

Temple Emanuel

5772/5773 2012/2013



ANNUAL REPORT

Community & Connections



Av, 5773—August, 2013

Dear Friends:

Eighty miles.

They drive eighty miles every Shabbat morning—forty miles each way—to come to services at Temple Emanuel. What drives these new members to drive eighty miles each week?

They see life here. Thirteen year olds, capable and proud, teaching and leading and taking their place as adults in the congregation. Young couples on the verge of standing under their chuppah. Long-married couples celebrating their marriage of decades. New babies being named and getting a t-shirt as the newest member of Temple Emanuel. Individuals taking an aliyah for a milestone birthday, or achievement, or upcoming trip to Israel, or recovery from a tight spot.

They see friends here. Whom they sit with in shul. Whom they talk to at Kiddush. Whom they will see in classes and concerts and programs and causes that bring people in.

They love the music, the prayer, the learning, the generations coming together, the children running onto the bimah at the end of services for Adon Olam and candy.

They drive eighty miles to see Jews and Judaism alive on Shabbat morning.

In this Annual Report you will see pictures of Jews and Judaism alive seven days a week here at our shul. This Annual Report testifies to a growing congregation—of 1,125 families who in two years have become almost 1,200 families—finding life, love and joy at Temple Emanuel.

The Seven Gates beckon. Men, women and children enter and learn and grow.

Thank you for your generosity, which makes this rich Jewish life for all ages and stages and generations happen every day.

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

Wes Gardenswartz

Rabbi Wes Gardenswartz

Lisa Hills

Lisa Hills, 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 do you find inspiration? Ancient words that intersect with our modern lives. Sacred Jewish texts that help us frame and think about who we are and what we do every day. What kind of person am I now? Who do I want to be? Where and how can I grow?



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Becoming an adult Bat Mitzvah was just about the best experience of my life. I found a sense of peace and comfort studying Torah and a source of pride in my Jewish heritage that I never knew possible. Studying was the best! The opportunity to learn comes from every source, including Wes's emails about upcoming Talmud classes or sermons. To have a chance to go to the Hartman Institute with Wes and some temple members afforded me the chance to learn a new perspective on Torah, Zionism and modern Jewish life!

- Betty Ann Blum, member since 2009

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The Gate of Prayer

What happens to you when you pray? A prayerful experience is as varied as the many kinds of people who come to pray. Prayer can be our time to talk to God. Or pour out our hearts to God. Or sing. Or just find some quiet time to think. Or carve out a space to remember a loved one who recently passed. Or begin our day by reminding ourselves of what is important. Or catch up with good friends we do not see outside of shul.



In September, 2008, I attended my first Shabbat Alive Service at Temple Emanuel...It was like “spiritual lightening....” The masterful combination of song and word helped me connect to the people I was praying with and to the generations who have shared this experience. Praying and singing with people who I see every week makes me appreciate the Temple Emanuel community. Through sermons, outside speakers, and weekly Talmud classes, Temple Emanuel provides me with continuing experiences to enrich my Jewish prayer life.

- Larry Gorin, member since 2009



The Gate of Israel

What do you do to connect with Israel? How do you make Israel relevant to your life? Every one of us needs to be connected to Israel in a personally meaningful way. Not only because for 2,000 years we did not have Israel, and our people suffered without it. But, even more importantly, because now that it is here, we have the miraculous gift of a sovereign state which can put into practice the most beautiful values of our Torah, our prophets, our rabbis. What would it look like for the finest Jewish values to be lived out on the complicated streets of a Jewish state? What will you learn, and how will you help?



“Future geologists will record that around the year 5773, the earth’s tectonic plates began to shift. Miraculously, Newton, Massachusetts drew closer and closer to Jerusalem. I have felt this myself, on Ward Street.

I have felt the beauty of Israel in the Sanctuary listening to the soulful songs of Shuli Natan, and as Micah Goodman wove the story of the young, frightened Saul, when singing Hatikvah and Jerusalem of Gold, singing the Havdalah service at a glowing Jerusalem sunset arm in arm with friends on our Temple missions to Israel, during the visits of our bronzed, smiling IDF soldiers, attending the lectures arranged by our Israel Action Committee, and listening to our Rabbis’ d’varim on the Land of Milk and Honey.

We dwell in Jerusalem of gold, right here on Ward Street.

- Ned Holstein, member since 2005





The Gate of Shabbat

When are you off the grid? When is the hand-held not in your hand, the cell phone not in your ear? When is the beeping, bleeping, blinking, blaring, flashing, flickering, signaling sound that demands your attention NOW! replaced by quiet? The quiet that allows you to connect, to renew, to think. There are many good reasons to do Shabbat, perhaps none better than it preserves not only our sanity, and our family life. It preserves our humanity.

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I love Shabbat Alive! I look forward to attending every week, raising my voice with a couple of hundred others and wonderful musicians in prayer and song. The tunes are melodious, the harmonies beautiful and the energy contagious.

This service was my initial gateway to the temple, its clergy and congregants, and it remains a constant from which I draw support, hope, peace, and joy. It's a true community experience, augmented by the musicians who musically converse and harmonize with those of us who are singing.



No matter how tired or glum I may be when I sit down in the 3rd row at 6:30pm on Fridays, I leave an hour later with a feeling of contentment and renewal, and I continue to hum or sing through the rest of the evening. What an amazing way to begin Shabbat!

- Nicola Truppin, member since 2002

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The Gate of Redeeming Our World

“When the benediction is over, the real service begins” goes an old Quaker teaching. One of the purposes of being in shul is to inspire us to do good things outside of shul. In fact Mordecai Kaplan took this a step further. He taught that if you are the same person walking out of shul as you were walking in—if there is no more urgency in you to have an impact—why bother coming to shul in the first place? Does 385 Ward Street inspire you to mend the world outside?



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Temple Emanuel inspires me to do my small part to make a difference in the world beyond our doors. For almost 25 years we've partnered with the Mass Ave. Baptist Church – a small church with a small kitchen and a huge heart – to feed thousands of hungry people. The funds raised by our annual Project Manna Concert provide the sole support for their food pantry. It feels terrific to team with our members to build bridges across faith communities and help people who really need it!

- Penny Scharfman, member since 2007

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The Gate of Community

Where do you find friends to walk with you through the years? They celebrate the good times. They are with you during the hard times. You experience the Jewish calendar together, Shabbat dinner, the break fast after Neilah, sitting in the sukkah, lighting the Hanukkah candles, sharing a seder. And the ordinary times: a movie on a Saturday night, a Red Sox game, a book club. The problem of our busy, atomized lives? Loneliness. A helpful response? The friends we make at shul who are with us, so we are not alone.

“My heart, soul and spirit are overjoyed daily with the love and friendship that have made this community my home. From the mother daughter book group that started in our Nursery School, to the best friends I made that will last a lifetime, to Bunny, my adopted love of my life Grandmother. My parents gave me the gift of a lifetime when they joined Temple Emanuel so many years ago and I returned the blessing to my own children never realizing how big a part of our lives this community would be.”

- Joanne Kazarian, member since 1998





The Gate of Teaching Jewish Values to Our Children

When your children go off to college, after you have shared the last hug, and they head off to their new independent life and you head back home, what Jewish values are embedded in their hearts? Are they connected to Shabbat? To Jewish community? To social justice? To Israel? To the power of our own particularism, which exists in creative tension with the universalism prevalent on college campuses? Our children are on loan to us. When they leave our homes after 18 years, what yiddishkeit and menshlikeit do they take with them?



“*Shortly after enrolling Jake in Temple Emanuel Nursery School, we found ourselves immersed in a wonderful community. It was the perfect opportunity to learn on the coattails of our children’s experience. I learned about the Jewish holidays, every Friday the kids brought home challah and we celebrated Shabbat. I was giving my kids an opportunity I didn’t have. Temple Emanuel was a perfect place and pace to learn.*

Attending Hebrew School maintained the continuity and strengthened the ties our children have to Temple Emanuel. The children have all enjoyed their involvement with USY, and post Bar Mitzvah both boys have enrolled in the Shevet Achim group. We felt this was an important program to keep the children engaged and connected. To me, one of the most important aspects of our children’s Jewish education has been consistency and continuity we have at home and at Emanuel. It’s a place we refer to as our ‘second home’ because of the familiarity and comfort we draw. We’ve given our children a gift.”

- Barbara Epstein, member since 2001



The Annual Appeal Drives the Health of Our Congregation

As *Pirkei Avot* teaches, *ein kemach, ein Torah*, without sustenance, spirituality is impossible. The flip is also true. Sustenance makes spirituality possible.

The rabbis got it right. The spiritual health of Temple Emanuel hinges on our Annual Appeal.

Think of the things you love and participate in at the Temple. Whether it is weekly mainstays (like Shabbat Alive! with its musicians and oneg), or special annual concerts (like the ArgenTenors concert after Thanksgiving), or lustrous special events (the Chagall lecture and concert). All of that takes resources.

Think of the team of professionals—two Senior rabbis and seasoned informal youth and family educators who engage our children and families. All of that takes resources.

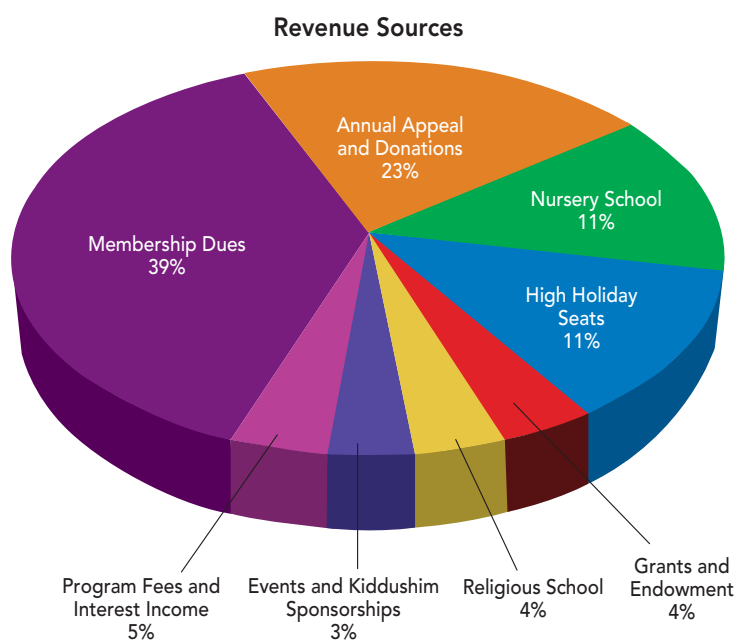
Think of our aging building, now going on 17 years, used 365 days a year, every day, and what it takes to maintain it. All of that takes resources.

The pie chart pictured below shows that our Annual Appeal drives our financial and spiritual health. Dues, seats and nursery and religious school tuitions cannot sustain all that we do, particularly because we offer abatements to members who cannot pay full dues and rely on our financial assistance. Our Annual Appeal allows us to be a shul for all.

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.

Whether we are able to continue to thrive depends on our Annual Appeal, which means that it depends on you.

Thank you for your generous support of our Annual Appeal which allows our sacred community to help our members find meaning and purpose, joy and strength, every day.



Our Annual Appeal and Donations comprise 23% of all our revenue. Your gift directly translates into our reaching more people more deeply.

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2013 - 2014

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