



TEMPLE EMANUEL **ANNUAL REPORT** 5768/5769 2008/2009



Av, 5769—August, 2009

Dear Friends:

Welcoming.

That one word captures the theme of our year. Inspired by the work of Dr. Ron Wolfson, [The Spirituality of Welcoming](#), our lay and professional leadership worked together to enhance our spirit of welcoming in three areas.

Welcoming ambience. When you walk in, do you feel connected and at home? Every member is a greeter. Every member is a minister. It is working. We consistently hear feedback from people who say that when they walk in off the street, they are immediately welcomed, embraced and made to feel at home.

Welcoming prayer life. Our services are full of song and music, of content and learning, of participation and celebration. And we have lots of choices, for in our diverse community, one size does not fit all.

Welcoming membership. For our new members, and for our members who have been here for years, we are engaging more people where they are at: classes for the learners, choirs for the singers, social justice for those who work to make our world better, Israel action for the lovers of Zion, and social gatherings for those who come to shul for friends and community.

We are working on our welcoming. If we succeed, we will fulfill our fondest aspiration, and achieve our mission to be a community of sacred relationships that provide each of us with strength and support in life's hard times, shared joy in life's good times, and friendship at all times.

All of this welcoming, and all of this building of sacred relationships, require money.

Despite the recession, last year we had the most successful Annual Appeal we have ever had, raising more than half a million dollars, which allowed us to grant abatements to our members who could not pay all or part of their dues, and to continue our rich and generative programming, all the while finishing the year in the black.

Why such a successful Annual Appeal in the face of the recession?

Because you are generous. And because you love this sacred place, never more important, never more needed, than now.

Shanah tovah u'metukah! A healthy and happy New Year!

Rabbi Wes Gardenswartz

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Amy B. Klein

Amy B. Klein, President



The background of the document is a photograph of a long, brightly lit hallway in a synagogue. The hallway features white walls, a dark carpet, and a series of large windows on the right side that allow natural light to stream in. On the left, there are white doors and a railing. Overlaid on this image are several semi-transparent, colorful geometric shapes, including squares and rectangles in shades of purple, blue, orange, yellow, and green, creating a modern, artistic design.

Temple Emanuel Mission Statement

Temple Emanuel is a warm, welcoming, diverse Conservative congregation that:

- Inspires our members to a love of God, Torah and Israel;
- Builds lasting relationships that provide each of us with strength and support in life's hard times, shared joy in life's good times, and friendship at all times;
- Transmits a love of Jewish living from generation to generation; and
- Helps our members make ordinary days holy by filling our lives with the *mitzvot* God has given us to make our lives matter.

In pursuing these sacred purposes, Temple Emanuel offers the best of big and small: the resources that allow for choices, and the communities of shared passion that allow for intimacy.



The Gate of Torah

- Graduated two full Me'ah classes, involving 100 hours of intensive adult Jewish learning at the highest level – in which our students encountered biblical, rabbinic, medieval and modern Jewish history and literature.
- Recruited new classes for Me'ah beginning in the fall of 2009.
- Offered post-Me'ah classes.
- Held Sisterhood classes, including the Rabbi's class on the stories of Shmuel Agnon, Israel's Nobel prize winning writer.
- Taught adult B'nei Mitzvah classes in which our learners learn how to chant Torah, Haftarah and give a d'var Torah, all the while wrestling with how they want to grow as a Jew.
- Hosted engaging speakers for the Rabbi Samuel Chiel Kallah, Sisterhood Shabbat, Brotherhood / Social Action Shabbat and the Israel Action Forum.
- Our Cantor and Ritual Director regularly teach individuals one on one who want to learn how to lead a service or read Torah.





The Gate of Prayer

- Our Shabbat Alive! musical Friday night service continues to grow in popularity, with an average of 350-400 participants almost every Friday evening. A weekly Oneg following this service and the Friday evening Chapel service is a great opportunity to build community and has become a regular part of welcoming Shabbat at the shul.
- In our traditional Shabbat morning service in the Rabbi Samuel Chiel Sanctuary, we don't just pray. We sing. The joy of our Hazzan's song is infectious. We grapple with the weekly Torah portion and see where sacred text meets life. We celebrate life's passages—births, *b'nei mitzvah*, *auf rufs*, special birthdays and anniversaries.
- In addition to our sanctuary service, we offer multiple options: an early morning service (the *hashkamah* minyan), a lay-led service (the Chapel Minyan), a learner's service, and children's services.
- We maintain the most reliable Conservative daily minyan in the area each and every morning and evening, attracting people from greater Boston who depend on a minyan.





The Gate of Israel

- We sponsored our second mission to Israel – The Gloria Adelson Field Covenanted Israel Trip. Our members who returned from that trip are now engaged on a variety of committees, attend services regularly and are involved in Synagogue leadership.
- We send the largest number of teens of any shul in Boston to Israel on Passport to Israel.
- Our Israel Action Forum ensures a steady stream of passionate and intelligent speakers about Israel on all sides of the political spectrum.
- We sent the largest-ever delegation of Temple Emanuel members to the national AIPAC conference in Washington, D.C. This coming year, we will send even more.





The Gate of Shabbat

- Shabbat gets off to a great start for hundreds of our members every Friday night with our two services, Shabbat Alive! and the Chapel service, followed by our Oneg, where our members enjoy unhurried time connecting.
- Shabbat Unplugged helped our members celebrate Shabbat for 25 hours, from sunset to sunset.
- With Share-a-Shabbat, we organized intimate dinners in our members' homes where people who had been strangers became friends over the Shabbat dinner table.
- Classes before and after services bring content and community to our celebration of Shabbat.
- Weekly Shabbat morning Talmud classes with the Rabbi at 8:30 a.m. attract a regular attendance of 50 to 70 learners. We grapple with pressing and timely issues like intermarriage, the unconverted Jewish spouse, the Christian family of the Jew by choice.

TEMPLE EMANUEL

SHABBAT
ALIVE





The Gate of Redeeming Our World

- We responded to the recession with Emanu—With You Now. We mobilized our people for our people – addressing the financial, legal, emotional and spiritual challenges posed by the crisis.
- The 20th year celebration of Project Manna brought forth song and sustenance. Despite the recession, we raised the most money ever for the Massachusetts Avenue Baptist Church and its soup kitchen and food pantry that feed the hungry and the homeless.
- Clothing and book drives
- Tutoring students in reading and math
- Contributing food to Family Table and food workers for Sunday's Bread
- B'nei Mitzvah social justice projects
- Under Hillel's Call to Action, and together with sister communities of faith in the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO), we engaged in community organizing around:
 - Aging with Dignity
 - Caring for the Caregivers
 - Caring for our Environment
- Our teens have been organizing around the mayoral election in Newton and succeeded in getting all four candidates to present their views to a packed house here at the Temple.





The Gate of Community



- Popular and well attended musical programs of all kinds continue to thrive under the direction of our Cantor and with the support of our Music Committee. These include Hanukkah Happens, Project Manna and Sunday afternoon concerts.

- Under our new governance structure our smaller Board of Directors and a revitalized Board of Trustees worked collaboratively with senior staff this year and adopted a Mission Statement for our Synagogue and participated in our leadership training program ("LEAD"), which was the driving force behind the creation of a more welcoming ambience at TE.
- Friendship and connection are at the heart of Sisterhood, Brotherhood, Dor Chadash, our Havurah, and PG-45 groups that build community.
- We established our Java Gate Café, providing a place for members of our community to meet, chat, and connect over gourmet coffee on Sunday mornings in the Leventhal Sidman Community Court.
- On April 27, 2009 our Yom Hashoah commemoration event was attended by a standing room only crowd.

We dedicated a Wall of Remembrance surrounding our Holocaust Torah listing the names and ages of the men, women and children who perished in the Shoah from the town of Dvur Kralove from which our Torah comes.

- At the once-in-every 28 years *birkat hachamah* ceremony, more than 100 people blessed God for making the sun, while singing "Here Comes the Sun" to the accompaniment of a keyboard. Miraculously, the sun peaked through the clouds at just the right moment.





The Gate of Teaching Jewish Values to Our Children

- We are all about transmitting Jewish values from generation to generation!
- A new Simchat Torah lunch for families brought in several hundred people who danced with the Torah and shared lunch together.
- A new community Hanukkah Celebration evening allowed us to light candles, eat latkes, sing songs, and spin dreidels together as a community—a night of lights in the festival of lights.
- Purim was jam-packed and included a teen band and a Disney theme.
- On the Shabbat of Passover, we had our intergenerational Shabbat. Parents and children, grandparents and grandchildren, came together to celebrate their Jewish life.
- Our Gates of Jerusalem exhibit was the very best in family education and informal education, bringing the magic and the mystery and the learning of Jerusalem to Newton for people of all ages.



- Our Temple Emanuel Nursery School thrives at full capacity with a waiting list and brims with happy children and their happy parents.
- We completed the first full year of our transformed religious school, including the ground-breaking Makor program in partnership with Hebrew College for 6th and 7th graders and our revised curriculum for our K-5 students. Both programs received extremely positive reviews from both students and parents. We have turned the corner in our ongoing efforts to make our religious school a place where students want to be rather than where they have to be.
- Our teens participated in USY programs in record numbers, from Limo Scavenger Hunt to snow-tubing to mitzvah projects to organizing a forum for the four mayoral candidates.
- We continue to build bridges between our day school and religious school communities, so that our children learn, pray, play basketball and spend time hanging out together.



WHY OUR ANNUAL APPEAL MATTERS

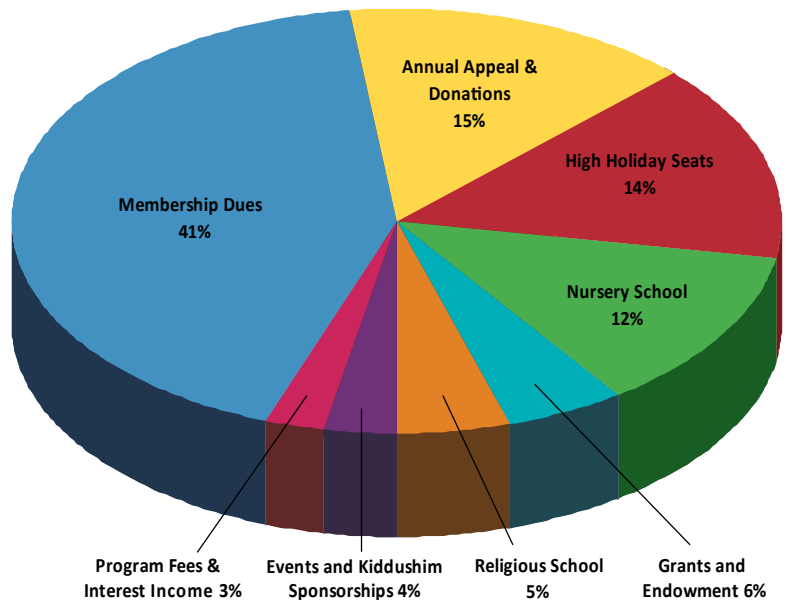
Whether we finish the year in the black or in the red, whether we have enough resources to grant abatements and still have rich programming and services in each of the Seven Gates, in short whether we can be a vibrant community – all hinge on the Annual Appeal. The linchpin of our Temple's financial health is the Annual Appeal. Here is why.

This pie chart shows that after dues the Annual Appeal & Donations are our single greatest source of revenue. And, of all the slices on the pie chart, it is the slice with the greatest capacity to grow.

When you give to our Annual Appeal, you are directly sustaining our vibrant community.



Revenue Sources





**Special Thanks to Our
Temple Emanuel Photo Corps**

Howard Breslau
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