,  
Bob Zuckerberg  
Alan Siegel

# HOUSE COMMITTEE

During the past year our Temple Israel home has required some attention to assist it as it continues to age gracefully. The many activities that take place at Temple appear to occur seamlessly; yet, there are behind the scenes supports that make this happen. Our thanks go out to our building Custodian, Gerard Altieri, who takes care of the day to day maintenance requirements at Temple. In addition, our part time Custodial assistant, Justin Lapierre, has assisted with the 'after activity' cleanups and resetting of the Social Hall. Unfortunately, Justin sustained an injury which has prevented him from taking care of these tasks; we wish him well and hope that he will be able to rejoin us when his injury heals.

Maintenance issues during this year include:

- The emergency repair of a plumbing leak that affected both the upper and lower levels of the building;
- Roof cleaning and repairs to weather-related damage that caused small leaks;
- Resetting of our Sanctuary/Social Hall sound system;
- Negotiations for the replacement of the Handi-Lift accessibility system;
- Working with our contractors who provide landscaping/snow removal services;
- Oversight of HVAC/plumbing contractors.

As we move forward, interested Congregants are welcome to offer their assistance as we continue to care for Temple Israel.

For the House Committee,

Alan Siegel  
Russell Kaminsky



## Adult Learning Committee-- Annual Report

Adult Learning has had a busy year.

We presented several programs which were well attended and received a very positive response.

Among the programs were a series presented by Judy Scher on the Aftermath of Covid and Generational Differences. Thank you Judy.

We co-sponsored a zoom tour of Paris Highlights with Sisterhood. The guide was Karen Reb Rudman, a longtime resident of that beautiful city.

Justin Ferate, noted guide, took us on a fascinating trip down memory lane to the Jewish Catskills in a two part series.

Rabbi Scott Kalmikoff increased our understanding of the Synagogues and Jewish immigrants of Staten Island .

Our Book Club was also busy. Among the books we read and discussed were "Lilyville," "People of the Book," "The Matchmaker's Gift," "The Personal Librarian," and "Once We Were Home."

The discussions were led by Libby Gershansky, Cheryl Levine, Judy Pessah and Anita Zuckerberg. Thank you to all!

Cheryl Levine  
Judy Pessah  
Co-chairs

**PARENTS ASSOCIATION**

The religious school year has concluded and May 21st is our Year End Stepping Up Celebration and Learning Service. We invite and welcome all Trustees to attend our 9:30am learning service where every student will have a part on the Bimah during our service. Classes have been preparing for the past few weeks and we will also be honoring our teachers for Teacher Appreciation. Following our service, families will celebrate with a Magic Show, refreshments and a visit from the Ice Cream Truck.

This school year we welcomed many new students thanks to outreach and partnership with the AVIS Foundation. Likewise we hired three new teachers. Our Parents' Committee was the largest it has been in over five years with over twelve members and a class parent assigned to each class. What made this year special was the number of parents' who stepped up to help with the school. Parents started our weekly dismissal pretzel sales to fundraise in addition to running our traditional fundraisers. Parents helped outline curriculum and donated resources. Our 9:30am learning service saw significant growth in attendance as well as participation.

Our areas of celebration were our holiday and festival assemblies and events and our increased participation and attendance at the monthly Family Shabbat services. Our area for growth is continued professional development and curriculum support for our faculty.

The school had a wonderful year where we witnessed many students growth and equally important they formed friendships and bonds with one another that will continue on in the years to come.

Respectfully submitted,  
Felicia Otto



**Membership Committee -Year End Report - May 2023**

The Membership Committee focused on increasing social connections between the new and “seasoned” members through a variety of intergenerational programs.

In September, the Committee organized and sponsored a welcome Cantor Bernstein Oneg in September which was very well attended.

We worked with Rabbi Howald to organize an Erev Shabbat Service with Carol Bullock, the Director of the Pride Center.

We had an intergenerational program entitled “Box in a Box” with Rabbi Scott Kalmikoff.

The Committee worked throughout the year on Member retention making phone calls to numerous Congregants that we have not been in contact within recent weeks/months which were very well received.

We maintained continuous contact with Bryn and Terry on strategies to integrate Avis Families with long term congregants to create programs to facilitate increased communication and social interaction between the groups.

We did research and reviewed the dues structures from a variety of Reform Temples to review our dues structure and the possibility of using other membership categories for the future.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Claire Guttman and Sandy Mazzucco, Chairpersons.

## Social Action Committee

SOCIAL ACTION IS IN DIRE NEED OF FUNDS! WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CONTINUE OUR MITZVAHS WITHOUT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS COMMITTEE. THANK YOU!

This year we had members of the Temple collecting things for the poor. Maxine Cohen collected Funds for Passover food for religious families. Ethan DeVito collected toiletries to donate to those in need. Although some projects are not conducted by Social Action, our congregation is always trying to help our community. Sandwich bags with a full lunch were made and handed out at a fair that Terry Troia asked us to attend on Sukkot. The Cantor set up a sukkah and sang for the recent migrants who had just come to Staten Island. We hosted a Loving Staten Island Dinner, an interfaith program bringing together members of our community who want to enjoy and bring a dish to share meal and special programs with those from our community who have different religions. This program meets each month in a different house of worship, let us know if you would like more information about this program. We attended a vigil for the victims of gun violence after the Mass Shootings in California that claimed the lives of 18 people in 3 days, at the Staten Island Hindu Temple. We supported the LGBTQ+ community while they tried to submit their request to participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Our Social Action Committee continues to provide Backpacks at the end of the year to the Silver Lake Head Start program graduates who use our classrooms during the week for their program. Thanks to generous donations by our congregants, we have been able to do this mitzvah now for a number of years and hope to be able to continue for years to come. We will attend the graduation ceremony on June 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am, and welcome anyone from the congregation who wishes to join us in congratulating these students on their "step up"

We have provided food for the poor twice this year and hope to possibly have a summer food prep. As we have done for many, many years, we provided food for the poor on Christmas day. This Mitzvah is only accomplished with the help of congregants who come whenever there is a need. This year there were two families whose homes were destroyed in a fire, and children were injured. Quite a bit of the food went to help them.

We have not been collecting diapers this year, but I hope to renew this drive next year.

None of the things Social Action does could be accomplished without the generous donations of our congregants. Please help us continue our important work for our community by donating both your time (for food prep events if you are available) and funds. Thank you so much for your support!

The Social Action Committee is always ready to hear about a social cause that you would like to help with. Please do not hesitate to let us know your ideas.

Pamela L. Rogozin, Committee Chair

## Caring Community

1. To provide support to the Temple congregation during Simchas including but not limited to suggestions on sponsored onegs for honorees, use of the social hall for special events and catering ideas and referrals.
2. To provide support to the Temple congregation during Shivas and other periods of mourning. This may include shopping, setting up the shivah household, comforting the mourners and cleaning up the shiva household. Food items that are in abundance may, after the appropriate time, be brought to project Hospitality.
3. Helping the sick and/injured. There are times when the committee, along with volunteers from the congregation, might cook meals and/or visit those congregants in need. Sometimes congregants need rides to and from doctor's appointments or hospital stays. Phone calls are made to congregants asking how they are doing if they are ill, if they have recently suffered a loss, if someone from the Temple is worried about them or if they have not been seen in a while.

We want to thank those at Temple Israel who help when we ask. You truly make our Temple a Caring Community!

At Temple Israel we take pride in our ability to come together to help our members in times of need. Whether it be a Simcha, a Shiva, for an illness or for a hospitalization, we do our best to help our fellow congregants, our Jewish Family.

When illness or other misfortune strikes a member of our community, we try to help by arranging with Volunteers to provide rides to doctors and hospitals, driving family members to visit patients, picking up needed items or asking members to cook for those who need to feed their families during an illness.

Caring Community is financially supported by the generous donations of many of our congregants. It is often funded by a "pay it forward" mentality by those who have been helped.

When a family suffers a loss, Caring Community is there to support the mourners. Caring Community helps provide food after the funeral, or just for the family, within an amount budgeted by Caring Community for each Shiva. If the family was/is active in Brotherhood, Sisterhood or the Temple Board, additional food or refreshments may be sent to the family according to the policies of those groups.

When a Congregant loses a family member we try our best to help them in any way we can. If people (often including Temple members) are coming back to the house after the service we try to provide a repast for them. Sometimes we bring dinner just for the family. We discuss with the mourner what they want done and if it is within the budget for the Shiva, Caring Community supplies what is requested. If it is beyond that budget, we tell the family that we can supply what they want but they will have to contribute.

Some people don't want much put out even when we offer, while others want a large amount of food available for anyone who visits. Sometimes additional food is provided by family or friends.

Often members of our Temple help to set up and clean up at a Shiva to take that burden off the family so they don't have to worry about anyone but themselves. They help by putting things out that people bring or that the family has brought, keeping things tidy, setting up coffee, cleaning up at the end of the Shiva and doing what they can to make a difficult time easier for the bereaved. Caring Community does its best to help where we can.

So, if you go to a Shiva and there is nothing on the table, it is because the family wanted it that way. If there is a table overflowing, it is because the family wanted it that way and we supplied it but didn't necessarily pay for it. We do Kosher or Non-Kosher as the family requests. We try to do what we can to help ease the difficulty our congregants are struggling with when losing a loved one.

May you all be blessed with health and happiness.

Pamela L. Rogozin and Pamela Carlton Co-Chairs