

# Temple Emanuel

5769/5770 2009/2010



## ANNUAL REPORT

*Celebrating Our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*



*Temple Emanuel*

Av, 5770—August, 2010

Dear Friends:

Your mother just celebrated her 80th birthday. What do you want for her? An 81st year of health and strength and life. Your parents just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. What do you want for them? A 51st year of health and strength and life. Your son or daughter just celebrated their Bar or Bat Mitzvah. What do we want for them? That their 14th year should be filled with learning and growing and building.

What is the encore to a milestone? Life. Days, weeks, months, and years of living, with eyes open for wonder, hearts open for passion, minds open for learning, and our humanity open for deepening the relationships that give our very existence meaning.

That is where we are at as we build upon our first 75 years. Our prayer is for a 76th year where we reach our people, inspire them, challenge them, teach them, celebrate with them, console them, and bring them ever closer to God and to one another.

Abraham Joshua Heschel's last public statement, in 1972, the very year he died, is a perfect challenge and prayer for each of us individually, and for all of us collectively:

*"Remember that there is a meaning beyond absurdity. Be sure that every little deed counts, that every word has power, and that we can do our share to redeem the world in spite of all absurdities and all frustration and all disappointments.*

*Above all, remember that the meaning of life is to build a life as if it were a work of art. You are not a machine. And you are young. Start working on this great work of art called your own existence."*

Our *kehilla kedosha*, our sacred community, is one important place where we meet this challenge, and where we answer this prayer.

To do so for 1,125 families, for 3,300 souls, one at a time, by providing seven gates humming seven days a week, requires money.

Despite the recession, last year we had the most successful Annual Appeal we have ever had, which allowed us to reach more people more deeply and to finish the year in the black.

What is the encore to a milestone? How will we follow up a splendid celebration of our 75 years? With a 76th year of health and strength and life, made possible by your generosity. Thank you for sustaining the place that sustains us.

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

*Rabbi Wes Gardenswartz*

Rabbi Wes Gardenswartz

*Amy B. Klein*

Amy B. Klein, President



The background of the document is a photograph of the Temple Emanuel building, a modern structure with a glass facade and a prominent archway. Overlaid on the image are several semi-transparent, colorful geometric shapes in shades of purple, blue, orange, and green. Banners with Hebrew text and English phrases like "THE GATE OF ISRAEL" and "REDEEMING THE WORLD" are visible in the background.

# 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

- Began new 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.
- Offered post-Me'ah classes.
- Held Sisterhood classes, including the Rabbi's class on current Israeli scholarship on the Tanakh.
- Taught Adult B'nei Mitzvah classes in which our learners learned how to chant Torah, Haftarah and give a d'var Torah, all the while wrestling with how they want to grow as a Jew. This class celebrated its B'nei Mitzvah on Pesach.
- Hosted amazing scholars this year, including two

from the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem who packed the house --with 400 to 500 people for Micah Goodman on a cold, snowy night in January on The Book of Job, and Rabbi Donniel Hartman, for the Rabbi Samuel Chiel Kallah of inspiring learning on "The Gods of Israel."

- Our Cantor and Ritual Director regularly taught members one on one who wanted to learn how to lead a service or read Torah.
- Initiated the Temple Emanuel Reads program, as dozens of people read and discussed Maimonides, a biography by Dr. Sherwin B. Nuland, that culminated in a lecture by Dr. Bernard Steinberg and later read and discussed A Pigeon and a Boy by Meir Shalev.





# The Gate of Prayer

- Our Shabbat Alive! musical Friday night service continued to inspire hundreds of members who attend every week. This service has made regular daveners out of members who never used to daven regularly, and who miss the service if they are out of town. 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 prayer options: an early morning service (the *hashkamah minyan*), a lay-led service (the Chapel Minyan), a learner's service, children's services and a yoga minyan.
- We continue to 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. Many come in to say Kaddish; they end up finding a community of friends.
- Purim celebration (the hippie flower child 60s) to remember, with the songs of Purim sung to the Beatles.
- Launched new children's services —Ruach Shabbat—which we will continue to build next year.
- More children than ever built their own tefillin and came to appreciate and revive this important mitzvah.





# The Gate of Israel



- We sent the largest number of teens of any shul in Boston to Israel on Passport to Israel.
- We sent the largest-ever delegation of Temple Emanuel members to the national AIPAC conference in Washington, D.C., and the largest delegation of any synagogue in New England.
- We launched a Sustained Dialogue Group so that Temple Emanuel members who felt strongly and disagreed passionately with one another could learn to listen to one another. The purpose was not to change minds but to open up hearts to hear different points of view. Over 50 people participated in this project, and we will continue with sustained dialogue on Israel again this year, deepening the difficult conversation.
- We are launching a program this year to educate every member about Israel so that all of us can make the case for Israel with our friends and neighbors in the various walks of our lives.
- Our Israel Action Committee and Combined Israel Education subcommittee ensured a steady stream of educational programs and passionate and intelligent speakers about Israel on all sides of the political spectrum.
- Our youngest learners learned to love Israel. Our students at the Temple Emanuel Nursery School put handwritten notes in a "kotel" made of matzah boxes and had beach day (in February), with swimsuits and beach towels, at a beach — "Eilat," located at 385 Ward Street. Our religious school students learned why there is a Jewish homeland, what is beautiful and inspiring about Israel, and why it is absolutely core to the future of the Jewish people.
- Our members who attended the Gloria Adelson Field Covenanted Israel Trip continued to be engaged on a variety of committees, attended services regularly and were involved in Synagogue leadership.
- Welcomed IDF soldiers from Haifa to our Shabbat services, our community Oneg, and into our homes for Shabbat dinner and fascinating conversations.
- Held Israel on Campus — programming to educate our college-age children to speak about Israel on college campuses
- Showed a film series about Israel with lively discussion
- Created a new position, Vice President of Israel Engagement, that reflects the centrality of Israel to our mission.



# 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 come together and enjoy unhurried time connecting.

- 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 — e.g., the Hazzan teaching zemirot, the songs of the Shabbat table and our Rabbis teaching about holidays and other topics of interest — brought content and community to our celebration of Shabbat.
- Weekly Shabbat morning Talmud classes with the Rabbi at 8:30 a.m. attracted a regular attendance of 50 to 70 learners. We grappled with pressing and timely issues like Jewish ethics in the age of Madoff and the urgency of dialogue in an age where dialogue is hard to come by.



# The Gate of Redeeming Our World

- The 21st year celebration of Project Manna brought forth song and sustenance. Despite the recession, we contributed vital resources that enabled the Massachusetts Avenue Baptist Church and its soup kitchen and food pantry to feed the hungry and the homeless.
- Held clothing and book drives
- Tutored area students in reading and math
- Contributed food to Family Table on an ongoing basis and food workers for Sunday's Bread
- Performed numerous 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



- Conducted panel discussion around the medical, legal, and spiritual issues of growing older and caregiving.
- Provided rides to our seniors no longer able to drive to shul.
- Continued our Emanu—With You Now program, mobilizing our people for our people to address the financial, legal, emotional and spiritual challenges posed by the recession
- Our community participated with other communities of faith in open conversations with the mayoral candidates for Newton





# The Gate of Community

- Held fabulous 75th anniversary celebrations all year, including gala evenings, special Shabbatot and holiday celebrations, creation of archives, generational conversations, and a magical DVD, "Our First 75 Years."
- Launched our new website that keeps us connected in a dynamic way to all of our events, classes, programs and happenings
- Created "Temple Emanuel Voices" website where the thoughts and memories of our members come alive for all to share
- Hosted our annual community BBQ with over 325 people
- Our Rabbi Marshall R. Lifson Library is the source not only of content, but of community, not only books and films and DVDs on a wide array of Jewish topics, but of friendship and weekly tea and happy children sitting, enchanted, as they hear stories read aloud.



- Popular and well attended musical programs of all kinds continued to thrive under the direction of our Cantor and with the support of our Music Committee. These included Hanukkah Happens, Project Manna and Sunday afternoon Chamber Music concerts, in addition to the Thanksgiving weekend Best of Broadway concert that attracted over 400 people.
- Our lay and professional leaders continued to partner ever more effectively, inspired by our continuing Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) program.
- Friendship and connection were at the heart of Sisterhood, Brotherhood, Dor Chadash, our Havurah, Keshrim and L'Chaim groups that built community.
- We continued 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.





# The Gate of Teaching Jewish Values to Our Children

- We are all about transmitting Jewish values from generation to generation!
- We continued our Simchat Torah celebration and festive lunch for families which brought in several hundred people who danced with the Torah and shared a holiday meal together.
- Our Hanukkah Celebration evening kicked off our year long celebration of our 75th anniversary. It was a night of light and song and joy, we shared a festive meal as a community and celebrated a time of rededication for our people and our synagogue.
- Purim was jam-packed and included a teen band and a 60s theme and Jewish Beatles music.
- On the Shabbat of Celebrating 75 Years, parents and children, grandparents and grandchildren, came together to celebrate their Jewish life and their connection to Temple Emanuel.
- Our Temple Emanuel Nursery School continued to thrive at full capacity with a waiting list, brimming with happy children and their happy parents.
- We completed the second year of our transformed religious school, including a revised curriculum for our K-5 students and the ground-breaking Makor program in partnership with Prozdor of Hebrew College for 6th and 7th graders. Other synagogues are following our example.
- Our teens participated in USY programs in record numbers, from Limo Scavenger Hunt to snow-tubing to mitzvah projects.
- This past spring, 24 of our 6th graders and their families — a total of 78 people from Makor families and Day School families, together — participated in a Retreat at Camp Yavneh, to experience the joy of Shabbat as a community.
- We continued 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
- Our Yom Hashoah committee created a special film called Tikkun that addresses the question: who will tell the story of the Shoah in the future? The answer is the children and grandchildren, who continue to be shaped by their parents' and grandparents' experience. The film premiered at our Yom Hashoah commemoration to a standing room only crowd in our Rabbi Samuel Chiel Sanctuary.



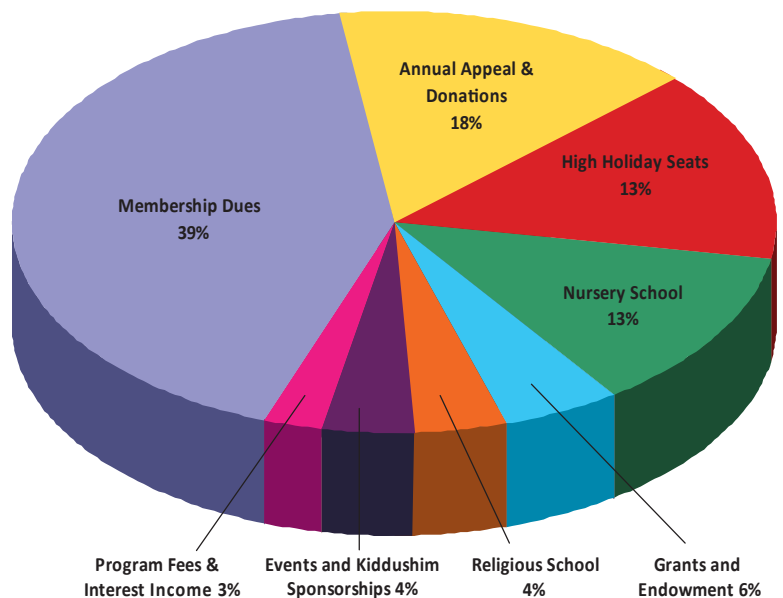
# WHY OUR ANNUAL APPEAL MATTERS

Whether we finish the year in the black or in the red, whether we have enough resources to grant abatements so that we can be a shul for all 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 our 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, and you are allowing us to fulfill the classic Jewish blessing *m'hayil el hayil*, from strength to strength, from our rich history of our first 75 years to a vibrant future for our next 75 years, beginning with year 76.

**Revenue Sources**



*Our Annual Appeal and Donations comprise 18% of all our revenue, and 18 of course is chai, life. Without your generosity, we would have to cut. Because of your generosity, we are able to build.*

# TEMPLE EMANUEL LEADERSHIP

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Anita M. Granoff  
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Alan M. Edelstein

When I wake up <sup>לפני</sup> I  
am thankful for. ☆

Sleeping in a bed and  
not on the floor. ☆

Having friends and  
family ☆ to be with.

I am thankful for  
my home and not  
living on the street.

I am thankful for the  
world and living a  
very happy life and  
nature ☆☆☆☆☆!!!!

סודה אני לפניה, סוף כי נקום, שהחזרת  
בי נשטתי בהטלה, רבה אמונתך.



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

*Pictured from left:  
Steven Schwartz,  
Warren Green,  
Howard Breslau,  
David Greenfield  
and Alfred Kaplan  
Not shown: Joan Katz  
and Marc Lowenthal*

**75th Anniversary Gala Photos by**  
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# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2009/2010

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