

Temple Emanuel

5770/5771 2010/2011



ANNUAL REPORT

Community & Connections

Av, 5771—August, 2011

Dear Friends:

Last month Shira and I spent a Shabbat in Paris. Friday night we went to the synagogue there. We had never seen such a magnificent edifice. With huge vaulted ceilings, stained glass windows, marble here, gold there, intricate design all around, we were in a worship space that was inspired by, and could rival, the great cathedrals of Europe. While davening Kabbalat Shabbat in this ornate Parisian space, I had two feelings.

First, overwhelming sadness. There was seating capacity for thousands. Barely a minyan, including tourists, showed up. Magnificent space. Empty space. All the glass and gold, all the art and carving, could not make up for the absence of people. The Jewish future is not in Europe.

Second, overwhelming hope from our own shul. While praying with barely a minyan in this empty cathedral, I kept thinking about how hundreds of people come to Temple Emanuel every Friday night, where they have their choice of services. I kept thinking of the hundreds of people who come to Shabbat Alive! week in and week out. I could see, in my mind's eye, our children and grandchildren singing and dancing and coming up for Kiddush on Shabbat morning. The Jewish future is alive and well, right here, and it is alive and well because of you.

Last year, despite the lingering effects of the recession, because of your individual and collective generosity, we had the most successful Annual Appeal we have ever had, which allowed us to reach more people more deeply in all our seven gates.

You will see in this Annual Report pictures of Jews and Judaism alive—over 1,125 families, 3,300 souls who, one at a time, each in his or her own way, is inspired by God, Torah, and mitzvah to lead a more purpose-driven life and to have a deeper impact.

For Jewish museums, go to Europe. Go to Paris, Rome and Venice for magnificent buildings and empty pews and few Jews. Go to Prague to see a rich Jewish past.

But for a pulsating Jewish present, for a rich and generative Jewish future, come to Newton. Come to Temple Emanuel.

Thank you for your generosity, which ensures that we are not and will never be a museum. You have made possible for us, our children and grandchildren, a Judaism that celebrates, a Judaism that flourishes, a Judaism that compels.

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

Robbi Wes Gardenswartz

Rabbi Wes Gardenswartz

Amy B. Klein

Amy B. Klein, 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



- Engaged hundreds of our members in serious Jewish learning where ancient text and modern reality frame and interpret one another:
 - How shall we treat the "Other," the non-Jew in our community, here and in Israel?
 - How do we chant Torah and Haftarah?

- How do we learn to read and speak Hebrew?
- How do we acquire practical synagogue skills like how to lift the Torah high (*hagbah*) with confidence and joy?

- Read and debated books together through Temple Emanuel Reads, like *A Woman in Jerusalem* by A.B. Yehoshua and *The Geography of Bliss* by Eric Weiner.

- Encountered a wide range of speakers who are leaders in their field:
 - Chancellor Arnold Eisen on the state of Conservative Judaism.
 - Rabbi Nancy Levy on spirituality in hard times.
 - Ron Wolfson on how shuls can go beyond welcoming.
 - Neshama Carlebach on the power of sacred song (and what a concert, too!).
 - Noam Zion on the participatory seder.
 - Micah Goodman on Torah that is amazingly fresh, original, and powerful.
- Reached different learners at different stages:
 - Young parents learned Jewish parenting through Ikkarim.
 - Twenty students completed 100 hours of intensive study over two years in Me'ah.
 - 42 members traveled to the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem to learn Torah at the highest level.





The Gate of Prayer

- Our rousing High Holiday services were made more accessible and participatory by a two-volume CD of High Holiday music, produced by our Hazzan, that went out to every household with beautiful and spiritual new melodies.
- Shabbat Alive! continued to inspire hundreds of members every Friday night to attend a musical and spiritual service that brought the week to a close and that opened them to the holiness and renewal of Shabbat.
- Our traditional Shabbat morning service brings together song, learning, quiet space and time to reflect, and the celebration with family and friends of life's passages, births, b'nei mitzvah, auf rufs, special birthdays and anniversaries.
- Our daily minyan is always here for us, in all seasons, every morning and every night, every day of the year, attracting people from greater Boston who depend on a minyan. Many come to say Kaddish; they end up finding a community.
- The year was spiced with special festival celebrations—wrapping ourselves in an unfurled Torah on Simchat Torah, lighting Hanukkah candles together and singing songs, celebrating Purim to the theme and tune of the Wizard of Oz.
- We launched and deepened a new lay-led Ruach Shabbat Family Service that regularly attracts a large crowd of families to a monthly service that has been described by parents and children as “magical.”
- More children than ever built their own tefillin and came to appreciate and revive this important mitzvah.





The Gate of Israel



- We are Israel-infused! That means:
- We learned how to engage Israel when we disagree, passionately, about it.

- We sent the largest number of teens of any shul in Boston to Israel on Passport.
- We sent the largest delegation of any shul in New England to the national AIPAC Conference in Washington.
- We sent the largest delegation of any shul ever to study Torah at Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. 42 Temple Emanuel members were utterly inspired.
- We brought experts together throughout the year to teach all of us, from students on college campuses to parents on the soccer fields, how to make the case for Israel, and how to be able to disagree with one another civilly about Israel, and still love the Jewish homeland and be a part of one people.
- We built Jerusalem out of legos, observed a beach day—Eilat—in February (inside), and celebrated Yom Ha'Atzmaut to make our homeland real to our youngest learners.

- We continued a long distance partnership in learning and friendship between our Kitah Hay Religious School students and 5th graders in Haifa.
- We offered, through our Israel Action Committee, a continuous stream of lectures, courses and content to connect us to the challenge and triumph that is Israel in today's world.





The Gate of Shabbat



- One size does not fit all.
- We offer varied Shabbat experiences – from Shabbat Alive! or a more traditional service in the Gann Chapel on Friday nights, to early morning Talmud Study with Rabbi Gardenswartz, to prayer at a lay led minyan in the Chapel to the

traditional service in the Rabbi Samuel Chiel Sanctuary, as well as reaching our children through Tot Shabbat, Ruach Shabbat and the new Family Service.

- No Shabbat would be complete without coming together to connect as a community over Shabbat Kiddush or our Friday night Oneg.
- Our Share a Shabbat program brought 70 families together to connect in small groups over a shared meal in each others' homes. What a great way to make new friends and share the joy of Shabbat!
- Over 80 attended our first Synagogue-wide Retreat at Camp Yavneh in New Hampshire, and observed Shabbat as part of a wonderful weekend of learning and connection for families and adults without children.





The Gate of Redeeming Our World

- The 22nd celebration of Project Manna brought forth song and sustenance that allows the small kitchen at the Mass Avenue Baptist Church to feed the hungry and homeless in numbers that grow ever larger due to the lingering effects of the recession.
- How do we age with dignity? We held four seminars to help us prepare for the inevitable changes that come in the later years.
- We offered rides to seniors and homebound members so that they could see their friends and sing and pray and learn in shul.
- Our congregants continued to pay regular visits and make friendly phone calls to the elderly and homebound to offer a warm and personal connection to our synagogue community.
- At every board meeting and in each Religious School classroom, we collected packages of brown rice and raisins to deliver to Family Table.
- Our social justice program collected coats, blankets, winter weather gear, toys and furniture for those less fortunate.
- We raised substantial resources for Magen David Adom through our annual Hanukkah Happens concert.
- Our shul performed numerous B'nei Mitzvah social justice projects, like singing and playing musical instruments for the elderly and those struggling with chronic conditions.
- Our Yom HaShoah commemoration paid honor to the memories of those who perished in the Shoah in a moving evening of meaning and remembrance.





The Gate of Community



A solitary Jew is an oxymoron. This place is about coming together and building relationships that provide strength and support in life's hard times, shared joy in good times, and friendship at all times:

In joyous times:

- Lifecycle occasions like births, b'nei mitzvah, weddings, special anniversaries;
- The weekly oneg on Friday night and Kiddush on Shabbat mornings;
- Communal celebrations like the annual BBQ, the Simchat Torah lunch, the Hanukkah dinner, Purim festivities, and the celebrations of our 75th anniversary.

In hard times:

- The work of our bereavement group in supporting shiva;
- A daily minyan to provide community and comfort during the period of mourning and beyond.

In ordinary times:

- The building of community through our Sisterhood and Brotherhood;
- The learning mobilized and energized by our Rabbi Marshall R. Lifson Library;
- The weekly schmoozing made possible by the Java Gate Café on Sunday mornings;
- The connecting with people in a similar phase in life through *Yisod*, *Dor Chadash*, PG-45 *K'sharim*, and *L'Chaim*, and our many *Havurot*;
- Enjoying the delight of beautiful music through our concerts and other musical happenings throughout the year.





The Gate of Teaching Jewish Values to Our Children

- *M'dor l'dor*, from generation to generation. We are all about transmitting Jewish values from parents to children, from grandparents to grandchildren.
- Holidays brought the generations together. On Simchat Torah we danced with the Torah and enjoyed a festive lunch; on Hanukkah, we lit the candles, said the blessings, sang the songs, and ate the latkes; on Purim, we brought the Wizard of Oz to Shushan.
- Our Temple Emanuel Nursery School is at full capacity with a waiting list because it inspires its 2, 3, and 4 year olds to run to class; they are so excited to get there!
- Our K-5 Religious School creates happy learners and happy parents.
- Our Makor program in partnership with Prozdor is inspiring other synagogues to do the same thing.
- Our teens participated in USY programs, in Jewish summer camp, in Prozdor, in missions to Israel via Passport, and in day schools in ways that will prepare them to own their Jewish life when they leave home.
- Every Shabbat, at noon, tots, young children, and parents are on the bimah, singing, clapping, and smiling, as they make Torah and Shabbat and Jewish community their own.





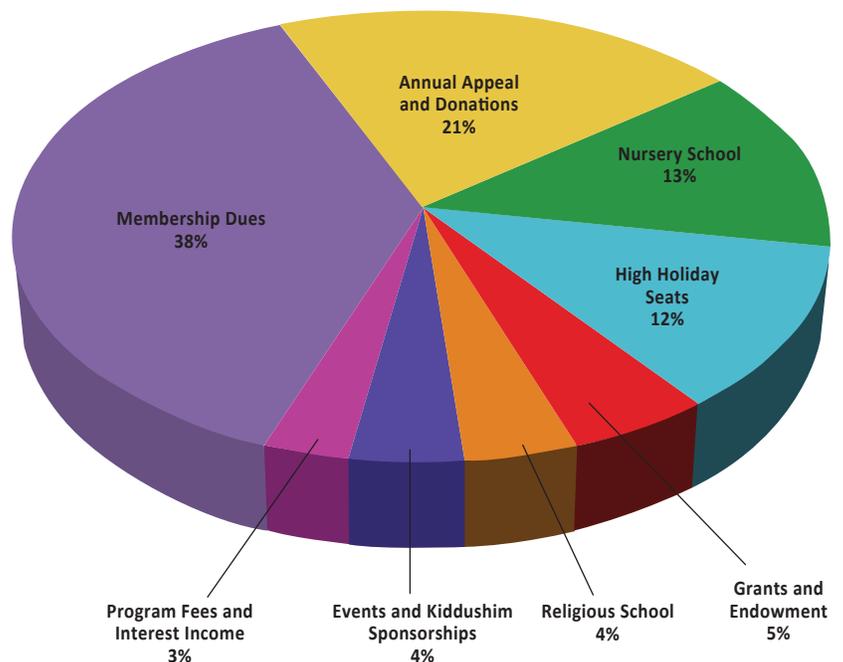
OUR ANNUAL APPEAL IS THE LINCHPIN OF OUR FINANCIAL HEALTH

The reason is simple; dues, seats, and nursery and religious school tuitions cannot sustain all that we do, particularly because we offer abatements to congregants who cannot afford to pay full dues. This pie chart shows that, after membership dues, the Annual Appeal and Donations are our single greatest source of revenue. It is also the slice on the pie chart with the greatest capacity to grow.

Whether we have the resources to be a vibrant community, and a shul for all, depends on the Annual Appeal, which means that it depends on you.

When you give to our Annual Appeal, you directly sustain our vibrant community. You enable us to reach more people more deeply.

Revenue Sources



Our Annual Appeal and Donations comprise 21% of all our revenue. Without your generosity, we would have to cut. Because of your generosity, we are able to build.

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מִלְכָּה

My Shabbat Prayer

תְּפִלַּת שַׁבָּת לְכָל יוֹמָא

I hope a good year
has a good end
and a good year



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

Pictured from the center:

Al Kaplan,
David Greenfield,
Cheryl Stober,
Warren Green,
Jennifer McKee-Heinstein,
Joan Katz,
Sheila Kempler,
Judi Bornstein,
Howard Breslau

**And for Graphic Design to
Sands Creative Group**



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