

Temple Emanuel

5774/5775 2014/2015



ANNUAL REPORT

I love this place!



Av, 5775—August, 2015

Dear Friends:

Our goal at Temple Emanuel is to bring out the best in every person, to help each of us run our best race, however we would define it, at all ages and stages of our lives.

That is why I was so delighted when, a year after his Bar Mitzvah, one of our teens emailed me with the following conundrum. He runs on his high school track team. But for whatever reason, he was running faster in practice than in track meets. In the actual competition he would freeze up, and his times were not as good. Could Temple Emanuel help?

I suggested a two-pronged strategy. One, that he pray some passages in our *siddur* that would give him grounding and serenity before his meets. Two, that he come to Shabbat Alive, the perfect way to end a busy teen week and settle into the renewal that is Shabbat.

Some time after our conversation, I received the following email:



Thank you very much for the help this fall. Through the season, I used your prayers before and after the races. I also began to visit the temple on Friday evening for the service. This extra prayer gave me a large mental and spiritual boost during the running season. With the help of Temple Emanuel, I was able to cope with my anxiety much more efficiently. I ended up racing well through the season, and ended with a good race at state. I felt more relaxed during the race, and due to the reduced anxiety, I was able to escape with a big win!



We try to do for all of our members what we did for our teen track star. Because of our splendid diversity, that best race looks different for every one of us. That is why we have Seven Gates.

In our Annual Report, you will now see Seven Gates in action. All the life in these Seven Gates only happens because of your generosity to our Annual Appeal.

Thank you for giving us the resources that allow us to bring out the best in every one of our members. May your generosity continue to do so for another year.

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



Wes Gardenswartz

Rabbi Wes Gardenswartz

Stuart Cole, President

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

Where ancient wisdom helps us understand modern reality

Where conversation leads to insight

Where we learn to listen

Where learning leads to doing

I love this place!





The Gate of Prayer

Where our cell phone is off and our soul is on

Where we have time to think

Where we emerge determined to make this day as full of meaning as we possibly can, because this day comes around only once

Where when we ask God for strength, God says yes

I love this place!



The Gate of Israel

Where Jewish ideas and ideals can be lived out in the street

Where we grapple with the gap between the ideal and the real

Where all Jews can feel at home

Where all Jews can feel deeply inspired and challenged

I love this place!



The Gate of Shabbat



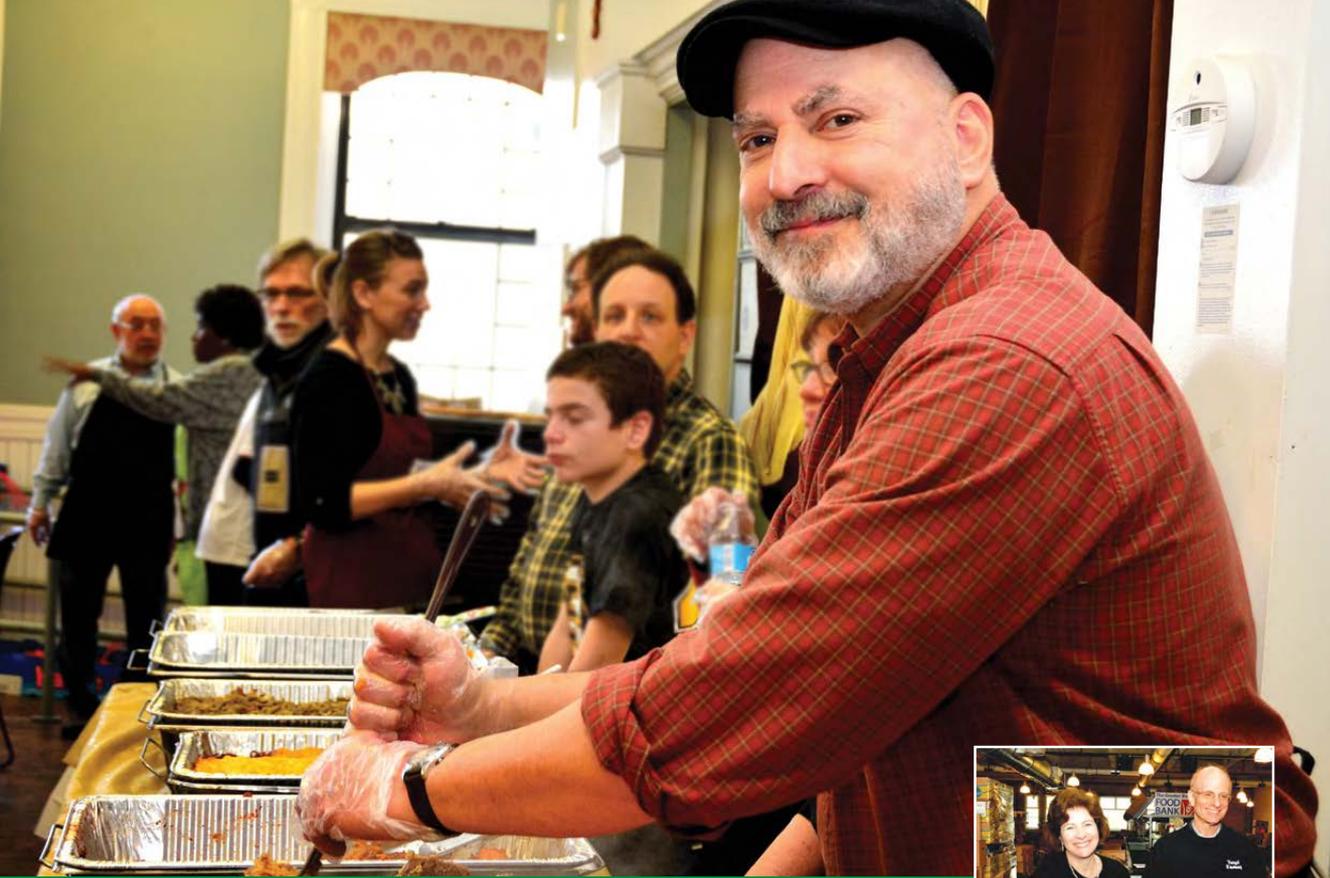
Where we get to be and not do

Where we get to be inspired by music that is extraordinary

Where we encounter relationship not transaction

Where we cannot be late

I love this place!



The Gate of Redeeming Our World

Where we don't just complain, we make things better

Where we make somebody's day

Where we dream of and work towards the world we want

Where we get to lay our head down on our pillow at night knowing we have done something during the day to make a difference

I love this place!



The Gate of Community

Where we are there for one another in the best of times, the worst of times, and all the ordinary times of our lives

Where somebody knows and cares about us

Where as we go through the stages of life, there are others going through the same thing

Where we give and receive love

I love this place!



The Gate of Teaching Jewish Values to Our Children

Where we see our future
Where we feel the deepest joy and *nachus*
Where we have the richest conversations
Where the generations come together in love

I love this place!



There's No Place Like Home

Home. One of the warmest and most beautiful words in the English language is home.

Home is where we are loved unconditionally. Home is where we can be who we are. Home is where we thrive. Home is where we always return, for the warmth of a family meal, for love and support in hard times, for shared joy in happy times. Home is what grounds us.

Just as each of us has our own home, collectively we share our spiritual home. Temple Emanuel is where we are loved unconditionally. Where we are supported and cared for. Where we thrive. Where we always come home, at all ages and stages of life.

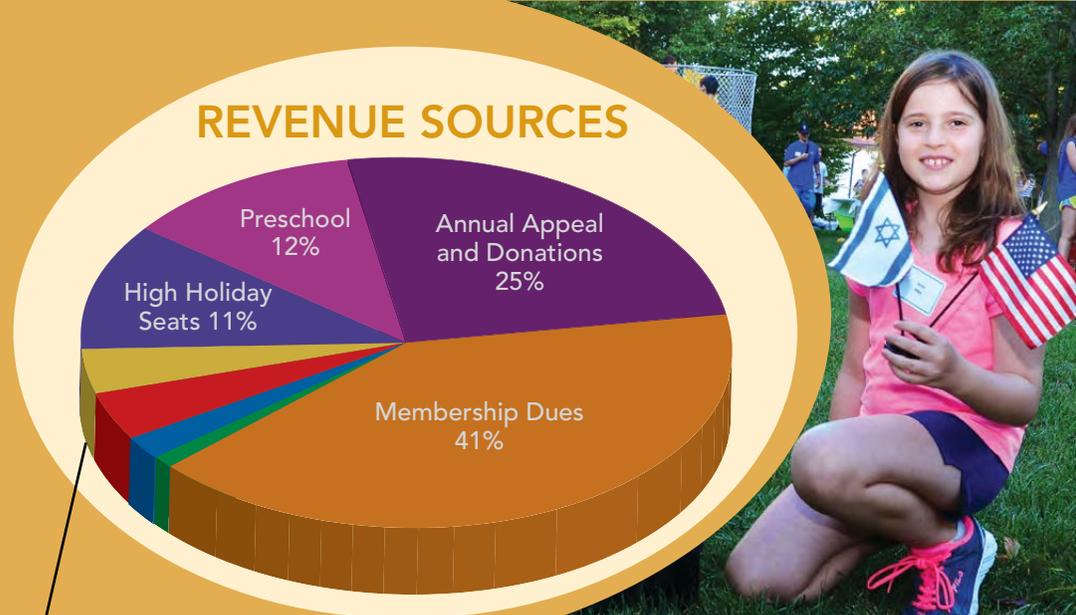


One Temple Emanuel member sent this email, right after college, before going to Israel for the year:

I am currently at the airport waiting for my flight to Tel Aviv! I just wanted to say thank you so, so much for the Mishebeirach and...for allowing me to have an Aliyah this past Shabbat. I feel blessed and comforted...and so lucky to be part of such a wonderful, supportive community at Temple Emanuel.

Another Temple Emanuel member, a widow in her 80s, wrote this letter:

I have experienced profound healing and renewal at Temple Emanuel beyond anything I ever dreamed possible. If I ever write another book, it will be about the miracle on Ward Street. Sending a heart full of appreciation and gratitude and love.



We love our home. And we love our spiritual home.

A home needs resources to run. So too, our spiritual home. That is why our Annual Appeal is so very important.

As the pie chart shows, our Annual Appeal is the linchpin of our spiritual home's budget, comprising 25% of our revenue. Dues, seats and school tuitions alone cannot sustain all that we do, particularly because we offer abatements to members who cannot pay full dues and rely on our financial assistance.

After membership dues, our Annual Appeal and Donations are our single greatest source of revenue—and the slice of the pie with the greatest capacity to grow.

We invest our time and resources in our home life, so that it is healthy and happy. The same is true for our spiritual home.

Thank you for your tremendous generosity. Last year was our most successful Annual Appeal in our shul's 80-year history. Thank you for investing your heart, resources, and time in our spiritual home, so that each of us can say: "I love this place!"

Our Annual Appeal and Donations comprise 25% of all our revenue. Your gift directly translates into our ability to sustain our vibrant community.





SPECIAL THANKS TO

Our Annual Appeal Committee

*Amy B. Klein and
Adam Suttin, Co-Chairs
Michael Benjamin
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**And for Graphic Design to
The Fenway Group**





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