



REPORT
OF THE
50TH ANNUAL MEETING
A Caring Community
Open to All

23 IYAR, 5769 • MAY 17, 2009



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AGENDA
50TH ANNUAL MEETING OF TEMPLE JEREMIAH

23 IYAR, 5769
MAY 17, 2009

Call to order

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

President's Report..... David B. Golder

Financial Report..... Michael Schack

Vote on Slate of Candidates..... Howard Lanznar, Leadership Development Chair

Final Comments and Questions

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

Adjournment

TEMPLE JEREMIAH

MISSION STATEMENT

- *Temple Jeremiah is a Reform Jewish congregational family whose mission is to foster and invigorate a love for worship, study of Torah and acts of Tikkun Olam in a caring community that embraces diversity in its membership.*
- *We are dedicated to lifelong Jewish education, tzedakah, social justice and the State of Israel.*
- *We strive to fulfill our mission by building relationships that connect us as members of an extended family who recognize each other as created in the image of God.*

*- Adopted by the Board of Directors
April 26, 2004*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

David B. Golder

AS WE PREPARE FOR OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY, I have had the chance to reflect on this past year at Temple Jeremiah and the 49 years of energy and leadership that have brought us to this exciting time. The leadership of our past and current clergy, professionals and support staff has provided the exceptional structure that has built this community. The heart and soul of all the past presidents, officers, directors and volunteers completed that structure to make us the solid, growing community that we are today - a vibrant and exciting Temple.

This year was a year of beginnings and endings. We received some of the benefits of our capital campaign and continued to improve our facilities with exciting enhancements to the Schreibman Sanctuary including the new art work and doors. We have the opportunity to celebrate the 28-year career of Fern Kamen, our Executive Director, and at the same time we get to welcome Michael Garlin, our incoming Executive Director.

We have added new families, growing successfully while fulfilling our mission of supporting our congregants in areas of worship, education and social action. Social action starts with us and we've responded to the current economic challenges by providing our congregants in need with special care and a stronger connection to our community. Working with established professionals from within the Temple Jeremiah community, we have provided assistance to congregants with job search techniques and resources. We will continue to provide many tremendous educational, social action, programming and worship opportunities despite the current economic pressures. Like everyone, the Temple will be scaling back our budgets while continuing to fulfill our mission. It is through the generosity of our members in donating their time and resources that we can do this.

I look towards the future and the coming year with excitement as we begin the celebration of the 50th anniversary of our congregation. Throughout this year our entire community will have opportunities to participate in this celebration with educational, worship and social programs. The Torah of Our Own project will allow every congregant to participate in the writing of the first original Torah scroll commissioned by Temple Jeremiah. Our year of celebration will culminate in May 2010 as we welcome Rabbi Eric Yoffie, President of the Union for Reform Judaism, to Temple Jeremiah, followed by a gala celebration the next evening and the dedication of our Torah. I look forward to seeing you all at these events.

I wish to extend my sincere thanks for the continuing opportunity to serve in such an important role for Temple Jeremiah. I look forward to working with all our Temple families as we continue to build the future of our community together.

RABBI PAUL F. COHEN, D.MIN.

Dear Friends,

THIS HAS BEEN A YEAR filled with great excitement and great challenge for our community and the households of which it is comprised. There is a teaching from Pirke Avot I want to use as a frame for my report this year. Pirke Avot is the last section of the Mishnah, a collection of lessons meant to bring us into an ethical path of living. The lesson unfolds as a series of questions and answers:

“Who is truly wise? The one who learns from each person.”

“Who is rich? The one who is happy with his/her lot.”

“Who is worthy of respect? The one who respects other living creatures.”

“Who is truly wise? The one who learns from each person.” This year we have increased the opportunities for learning from pre-Kindergarten through adulthood. Our religious education program has grown under the guidance of Dr. Anne Lidsky working with Rabbi Deborah Helbraun, our Hebrew School Principal, Barb Kite and our dedicated teachers. See the Education Report for details of all that has been done. We have also added to our adult learning opportunities that culminated this year with a wonderful Golder Interfaith Lecture featuring a panel discussion moderated by Clarence Page on how our faith communities respond to the diversity of our congregations. Cardinal George, Rabbi Dr. David Sandmel, Rev. Dr. Alice Hunt and Imam Abdul Malik Mujahid served as panelists for this lively and informative program.

“Who is rich? The one who is happy with his/her lot.” The economic meltdown has touched every member of our community and Temple Jeremiah has responded in true form. We have reached out to those in need of financial assistance with the help of a JUF grant and our own funds. Fern Kamen, in her warm and thorough way, has been on the phone virtually nonstop helping our members organize and move forward. (We will have the opportunity June 5 to thank Fern who is retiring after 28 years of dedicated service as our Executive Director.) We have worked to make sure financial hardship is never a barrier to membership primarily through generous contributions to Families Helping Families. Temple members Ross and Jody Wolfson have been among many offering help to those who have lost jobs. Jody and Ross run weekly workshops at the Temple that have helped to re-employ virtually everyone who has attended. To Jody and Ross go our heartfelt thanks. Together, as a community, we will work through this crisis to become even stronger.

“Who is worthy of respect? The one who respects other living creatures.” Our Social Justice program, as you can read in the report, has become even stronger as our work grows. Our ongoing work with the Waukegan School District has added a new dimension as we build a College Counseling Resource Center at the high school. Cantor Zussman continues to reach out with her music through the Junior Choir and their visits to the Lieberman Nursing Care Facility and her Chai Society programs for the seniors of our community.

Rabbi Greenberg continues to work to strengthen our Youth Department. Under her leadership Nosh and Mingle has become an integral part of our children’s mid-week experience at Jeremiah. Taste of Tikkun on Sunday mornings has helped our children become more involved in making our world a better place through distinct projects. She will continue to devote more and more of her time and energy to this critical area of our Temple family. In addition, we bid farewell, but not goodbye, to Anna Purinson, our Director of Development and Membership Services. Anna has dedicated her years at Temple Jeremiah to helping people connect with the Temple and with one another and to, with great respect, find the way to help people share their time and resources in support of the congregation. We wish her much success and look forward to her continued involvement in Temple life.

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RABBI PAUL F. COHEN, D.MIN.

I want to thank Temple President David Golder, and the wonderful group of lay leaders on our board and committees for all they do to make Temple Jeremiah the warm and welcoming community of which we are so proud. I also want to thank our staff: Phyllis Burg, Sheila Greenfield, Renee Goldstein, Carol Gottke, Stacey Shrago, Shari Kuhn, Jola Dabala, Adam Cieniewicz, Krystyn Wroblewski, Patrick Dabala and Frank and Anna Pasek. Last, but not least, we owe a debt of gratitude to our "office helpers," Babette Henschel, Lillian Kalin, Rena Levy, Carolyn Sacks, Miff Ardell and Art Sutton who volunteer so much time and energy to our community.

As I look back on the year, I see a rich, wise, respectful and vibrant community. May we all grow from the strength of all that we have accomplished together to new strength.

Shalom.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Michael Schack, Treasurer & David Golder, President

THE PRIMARY MISSION of the Finance and Administration Committee of the Temple Jeremiah Board of Directors is to ensure that our Temple remains financially sound and is managed under business standards appropriate to a vibrant spiritual organization. The committee's responsibilities include managing the financial, legal, employment, investment and other business functions of the congregation. These functions are critical to support our primary spiritual, educational, social, programmatic and humanistic missions.

This report discusses projected financial results for the 2008/09 fiscal year ending June 30, 2009 and provides an overview of the budget for the upcoming year. The budget has been prepared by the Budget Subcommittee and reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors.

Some key observations summarize the projected financial results for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009:

- Our Temple continues to operate on a fiscally healthy basis with sound business and financial management. Our balance sheet continues to be strong and our accounting is sound and conservative; the attentiveness of our staff, along with the active involvement of skilled volunteer leaders, ensure that our financial management reporting and planning continue to improve each year.*
- While we have taken a conservative approach to our budget and investments, Temple Jeremiah has felt the effects of the recession through an increase in the number of families that have needed financial support to remain members in good standing. Additionally, we have experienced a net loss of member families who are able to participate in financial support of the congregation this current fiscal year. Both of these factors have placed pressure on the Temple's finances to assure that our expenses do not exceed our income.*

- As mentioned above, our Temple family has decreased over the current year. Through March 31, we have seen a net reduction of 60 families to 816 families from 872. This loss can be attributed to a natural attrition rate coupled with young families postponing joining until their children are of Religious/Hebrew School age. We still remain a strong, diverse and committed community that offers exceptional educational, spiritual and social programming.*
- We are pleased to report that our conservative investment strategy has resulted in no loss of principal of any Temple funds including our endowment and building funds which are our two largest reserves.*
- Our mortgage has become more manageable due to the success of the last capital campaign. However, it still remains a significant line item at approximately \$55,000 of interest for the current fiscal year. The good news is that our balance has been substantially reduced from previous years. As of April 15, 2009, the remaining principal balance is \$771,000 down from approximately \$1.118 million at the end of the last fiscal year. With an estimated \$917,000 in pledges remaining to collect over the next several years, we are projected to have enough pledges to retire our debt and add to our endowment for the future.*

PROJECTED RESULTS FOR THE 2008/09 FISCAL YEAR:

Consistent with our historical practice and, as required by the by-laws of Temple Jeremiah, we have been operating with a balanced budget for the current fiscal year (July 2008 – June 2009). As of the date of this publication, we anticipate that we will finish the year with a balanced budget. However, how we arrived at equal income and expenses is different from what we had initially envisioned. As the economy began to take a greater toll on our

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FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

congregants and their ability to pay, we began to cut back on expenses with two objectives: continuing to be guided by our Mission Statement and maintaining as many programs as possible to support our families. We were successful this year in accomplishing these reductions in concert with the objectives due to a focused effort early on to manage some major initiatives that were initially budgeted such as increasing staffing. As a result, no additional personnel were added this year despite being initially budgeted. These savings offset a good portion of our revenue decline.

The Board of Directors, in partnership with our professional staff, is constantly aware that we are in an environment of increasing operating costs and reduced income and continues to look for opportunities for more efficient business operations. In addition, we continue to prudently manage resources and cut costs when possible. These management efforts, along with a remaining surplus from the previous fiscal year targeted for the Executive Director search, should allow us to operate with a balanced budget this year.

THE BUDGET PROCESS:

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

As we have mentioned in previous years, the budget for Temple Jeremiah is established in somewhat of a “fluid” environment as members continue to join and leave the congregation for a variety of normal and expected reasons. This increase and decrease in

the size of our congregation impacts programming costs, school enrollment, the costs of administration and other items. It is the intent of the Budget Subcommittee to provide the Board of Directors with guidance as to their best estimates of the financial assumptions for the coming year. The Board works with our professional staff to continually analyze trends in membership, revenue and expenses that may have an impact on the financial health of the congregation.

BUDGET FOR THE 2009/10 FISCAL YEAR:

The coming year continues to bring financial challenges as we navigate through a recessionary climate.

REVENUES:

The Temple’s revenues (including planned transfers from restricted funds) are budgeted to be approximately \$2.28 million, which is down from our current budget by \$267,000 or approximately 10%. While most of our revenue comes from our congregants in one form or another, we have continued to seek out additional revenue sources. These other sources include building facility rental to outside groups and prudent investment management of our cash on hand. These efforts provide supplementary revenue to support the congregation’s financial needs. As with previous years, we continued to reduce our dependence on transfers from restricted accounts to support our operating budget. The 2009/10 budget continues this trend with only .71% of the income budget coming from account transfers, compared to a budget of .86% for the current year.

In recognition of the difficult economic environment, we are holding the Annual Financial Commitment that we request of our congregants level with the current year. We are able to hold dues flat as a result of closely re-evaluating every program and leveling employment costs for the upcoming fiscal year. In the current fiscal year, we had provided a 2% growth in employment expenses

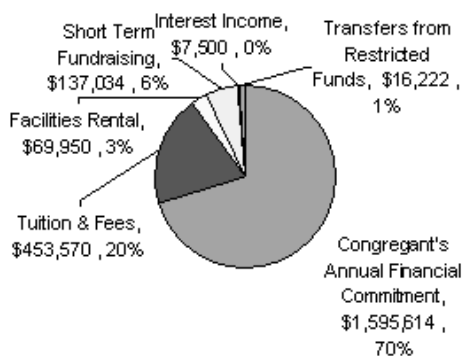
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FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

which had been lowered from a typical 3% growth rate. Our debt service expense is also expected to decrease by 25% due to the continued debt reduction. School fees for both Hebrew and Religious School will also remain flat for the upcoming fiscal year.

At Temple Jeremiah, no one is turned away from our community due to the inability to fulfill their financial obligations. For reasons beyond their control, 18.4% of our households require support from our congregational family in the form of reduced financial commitments. Last year, about 15.4% of our families needed some sort of assistance and this was up from 13% the year before. Given the current economic environment and rising unemployment, we anticipate that the percentage of families who may need our help will rise over the next year and accordingly we have budgeted for approximately 20% of our congregant families to need help in the upcoming fiscal year. This makes the continued support of our Families Helping Families Program and other fundraising initiatives that provide an opportunity for our generous congregants to support those households in need more important than ever.

Fundraising is an increasingly important source of revenue and is consistent with our goal of minimizing our traditional dependence on our congregant's Annual Financial Commitment. The Temple continues to look at both short and long-term fundraising strategies including planned giving. The Board of Directors and the Professional Staff continue to build and expand a culture of giving at Temple Jeremiah to increase the future financial strength of the Temple.



Outside revenue including facility rental revenue has leveled off due to reaching capacity and a slow down in congregants celebrating life cycle events at the Temple. In addition to supporting the needs of our congregants, this program continues to have a positive impact on the finances of Temple Jeremiah.

Our endowment continues to grow with an increase of 10% over the past fiscal year. This growth has primarily come from additional contributions, although last year the earnings were reinvested back into the fund. In the future, we plan to use more sophisticated investment strategies to increase the fund; however, as stated earlier, our conservative investment philosophy has resulted in no loss of principal to the endowment during this current economic cycle. Higher yields in the future will allow this component of our revenue to increase, removing more of the burden of annual increases we must pass on to our congregants as well as allow us to further expand our programming.

EXPENSES

Viewed as a business with a \$2.28 million budget, Temple Jeremiah experiences the same pressures as any other small business, including managing costs for salaries, insurance, utilities and other expense items. Personnel costs (salaries, benefits and insurance) for our professional staff, administrative support staff, teachers and custodial staff continue to be the largest expense of our organization. Approximately 74% of our expenses are related to compensating our most valuable congregational resource.

Fees for Religious and Hebrew Schools as well as our Bar/Bat Mitzvah program continue to represent only a portion of our actual expenses for these programs. The Board of Directors remains committed to supporting these programs as well as others, including adult education, social action and youth programs, at the highest level possible while maintaining the solid financial health of the Temple.

During the budget process, close attention was paid not only to the expenses themselves but to an

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FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

evaluation of whether there were alternative strategies that could be employed that still provide services to the congregants but more effectively. Some savings were generated out of these discussions including transitioning to electronic distribution of our monthly Covenant newsletter and closing the building one night a week which saves personnel and utility costs.

Our debt service requirements have decreased significantly over the years but still represent a real number. Our budget for the coming year proposes an estimated \$41,000 for mortgage interest, a reduction from the \$55,000 in the current year and a further reduction from \$100,000 from the year before. The need to completely pay off our debt cannot be clearer especially in these economic times. Our budget would look vastly different with significant programming reductions if the Temple was still paying debt service at levels we were funding only three years ago. Overall, debt service is projected to be at 1.8% of next year's operating budget compared to slightly over 2.0% in the current fiscal year. The effect of reducing this budget expense has allowed us to continue our commitment to a number of critical programs and maintain the majority of our staff resources.

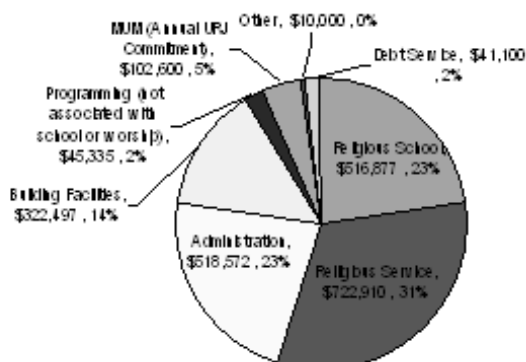
The membership fee that we pay to the Union for Reform Judaism is determined annually by a formula based on the size of our congregation. For this, we receive numerous benefits from the principal national organization of the Reform movement. Just as congregations are reducing their budgets, the URJ has done the same and has passed those savings onto its member congregations including Temple Jeremiah.

OTHER COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS:

In addition to budget and finances, Temple Jeremiah has a talented team of volunteers who provide professional support to the Temple staff in areas of employee benefits, tax compliance, legal and contract management and investment strategy. It is this tremendous partnership between our staff and lay leadership that continues to provide us with confidence going forward in managing the future business affairs of our congregation.

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

Julie Ford, David Golder, Jeffrey Krupp, Ken Lorch, Ron Rooth, Michael Schack, Rabbi Paul Cohen, Carol Gottke and Fern Kamen



BROTHERHOOD

Joel Rovner, President

BROTHERHOOD CONTINUED TO FOCUS in 2008/09 on its three primary goals of supporting religious events, assisting social action initiatives and planning events that promote fun and fellowship among all Temple members.

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

- *Brotherhood Opening Breakfast.*
- *Family Bingo Night.*
- *Fiddler on the Roof Dinner & Sing-Along.*
- *Brotherhood Shabbat Dinner & Service.*
- *Jim Rosenholtz Annual Golf Outing.*
- *Monthly "Kibbitz & Bites" Breakfasts/Dinners.*

At this writing, our Waukegan College & Career Center social action project continues to take shape. The plans have been designed and reviewed and we are now seeking other groups to partner with us in this extremely valuable and rewarding endeavor. The construction is scheduled to begin in June 2009 for completion by the beginning of the coming school year. Other social action projects that have been completed are the planter building at the Gidwitz Senior Center in Deerfield, the cutting of buckthorn for the River Trail Nature Center in Northbrook and the interior painting of the residents' rooms at the Harbour House in Evanston.

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

- *The Jewish National Fund's purchase of a mini-pumper fire truck for Israel.*
- *Northfield Township Food Pantry.*
- *MAZON: The Jewish Response to Hunger.*
- *SHALVA, an agency dedicated to stopping domestic abuse.*
- *Les Turner ALS Foundation, devoted to finding a cure for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or Lou Gehrig's disease.*
- *JUF for children's summer camp programs in the Former Soviet Union.*
- *JUF for feeding the elderly in the Former Soviet Union.*
- *The Friendship Circle for children with special needs.*

All Brotherhood's community-building activities - both at Temple Jeremiah and outside our community - are made possible by our membership dues and active Brotherhood participation. My hope is that Brotherhood continues to grow and we will be able to do more Tikkun Olam in the coming year.

SISTERHOOD

Gayle Edmunds and Deb Dreyfuss-Tuchman, Co-Presidents

MISSION STATEMENT

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

WE FULFILL THIS MISSION THROUGH:

General Programming and Self-Enrichment Programs

- *Sisterhood Nights Out*
- *Sisterhood Golf Outing*

Religious and Spiritual Programming

- *Sisterhood Shabbat*
- *Women's Torah Study*
- *Sisterhood Shabbat*

Social Action and Philanthropic Activities

- *The ARK*
- *Chanukah Gifts for Needy Children*
- *Waukegan School District Social Action Project*
- *Women of Reform Judaism's YES Fund*
- *Council for the Jewish Elderly*
- *MAZON*
- *Bottomless Closet*

Educational and Temple Programming

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

Please join us and be a part of this very unique and caring community within the Temple Jeremiah family. We warmly welcome anyone who wants to be a part of this outstanding group of women. Your dues fund our programming and social action efforts, so please support us and help us continue our mitzvah efforts.

KEY SISTERHOOD GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

New this year, we adopted the theme, "Women Connect!," to encourage and strengthen the bonds of friendship and support between the women of Temple Jeremiah. Our first Sisterhood Night Out showcased members' home-based businesses and offered opportunities for networking and support. We also opened a Sisterhood account on Facebook to open up new avenues for members to connect on-line.

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SISTERHOOD

New in 2008/09, we instituted a philanthropy component to our Sisterhood Nights Out. These included: clothing donations to the Bottomless Closet, an organization that provides professional clothing to financially stressed women seeking employment; Chanukah gift card donations to the Jewish Youth Services; donations to MAZON; and fee waivers for members to Sisterhood programs.

We continued to learn, discuss and implement many wonderful ideas from the Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ), our international umbrella, and from local Sisterhood groups.

We continued our partnership with the Social Action Committee by supporting the development of a College Career Center at the Washington Street Campus of Waukegan High School. Sisterhood collected materials from Midwest and selected national universities to provide a foundation for the center's college resource files. Sisterhood also purchased college and career preparation books and resource guides to serve as the nucleus for the Center's library.

Warm, Caring Environment

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

Volunteers

Sisterhood recognizes that work and family life place many demands on Temple women. Sisterhood is grateful for the time volunteers give in planning and implementing Sisterhood events and programs. While women have less time to devote to time-intensive committee work, more women are inclined to volunteer for a specific program or project. Sisterhood also has a large pool of volunteers who help out with set-up, clean-up, baking and other services. A major focus of the monthly Covenant Sisterhood column is recognition and appreciation of volunteers. We also host an annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner in honor of our volunteers.

Leadership Representation

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

Visibility in the Community

Sisterhood has a page on the Temple web site and has also advertised events, such as the Women's Seder, through Pioneer Press and JUF News. The Gift Shop has an ad in the Temple Directory and is a Preferred Provider. Sisterhood is also working to create its own Gift Shop web site.

Technology

We are so fortunate to have the help of Phyllis Burg to send out the Sisterhood good and welfare emails and Renee Goldstein to send out other group Sisterhood emails and flyers. We would like to pursue a Gift Shop web page and maybe a Sisterhood brochure. We are exploring options for communicating with and keeping track of our members from email, the Temple web site, Facebook and possibly a Sisterhood database.

ADULT LEARNING COMMITTEE

Ken Lorch, Chair

THE ADULT LEARNING COMMITTEE IS COMMITTED to lifelong Jewish learning at Temple Jeremiah. Our objective is to involve as many congregants as possible in some form of Jewish learning that will enhance their knowledge and appreciation of our rich Jewish heritage.

Our programs are designed to appeal to the broad range of needs and interests of the different segments of our Temple population. The categories of programming include: Biblical studies; current events and contemporary issues; Israel; Jewish art and culture; and theology, philosophy and ritual.

This year the congregation was blessed to receive a gift establishing the Bill and Norma Brown Fund for Lifelong Learning that will be used to endow and underwrite future education programs.

At times we co-sponsor programs with other Jewish organizations such as the American Jewish Committee, Dawn Schuman Institute, the Jewish United Fund and Stand with Us, as well as with other committees and groups within our congregation.

This year we offered the following programs:

- Alex Cicelsky from Kibbutz Lotan talked about how his Reform Kibbutz has made Tikkun Olam the center of everything they do.*
- Emmy Rothschild organized a program led by Linda Rubin, who offers art and cultural programs, on the subject of "Discovering Jewish Art: What Is It and Where Do We Find It?"*
- Ruth Adler led a discussion on Arthur Miller's play, "Incident at Vichy."*
- Stand With Us co-hosted with Itamar Marcus, a counterterrorism analyst and the founder and director of Palestinian Media Watch, a program on "The Pedagogy of Hate."*
- Jewish Council on Urban Affairs ran a workshop for the congregation to establish a social action agenda for our congregation.*
- Barb Milsk, a congregant and employee of CJE's SeniorLife, arranged for a program entitled "The Essence of Caregiving" in which she and her co-worker, Joan Ente from CJE SeniorLife, discussed how we do not need to travel this journey alone and how to deal with this tremendous responsibility.*
- In conjunction with the Jewish United Fund, we held a brunch at which Michael Hirsch, who covers international affairs and globalization for Newsweek, spoke about "Obama and the Middle East: The First 100 Days."*
- "A Guide to the Jewish Spiritual Tradition of Mussar" featured Rabbi Alan Morinis, who looked at this 1000 year old Jewish discipline, literature and philosophy.*

Adult learning opportunities also included our Adult Retreat at OSRUI, which this year looked at "Reform Judaism: It's Personal!"

During Rabbi Cohen's Reading Table, he discussed three books with congregants: "A Pigeon and a Boy" by Meir Shalev, winner of the 2007 National Jewish Book Award; "Betraying Spinoza" by Rebecca Goldstein, a biography of the renegade philosopher Baruch Spinoza; and "The World to Come" by prize-winning author Dara Horn, who interweaved mystery, romance, folklore, theology, history and scripture into a spellbinding modern tale.

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ADULT LEARNING COMMITTEE

The Sunday program, *Pulse of the World*, was a forum in which Rabbi Cohen presented current topics from the news with commentary from a Jewish perspective. These first Sunday of the month programs were heavily attended.

Rabbi Cohen or Rabbi Greenberg journeyed to the Loop monthly to meet congregants and others who took an hour out of their otherwise busy schedules for lunch and the study of selections from various texts concerning how Judaism affects the way we conduct our day-to-day business.

The following is information concerning programs scheduled with the Dawn Schuman Institute which were held at Temple Jeremiah:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Date</u>
<i>"Praying with Lior," an emotional documentary of a special child who had a Bar Mitzvah</i>		<i>Sunday, November 16, 2008 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.</i>
<i>"Jews and Power: Ancient and Modern Perspectives"</i>	<i>Dr. Steven Weitzman and Dr. Jeffrey Veidlinger</i>	<i>Sunday, November 2 & 9, 2008 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.</i>
<i>"Science and Torah: Conflicting, Compatible or Complementary Truths?"</i>	<i>Dr. Steve Steinberg</i>	<i>Sunday, January 18, 2009 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.</i>
<i>"Implications for Peace in the Middle East: Understanding Terrorism and Counterterrorism"</i>	<i>Ethan Bueno de Mesquita</i>	<i>Sunday, February 22, 2009 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.</i>

We thank Ruth Adler, Randi Gurian, Charles Gurian, Barb Milsk, Emmy Rothschild, Janice Weinstein, Victoria Weisenberg and all our other volunteers for their support and willingness to plan and help implement our programs.

BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Michael Schack, Chair

THE BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE'S OBJECTIVE IS TO preserve and enhance our facility in support of Temple Jeremiah's Mission Statement. The committee achieves its objectives by being proactive through preventative maintenance programs, property management, long-range capital planning, capital projects and assisting with current building issues.

In 2008/09 we were successfully able to further improve on our home by completing the following projects:

- Replaced the crumbling brick in the circular drive with concrete and stone blocks.*
- Replaced the ice maker.*
- Repaired and enhanced the audio systems in our worship areas.*
- Worked with the Architectural Committee regarding the menorah, stone walls on the bima and new entry doors for the sanctuary and social hall.*

In light of the current world environment, the committee has spent significant time understanding modern polices and procedures and physical considerations that can be applied to enhance the security of Temple Jeremiah and all those who visit the building. A special security task force has been formed to further this effort. If you are interested in being part of the Security Committee, please give Michael Schack or Fern Kamen a call.

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

The Building Management Committee is always seeking members with specific knowledge of HVAC, electrical, plumbing and similar areas. In addition, members with construction experience or engineering skills would be valuable additions to the committee. We also welcome any suggestions or comments congregants may have to improve Temple Jeremiah's facility. Please contact Michael Schack at 847/509-1717 or Fern Kamen at the Temple if you would like to serve on the Building Management Committee or have any suggestions.

Building Management Committee:

David Blum, Julie Ford, Philippe Geyskens, David Golder, Don Kooperman, Joel Rovner, Michael Schack, Vicki Stoller and Fern Kamen

CARING COMMUNITY

Rabbi C. Michelle Greenberg

Mission Statement:

To reach out to congregants in times of sadness or celebration. This committee creates a sense of community among our Temple family through G'milut Chasidim, Acts of Loving Kindness. We serve as partners with God in caring for one another.

OUR BROTHERHOOD AND SISTERHOOD HAVE CONTINUED to lovingly guide the administration and development of the Caring Community. Members of both auxiliaries are working to continue the great work of past years and build more opportunities for each of our members to connect to our extended Temple family. We are always searching for more ideas and volunteers. Please be in touch with us to get involved.

The Caring Community has involved itself in a number of activities and programs throughout the past year. A summary of the areas in which our deeply committed committee has been active is as follows:

- Care cards and care calls to congregants who have experienced a sad or joyous occasion.*
- Transportation to Temple worship services, activities, medical appointments, etc., as needed.*
- Provision of meals to congregants as needed, including "Caring Casseroles" and homemade meals.*
- Monthly reminders of resources available through Temple Jeremiah and our community organizations as an insert in the Covenant.*

2008/09 Organizational Committee:

Greg Richards, Joel Rovner, Vicki Stoller and Rabbi C. Michelle Greenberg

Service Volunteers:

We have a number of volunteers who generously offer their time to provide needed services to our congregants. A heartfelt thanks go to all of you who have willingly and without hesitation given a helping hand to our congregants in the true spirit of G'milut Chasidim, Acts of Loving Kindness.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

David S. Ruskin, Chair

Mission Statement:

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

THE COMMITTEE WAS FORMED AND BEGAN ITS WORK in summer, 2008. Within the first year of its operation, the Development Committee has worked on the following projects:

- *The Committee has reviewed the current giving opportunities and procedures involved. It was decided that it is critical to educate congregants about the giving opportunities available at Temple Jeremiah, which resulted in several publications in the Covenant as well as on-line.*
- *The Committee has reviewed the usage of technology in processing donations. As a result, currently all donations are processed through the Temple membership management system, which allows for better efficiency and record-keeping on a going forward basis.*
- *The Committee has worked on various issues related to donation acknowledgements. The Committee developed a set of recommendations that included recognition of all donations in the Covenant. The recommendations are being implemented.*
- *The Committee worked on developing strategies to increase sales of Wall of Life and Memorial Wall plaques. The strategies are being implemented.*
- *The Committee is currently working on a new recognition tool involving cumulative or life-time giving. This concept is currently being further explored and developed.*
- *The Committee is currently exploring a major new fundraising idea, "enhanced membership commitment," aimed at increasing dues-related revenue, while assisting our most important asset, our members. The concept is being used at other temples. The idea is to give members the opportunity to increase their annual membership commitment, in varying options, with the additional amount going to assist members with reduced dues. The funding would be similar to FHF ("Families Helping Families") and we discussed the expected reduction in FHF funds as a result. The Committee agreed that the benefits of this concept will ultimately make up for and outweigh any potential reduction in FHF funds. The thought is that members will more likely increase their annual commitment when making that one-time payment each year and still donate to FHF throughout the year. The fundraising approach will include a dollar-a-day giving option.*
- *The Committee took a step forward in recognizing the importance of eliminating the "fear" in asking for money and accepting the need for donor recognition.*

Development Committee:

Marilyn Appelson, David Golder, Brad Ross, David Ruskin, Dr. Mitchell Slotnick, Rabbi Paul Cohen, Fern Kamen and Anna Purinson

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Jani Harris, Chair

Mission Statement:

The Education Committee of Temple Jeremiah is dedicated to reviewing and supporting the curriculum, activities and programming of our Religious School and Hebrew School and ensuring meaningful, effective Jewish education resulting in the transmission of Jewish heritage and knowledge to future generations.

THE RELIGIOUS AND HEBREW SCHOOLS at Temple Jeremiah continue to be among the most popular in the Chicagoland area. We continue to offer exciting, creative and varied ways to teach Jewish culture, rituals and history to the youth of our synagogue. Our Hebrew School program succeeds in educating our students to be active participants in Temple Jeremiah's spiritual services, most often culminating in the leading of a Saturday morning service for a B'nai Mitzvah.

We have invented a new weekly event, Nosh and Mingle, which is a program that encourages socialization among our Hebrew students just prior to the start of school on Mondays and Wednesdays. This has become a very popular program with participation ranging up to 40 students per day. Nosh and Mingle allows students a time and place to grab a snack and make conversation and, hopefully, a new friend just prior to engaging in their class activities.

Religious School is the basis for much activity at Temple Jeremiah on any given Sunday. Multiple programs occur simultaneously in various venues around the Synagogue. There are small group, all-grade, all-school and multi-generational programs happening at different times during the year. Our very popular cross-generational program returned this year between our 8th grade students and Jeremiah senior citizens. Spark HeartAction gives these two groups of Temple Jeremiah's population a chance to interact and build connections. Many laughs, tears and meaningful conversations are shared on a regular basis.

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

Lastly, the connections that we try to make with our college students have been reinforced with our College Connection program. The program continues to grow and the student response is positive and heartwarming.

Building connections through the study of the Jewish religion, its history, culture and language, is our concern as a Religious and Hebrew School. Opportunities for this learning abound at Temple Jeremiah. Many thanks go to the committed group of individuals of the Education Committee who support these activities.

Education Committee:

Gabrielle Feldman, Reuben Gamoran, Maria Hammer, Abby Lasky, Linda Shore, Rabbi Debbie Helbraun, Barb Kite and Dr. Anne Lidsky

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Amy Torf, Chair

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Membership Committee within Temple Jeremiah is to retain and engage the current membership and attract new members.

TO ACCOMPLISH THIS GOAL, the lay leadership, in partnership with the senior staff, provides activities, programs, events and communications that speak to our entire Temple membership and assists in integrating them into the Temple community. In addition, we promote our Temple, its excellent senior staff and Center for Learning programming to the general public and host events geared toward membership retention and recruitment. Our main focus and mission is to create strong, long-lasting connections between our members.

Temple Jeremiah's current membership is approximately 850 households. It is the goal of the Membership Committee to increase the size of the congregation to approximately 900 households. This is a number the Board of Directors feels will generate sufficient revenue to sustain us and provide all the wonderful programming, facilities and leadership that Temple Jeremiah has become known for and will reduce our reliance on dues. Our membership is diverse and we draw from more than ten communities and six high schools.

Each of the activities below plays an important role in the connection, revitalization and existence of the Temple. Many successful membership events occurred last year and will continue in the coming year.

- **The Almond Tree Café** (Chairs: Monica Butler and Laurie Mahler)

Sunday mornings at Temple have a warm feeling to them. The café is a gathering place where members can enjoy the quiet, relax, read the newspaper or engage in lively conversation. We hope you will come and support its wonderful tzedakah causes and make wonderful connections at the same time. The purpose of the Bagel Bar is to offer nourishment, bagels and healthy snacks to satisfy the morning hunger of Religious School students and parents, but more importantly to nourish the social connections of those who have grown to enjoy the camaraderie of fellow Temple members. The Bagel Bar has become a weekly routine for many ... a place to relax and get away from all the everyday craziness of car pool, soccer games, dance recitals, etc.

The volunteers listed below are all instrumental in the success of the Bagel Bar. We depend on them to set up, serve, socialize and clean up every Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This year we donated a total of \$567.05 to the Families Helping Families Fund.

VOLUNTEERS: Monica Butler, Co-Chair; Laurie Mahler, Co-Chair; Abra Berkley, Judy Craven, Amy Dolnick, Sherry Gamoran, Jody Kenzer, Jeff Lazarus, Laura Lustig, Janice Merkin, Anre Nisenboim, Margo Oliff, Deborah Sobel and Mark Sulkin

- **Empty Nesters Programs** (Chair: Eileen Brottman)

The purpose of this committee is to plan social activities, trips, dinners and educational programming for members who are 50+ years old.

The year began with the Empty Nesters' Shabbat Dinner on September 26. The 40 in attendance had a good time greeting new and old friends. At the Pulse of Our World program, sweets were served. On November 9, a theatre party was held at the Northlight Theatre in Skokie where we saw "A Jew Grows in Brooklyn" which was marvelous. Carolyn Sacks planned a great dinner at Don's Fishmarket after the show. Anita Straus planned a pot luck dinner at the Temple on February 22 which was followed by a presentation by Robert Yaffee on "Wagner and the Jews." We are looking forward to our summer event on July 12 when we will tour the new Holocaust Museum in Skokie.

(continued)

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

- **Neighborhood Coffees**

Always a great way for Temple families to interact in an informal setting, the coffees also are an excellent opportunity for prospective families to meet senior staff and other Temple members.

- **New Member Welcome Dinner** (Chairs: Gail Belian and Lindsay Sweet)

This past year our New Member Welcome Dinner was a progressive dinner at which guests switched to a new table for each course. Both new and long-time members enjoyed the chance to meet and reconnect with other Temple Jeremiah members. The dinner was an adults-only event to allow those with children the chance to relax and enjoy a social night out. Babysitting was provided free of charge at the Temple.

- **New Member Brunch**

The Membership Committee hosted a brunch for our new members in the spring. Many new members attended the informal get-together and had the opportunity to get to know each other, learn a little about the programming and committees at Temple Jeremiah and ask questions.

- **Welcome Visits** (Chair: Julie Ford)

This very successful program is in its third year. Each new member was offered a welcome visit in their home. The new member was provided with a welcome gift and information binder. These visits proved to be a great way to get to know and connect with our new members early in their membership and introduce them to Temple life in an intimate and personal way. Thank you to Eileen Brottman, Barbara Miller and Marc Mayer for assisting with the visits.

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS:

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

Membership Committee:

Gail Belian, Eileen Brottman, Monica Butler, Julie Ford, Laurie Mahler, Lindsay Sweet and Amy Torf (Chair)

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Anne & Greg Richards, Co-Chairs

The Mission of the Outreach Committee is to:

- *Welcome interfaith families to take part in synagogue life, to learn more about Judaism and to raise their children as Jews.*
- *Welcome and educate new Jews-by-Choice as well as those investigating Judaism.*
- *Inspire Jews to engage more fully in the synagogue community, especially those who feel disconnected or distant.*
- *Invite non-Jewish partners to explore, study and understand Judaism, thereby providing an atmosphere of support in which a comfortable relationship with Judaism can be fostered.*
- *Assist young adults in strengthening their Jewish connection and identity.*
- *Educate and sensitize the congregational community to be accepting of all who seek a place at Temple Jeremiah.*

PROGRAMS ORGANIZED BY OUTREACH THIS YEAR HAVE INCLUDED:

Conversations with Interfaith Families

Led by Rabbi Cohen, this interactive group of congregants shared and discussed ways that interfaith relationships affected their families. The group was made up of predominantly parents of grown children who were involved in interfaith relationships and possibly having children of their own. An important focus of the panel was to discuss those religious traditions which have become most meaningful to the participants.

Shabbat Across America

This Temple Jeremiah tradition allowed our congregants to celebrate the joy of a Shabbat dinner together. Dinner was followed by a Shabbat Service where members of our congregation spoke about their connection with the Temple and what Shabbat means to them.

Jewish Journeys

Outreach continued publication in the Covenant of its regular column inviting members to share their experiences along the path of Jewish identification and celebration. In addition, Outreach occasionally shared the column space with voices outside the Jeremiah community on relevant topics.

Outreach Committee:

Susan Ardell, Dee Bittman, Dick Bittman, Roberta Glick, Joe Hammer, Maria Hammer, Steve Salk, Trish Salk, Sheila Schlaggar and Rabbi Michelle Greenberg

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Mindy Kurtz and Barbara and Stephen Miller, Co-Chairs

2008/09 WAS A POSITIVE AND productive year for the Social Action Committee at Temple Jeremiah as we continued to integrate social action into the fabric of Temple life. The congregation undertook several new initiatives as we continued to successfully operate a number of existing programs. One important goal we achieved was to continue implementation of our long-range commitment of encouraging the various constituent social action committees to work together toward a common, thematic goal. Brotherhood, Sisterhood, School, Empty Nesters and the congregation-at-large all worked together on important projects and achieved positive results.

We continued developing our long-term partnership with the Waukegan Public Schools and began a program to help students move toward success on both a college track and a targeted career track. In furtherance of this theme, our groups undertook the following activities:

1. After a series of meetings with school district teachers and administrators, volunteers from Brotherhood, assisted by a Temple member, prepared architectural plans for a dedicated Waukegan High School Counseling Center and began the bidding, fundraising and implementation process.
2. Sisterhood conducted a clothing drive geared specifically for women who are seniors at Waukegan High School to use at college and job interviews.
3. Sisterhood collected approximately \$2000 to purchase college planning and guidance books.
4. The Religious School collected books to add to the 9th grade curriculum.

In other social action programs:

5. The Empty Nesters continued their AOne on One Reading Program in which about 20 volunteers read to students and assisted teachers in a classroom in Waukegan once or twice a month.
6. The Social Action Committee continued the Feed the Homeless and Feed-A-Family programs with good success and participation by approximately 30 families.

7. Sisterhood sponsored a Women's Seder to raise money for MAZON.
8. Sisterhood sponsored the High Holy Day Food Drive for the ARK.
9. Sisterhood sponsored a High Holy Day sale of challah, apples and honey to raise money for MAZON.
10. Brotherhood sponsored a group of volunteers to assist at the Rogers Park Unitarian Church soup kitchen.
11. Brotherhood built a planter box at the Gidwitz Senior Center so the residents there could plant a vegetable garden.
12. Brotherhood members cut buckthorn weeds at the River Trail Nature Center in Northbrook to promote the viability of the native vegetation.
13. Brotherhood painted six residential rooms at the Harbour House home for abused teenagers in Evanston.
14. Members of the Temple Youth Group worked with five Chicago area temples to cook a Thanksgiving feast for approximately 600 hungry and homeless Chicagoans at the Bethlehem Healing Temple on Madison and Oakley on the west side.
15. The Feed the Homeless program saw approximately 25 families travel to the Greater Bethlehem Healing Temple the second Sunday of the month to donate food to homeless people. The collection boxes in the lobby have received literally hundreds of items of clothing, food, books and other items which have been donated to local charities year-round.

Rabbi Cohen and his staff, including Rabbi Greenberg, continued to encourage and guide a number of B'nai Mitzvah teens into worthwhile social action projects in partnership with local and international causes in an effort to address social action in a most personal and moving way.

SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMITTEE

Joel Kaufmann, Chair

The Committee on Spiritual Life explored several subjects during the past year.

Review of High Holy Day Services - *Adding the communal blowing of the shofar to the concluding service seems to have been very well received and has helped attendance after the Yizkor service. Alternatives for congregants are also being considered, such as a Rosh Hashanah retreat to OSRUI or an innovative service in the Golder Chapel.*

Use of Mishkah T'filah - *The flow of services has continued to improve as our clergy gain familiarity with our new prayer books. We have supplemented our present supply of books with the Shabbat-only version.*

H(OUR) Shabbat Service - *Music is the focus of this special Shabbat service on the third Friday of each month which has been quite well received. A favorable comment was made that it is "accessible without being pediatric."*

Temple Jeremiah's 50th Anniversary Celebration - *The Spiritual Life Committee will find the opportunity to involve itself in a Shabbat evening service during next year's "50th Year Celebration" that will contain many elements to demonstrate the progression, development and changes to our services over the last 50 years – even identifying similarities and differences among our prayer books from the Union Prayer Book to The Gates of Prayer and presently Mishkan T'filah. We will also participate in the new Torah scroll project if the board approves it.*

It is important to note that the introduction of Saturday morning Shabbat services on the dates for which no Bar or Bat Mitzvah has been scheduled will continue through the summer. The Shabbat Services begin at 8:30 a.m. and are coordinated with Torah Study at 9:00 a.m. and conclude shortly after 10:00 a.m. This is an innovative way for us to revitalize Temple Jeremiah's Shabbat morning prayer service.

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

Committee on Spiritual Life:

Ernie Frankl, David Golder, Sheldon Gray, Beth Hafter, Herb Horn, Jeffrey Krupp, Howard Lanznar, Trish Salk, Sheila Schlaggar, Dr. Mitchell Slotnick, Rabbi Paul Cohen, Rabbi Michelle Greenberg and Cantor Amy Zussman

TORAH OF OUR OWN: A JEREMIAH FAMILY COMMITMENT

Marc Mayer and John Maeglin, Co-Chairs

THE 613TH COMMANDMENT IN THE TORAH is to “write a Torah.” As part of Temple Jeremiah 50th anniversary celebration, congregants will have a chance to do just that ... to write in Temple Jeremiah’s first proprietary Torah Scroll.

The Torah of Our Own (TOO) committee, formed last fall and currently counting 29 active committee members, was tasked with commissioning a new Torah scroll and building a full year of related activities around its acquisition. To date, the committee has retained a Torah scribe (Sofer), selected dates for letter writing events and is beginning to develop a host of educational and inspirational activities designed to enhance congregants’ connections to Torah, to Temple Jeremiah and to each other.

The Opening Ceremony will be October 18, 2009. We will celebrate the completion of the new Torah scroll in late May 2010. In between there will be many opportunities for member families to join with the Sofer in actually writing letters in this new Torah, including specific words, names and passages that have special meaning for the participant. This is an absolutely unique experience. Participation ensures a tangible and enduring legacy as this new Torah, our Torah, is used in worship services—L’dor V’dor—for decades to come.

A primary goal for TOO is full congregational participation. Along with the letter writing opportunities there will be accompanying events designed to appeal to the full breadth of members’ spiritual and intellectual interests. From activities for students and their families to Empty Nesters, Brotherhood, Sisterhood and adult education—virtually every facet of Temple Jeremiah life will be covered with unique programming that will inspire, educate and entertain.

Torah of Our Own will also serve as Jeremiah’s primary fundraising activity during the Temple’s 50th anniversary celebration. Other congregations have had significant success in raising funds as part of their Torah writing projects. Despite the difficult economic environment, the TOO Committee strongly believes that **Torah of Our Own** will be a real financial success, and we look forward to each member supporting the project to ensure its success. Fundraising will not only pay for the Torah but will allow us to continue to teach Torah and support the many missions of the Temple.

We urge all congregants to contact the committee co-chairs or Temple Jeremiah leadership to learn more about TOO and to get personally involved. An opportunity of this nature presents itself only once in a lifetime. You will want to be a part of it.

Please feel free to contact us.

Marc Mayer (inthekeyofm@aol.com) and John Maeglin (jmaeglin@aol.com)

YOUTH COMMITTEE

Jeff Sacks, Chair

Mission Statement

To create for our youth a welcoming atmosphere which provides ongoing opportunities for social, emotional and Jewish growth.

THIS PAST YEAR WE HELD many successful events and we have had a few challenges. Programs with high excitement included:

- *Nosh and Mingle – About 40-50 children stop in the Youth Lounge on a regular basis to eat with about 25-30 young people “hanging out” in the lounge. With the change in school schedules taking effect next year, we are looking at starting Nosh and Mingle earlier. Attendees range from 3rd grade to 7th grade.*
- *Top Chef: Jeremiah*
- *Laser Quest*
- *Taste of Tikkun on Sunday mornings*
- *Social action projects*
- *L’taken Social Justice Seminar in Washington, D.C.*

Programs with less than expected attendance resulted primarily from scheduling issues, e.g., conflicts with school events. We hope to deal with this issue by getting our programming calendar out as early in the year as possible and being aware of major outside activities that impact attendance.

In addition to Nosh and Mingle, Taste of Tikkun, Junior Choir, the School of Jewish Rock, Madrichim (teachers’ aides), social activities and InterAct, we have three youth groups: Club 56 for 5th and 6th graders; JYG (Junior Youth Group) for junior high schoolers; and JeTY (Jeremiah Temple Youth) for high school aged congregants. Continuing to build interest and participation in our youth groups starts with our youngest members. We must catch their interest when they are still active in the many programs we offer to late elementary and middle school aged children. For example, Junior Choir and School of Jewish Rock are both popular youth programs.

In the past, we have experienced slow but steady erosion in participation as the kids got older. A big

task is to continue to engage our kids who are already active in Temple youth activities. We also want to engage and capture the interest of congregants at every age, from late elementary onward, in youth programming and participation in youth programs. We made a good start this past year and believe we have a solid plan for accomplishing these objectives in our next fiscal year.

To accomplish these objectives, we are doing the following:

- *Abby Lasky designed, implemented and executed a survey by 3rd through 12th graders which asked about social action programs and activities they were interested in and involvement in youth programs. The results of this survey will be a big factor in how we plan the upcoming year. Our young people are speaking and we are listening.*
- *We are looking at creating youth programs for younger elementary ages. We must capture their interests while they are young or are likely to lose them entirely when they enter high school.*
- *To increase visibility, we plan to have a Youth Department table at Open House events, sponsor the Bagel Bar close to dates when we have major programs, use the TV monitor in the lounge area to promote youth activities and speak to parents at grade-school dinners about youth activities.*

The economic crisis has not spared our budget. We must do more with fewer monetary resources. Rather than hiring a Youth Advisor, Rabbi Greenberg has taken on the responsibility of running the Youth Department. We will also be looking for additional financial support from the families of children participating in events. Unfortunately, we cannot subsidize programs in the same manner which we have in the past. We will be looking for more parent volunteering.

I want to thank all of the members of the Youth Committee who gave their time and energy to helping Temple Jeremiah develop and increase the programs it offers to its young people:

Randi Carr, Neil Cohen, Jack Craven, Ira Dolnick, Ernie Frankl, Mark Hafter, Abby Lasky, Craig Rosenberg, John Sobel and Rabbi Michelle Greenberg

APPENDIX:

2008/09 WORSHIP & PROGRAMS

LEARNING & WORSHIP

ADULT CLASSES:

- Adult Hebrew Classes
- Hebrew Refresher Class
- Lunch and Learn: "Judaism in the Marketplace"
- "Pulse of Our World"
- "On One Foot" A Survey of Various Jewish Topics"
- Rabbi's Reading Table
- Weekly Torah Study

ADULT LECTURES/PRESENTATIONS:

- Candidates' Forum with Elizabeth Coulson and Daniel Biss
- "Discovering Jewish Art"
- Discussion of Play: "Incident at Vichy"
- Golder Interfaith Lecture: "How Our Traditions Deal with Diversity" A Panel Discussion moderated by Clarence Page
- "A Guide to the Jewish Spiritual Tradition of Mussar" with Rabbi Alan Morinis
- "How to Keep Life Interesting" with Bill Kurtis sponsored by NSSC
- JUF Brunch and Book Signing with Michael Hirsch
- "The Lotan Story" on Kibbutz Lotan
- "Maimonides: The Life & World of One of Civilization's Greatest Minds"
- North Shore Kallah
- Parenting Workshop: "Raising Respectful, Responsible & Resilient Children" with Lauren Bondy and Karen Jacobson
- "Pedagogy of Hate" with Itamar Marcus of Palestinian Media Watch

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH EDUCATION

- Film: "Praying with Lior"
- Hebrew Ulpan Center
- "Implications for Peace in the Middle East" with Ethan Bueno de Mesquita

- "Jews & Power" with Dr. Steven Weitzman & Dr. Jeffrey Veidlinger
- Florence Melton Adult Mini-School
- "Science & Torah" with Dr. Steve Steinberg

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION/ PROGRAMMING:

- Sunday Morning Parent & Tot Program
- Torah for Tots & Shabbat Yeladim
- Tot Shabbat

HEALTH/WELFARE:

- Community Resource Guide
- "The Essence of Caregiving" with the Council for Jewish Elderly
- Film - "In the Family" with FORCE (Facing our Risk of Cancer Empowered)
- "Giving the Gift of Peace of Mind" with the Jewish Healing Network
- Job Search/Job Skills Coaching
- LifeLine Screening

HEBREW & RELIGIOUS SCHOOL:

- All-School Chanukah Celebration
- Confirmation Ceremony
- Confirmation Retreat
- Consecration Program
- Development of Projects by Parents at the Marshall Resource Center
- End-of-School-Year Program with Shining Lights and Storytellers
- "Ethical Wills" Program
- Field Trips to Holocaust Museum, ARK, Central Avenue Synagogue and a Local Mosque and Church
- Grade-Level Shabbat Dinners
- Hebrew School Graduation
- Israel Extravaganza
- "Kids on the Block"
- On-Line School Registration

- Open Houses
- Opening Day School Assembly

JUNIOR CHOIR:

- Annual Retreat at OSRUI
- Junior Choir Shabbat Dinner
- Junior Choir Sleepover
- Performances at Nursing Homes

OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

- "Conversations with Interfaith Families"
- Shabbat Across America
- Shabbat Afternoon in the Ark

RETREAT/TRIPS:

- Adult Retreat with Rabbi Cohen - "Reform Judaism: It's Personal!"
- L'taken Social Justice Seminar in Washington, D.C.
- Ta'am Yisrael Trip to Israel

WORSHIP PROGRAMS:

- Chicken Soup Bar & Shabbat Shira
- Erev Shabbat Services
- Erev Shavuot Dinner & Tikkun, Morning Service & Yizkor
- Erev Simchat Torah Service with Maxwell Street Klezmer Band and Morning Service & Yizkor
- Family Shabbat Services
- Friday Night Live!
- High Holy Day and Passover Services
- H(OUR) Shabbat Services
- Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
- Kabbalat Shabbat Services
- Purim Spiel & Megillah Reading
- Selichot Dinner, Havdalah & Service
- Shabbat Across America
- Shabbat/Chanukah Dinner and Worship Service
- Sukkot: "Pizza in the Hut" and "Starbucks in the Sukkah"
- Youth, Junior Choir & School of Jewish Rock Shabbat

(continued)

APPENDIX:

2008/09 WORSHIP & PROGRAMS

GROUPS & EVENTS

BROTHERHOOD:

- Barbecue for Closing School Events
- Ernie Bloch Tzedakah Box
- Family Bingo Night
- "Fiddler on the Roof" Dinner & Sing-Along
- Funding of Jewish Children's Bureau
- Gifts for B'nai Mitzvah and Confirmands
- Golf Outing and Breakfast
- Kibbitz & Bites Get-Togethers
- On-Line Survey
- Opening Breakfast
- Saturday/High Holy Day Ushering
- Shabbat Dinner and Service
- Social Action Projects for River Trails Nature Center, Harbour House, Gidwitz Assisted Living & Rogers Park Soup Kitchen

BUILDING/CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS:

- Sanctuary Improvements
- "Torah of Our Own" Project

EMPTY NESTERS:

- Play: "A Jew Grows in Brooklyn" at Center for the Performing Arts
- "Pot Luck Dinner & Program "On Wagner & the Jews" with Robert Yaffee
- "Pulse of Our World" snacks
- Reading Program at Whittier School in Waukegan
- Shabbat Dinner & Service

MEMBERSHIP:

- Almond Tree Café
- Ambassador Program
- Chavurah Groups
- Ice Cream at Kabbalat Shabbat
- Membership Survey
- Mentor Family Program
- Neighborhood Coffees
- New Member Progressive Dinner & Shabbat Service

- New Member Welcome Visits
- Prospective Member Barbecue
- Volunteer Connections

SISTERHOOD:

- "Break the Fast" after Yom Kippur
- Challah & Honey Sale
- Chanukah Boutique
- Chanukah Wish Tag Program
- Closing & Installation Dinner
- Gift Shop
- Gifts for B'nai Mitzvah and Confirmands
- Golf Outing
- High Holy Day Food Drive
- Kickoff Meeting
- Lunch for the CJE
- Open House: "Sweet Beginnings"
- Shabbat Dinner & Service
- Sisterhood Facebook Page
- Sisterhood Nights Out: "Food, Fun, Fashion & Philanthropy,"
- Chanukah Pottery Painting Party & Bowling at Pinstripes
- "Sisterhood Women Connect!"
- Torah Study
- Women's Seder

SOCIAL ACTION & ADVOCACY:

- AA & Alanon Meetings at Temple
- Blood Drive
- Book Collection for new 9th-12th grade library in Waukegan
- B'nai Mitzvah Projects
- Caring Community
- Cell Phone Collection for SHALVA
- Development of College & Career Center at Waukegan High School
- Feed-A-Family
- Feed the Homeless
- Fundraising for Mini-Pumper for Friends of Israel Firefighters
- MAZON Donations
- Participation in URJ Biennial
- Reading Program at Whittier School in Waukegan
- Support of Our Sister City, Yerevan, Armenia
- Tzedakah Boxes in the Lobby

- Tzedakah Fair, Bone Marrow Drive & Stuffed Animal Drive
- Workshop on Social Justice & Advocacy with JCUA

TEMPLE EVENTS:

- Book Fair
- Chai Society Concerts
- "The Decade of the 1920's"
- Purim "Mary Poppins-Style"
- "Sail the Chai Seas" Fundraiser
- Shushan Shuffle 5K Run/Walk
- Walk with Israel

YOUTH DEPARTMENT/ COLLEGE STUDENTS:

- 9th Grade Lock-In
- Board Game Day
- Chanukah Party
- "College Connection"
- Ice Cream Social
- InterAct for Post-Confirmands
- JYG/JeTY/InterAct Purim Party
- JYG Bowling
- JYG Weekend Retreat
- Lazer Tag
- Nosh and Mingle
- Participation in Walk with Israel
- School of Jewish Rock
- Setting Up and Running Purim Carnival
- SKIP (Send-A-Kid-To-Israel Partnership)
- Social Action: Thanksgiving Dinner at Bethlehem Healing Temple
- Spark HeartAction for Post-B'nai Mitzvah students
- Taste of Tikkun
- Teen Havdalah
- Teen Song Leading Workshop
- Toddie Gray and Diane Mary Katz Scholarship
- Top Chef Jeremiah
- Visit to Indiana University by Rabbi Cohen and Dr. Lidsky
- Youth Group Social Action
- Youth Shabbat Dinner & Service

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THE YEAR IN REVIEW

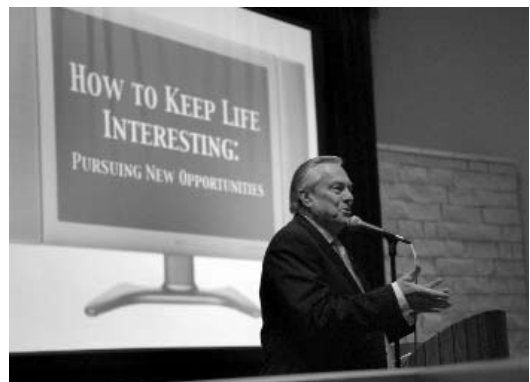
Here are some brief glimpses into our congregational life, including ...



A Purim celebration being held by the Jewish community of Yerevan, Armenia, Temple Jeremiah's Sister City



Participants at the Adult Retreat, "Reform Judaism: It's Personal!," at OSRUI



Bill Kurtis speaking at the program, "How to Keep Life Interesting," at Temple Jeremiah sponsored by the North Shore Senior Center



Temple Jeremiah congregants showing the product of their fundraising efforts, a mini-pumper to benefit the Friends of Israel Firefighters

(continued)

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Participants in the Golder Lecture (from left): Rabbi Dr. David Sandmel, Dr. Alice Hunt, Clarence Page, Francis Cardinal George, Archbishop of Chicago, Imam Abdul Malik Mujahid and Rabbi Paul Cohen



Participants at the JUF Brunch & Speaker program (from left): David Golder (Temple President), Rob Dann (sponsor) Michael Hirsch (speaker), Erica Regunberg (sponsor) and Rabbi Paul Cohen



Runners preparing for the Annual Shushan 5K Shuffle Run/Walk



Just some of the activities that took place at the Confirmation Retreat at OSRUI



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