

TEMPLE EMANUEL

ANNUAL REPORT 5779/2019



**HERE
FOR
YOU**



August, 2019—Av, 5779

Dear Friends:

Here for you. That is our core prayer on the upcoming High Holidays. *Aneinu, aneinu b'yom koreinu.* God please be here for us when we call out to you. Here at Temple Emanuel we try our best to fulfill that prayer for each other every day.

Nearly three years ago, Jon and Ilana didn't know where to turn. They were sleep-deprived and stressed, trying to navigate life with a newborn in a home they had yet to fully unpack from their move to Newton. Out of the blue, they were invited to a baby brunch at Temple Emanuel. Then our clergy visited their home. They started coming to Temple Emanuel, first for baby programs and then for Shabbat morning. They made friends here. They began to feel the magic of community. Temple Emanuel was the place that brought them comfort in a stressful time. When their son's daycare closed suddenly in the middle of last year, Jon and Ilana knew exactly who to call. They reached out to us and within a few hours, their son was enrolled in our toddler class. *Here for you. Here for our youngest families and learners.*

Ann connected with Temple Emanuel as her husband was leaving this world. She joined the community in a time of unimaginable loss, but found that even then, this place filled her soul. In honor of her beloved, she began learning. She started reading Torah and leading services. She comes here to celebrate her milestones. This is the place where Ann comes to open her mind and to write another chapter. *Here for you. Here for our families at a time of loss and reinvention.*

Adina and Sophie, two rising high school seniors, yearned for a space where they could combine Jewish learning with social activism. Adina and Sophie shared their idea and, with the support of our educational staff, they created a program they call Teens for Tikkun, which gathers high school students to talk about social justice issues with community experts, and then identifies projects for teens to go out and make a difference. *Here for you. Here for our emerging adults as they navigate their contribution to making our world better.*

These are just a few stories. There are more that happen every day. *We are here for you. This is only possible because you are here for us.*

Running a vibrant shul that is here for every member 365 days a year takes a lot of resources. Those resources do not come entirely from dues and high holiday seat revenue. Rather, 27% of the revenue for our annual budget comes from our Annual Appeal. Your generosity allows us to do what we do and to be who we are. Thank you so much for your generosity that allows us to be here for you and for all of us.

In this new year, may we always be here for one another.

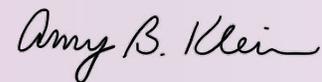
Shana tovah u'metukah,



Rabbi Wes Gardenswartz



Mady Donoff
President



Amy B. Klein
Chair of Annual Appeal

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

In *Witness: Lessons from Elie Wiesel's Classroom* (2018), Ariel Burger quotes Elie Wiesel as teaching: "Whatever you learn, remember the learning must make you more, not less, human."

In all the learning we do at Temple Emanuel—in our preschool, our religious school, our informal education, our family and adult education, Shabbat and Sunday mornings and weekday classes—that learning matters because it nurtures and deepens our compassion, our concern and our commitment to make our world a little bit better.



HERE FOR YOU

with Torah that elevates



The Gate of Prayer

In his classic *Who Needs God* (1989), Harold Kushner writes: "I have come to believe that the congregating is more important than the words we speak.

Something miraculous happens when people come together seeking the presence of God. The miracle is that we so often find it...Each of us came there looking for it because we did not have it when we were alone. But in our coming together, we create the mood and the moment in which God is present."



Our prayer matters because it connects us more deeply with one another in the good times, the hard times, and the ordinary times of life; it connects us to God as a source of strength and presence; it allows us to become the best version of ourselves.

HERE FOR YOU

with prayer that connects



The Gate of Israel

Go to Israel.

That is a consistent mantra across our community.

Go to Israel after your Bar or Bat Mitzvah with our ninth-grade trip, with our day schools, with our Passport to Israel program. Go to Israel to study Torah at Hartman. Go to Israel to volunteer. Go to Israel with other families. Go to Israel on March of the Living, to see the resurrection of Jewish hope and home after the *Shoah*.

Why does going to Israel matter so deeply?

Because Israel was, is and will always be the homeland of the Jewish people. We need our homeland with renewed intensity this year.

Because Israel is a sovereign state where Jewish values can inform the marketplace, the public square, the public conversation. What a blessing to be part of an ongoing conversation, a conversation without end, about what it would look like if prophetic ideals of justice and righteousness were embodied in a real country with noble aspirations.

HERE FOR YOU

with an eternal connection to our homeland





The Gate of Shabbat

Screens. We are awash in screens.

In our cars, we are on our screens. In between meetings, in meetings, we are on our screens. On hikes and bikes, on beaches and trails and mountains, we are on our screens.

Travelling to foreign cities, we are on our screens. Waiting for our show to begin, we are on our screens.

Who talks to anybody anymore?

When, if ever, are we *not* on our screens?

On Shabbat.

Shabbat matters because it provides us with the face to face alternative to the technology that is otherwise omnipresent. To talk to a friend, in person, with no agenda, to be with somebody for the sheer pleasure of being connected to a loving and caring community, to be with our thoughts in contemplation without distraction, that is the beauty of Shabbat.

HERE FOR YOU

with Shabbat that deepens our relationships

Save Lives.



The Gate of Redeeming Our World

Our teacher Micah Goodman asks a simple but clarifying question. Do you see your life as *the* story? The point of your life is you. Or do you see your life as attaching to a larger story that was here before you, that will be here after you. The point of your life is to make a real contribution to that larger story while you are lucky enough to be alive.

The Gate of Redeeming Our World matters because it enables people who believe that the point of their life is not their life, the point of their life is to contribute to a larger story, to find concrete ways to make that contribution.

Fighting anti-Semitism in all its forms.

Feeding the hungry.

Clothing the cold.

Sheltering the homeless.

Protecting our environment.

Caring for the vulnerable, the refugee, the stranger among us.

When we attach our life to a larger story, our life matters.

HERE FOR YOU

with large redemption stories to which we can attach our lives





The Gate of Community

Our nation is experiencing an epidemic of loneliness. Recent studies reveal that close to half of Americans feel alone, lonely, disconnected. These studies also show that loneliness is bad for our health, resulting in medical challenges including heart disease, diabetes, obesity, depression. Connecting to other people meaningfully, sustainably, through the years is essential for body and soul.

Whatever it is that you might be interested in pursuing—from playing softball, to knitting, to discussing books and politics, to working for social justice, to baking *challah* for Shabbatot and holidays, to cooking for *chesed*, to engaging with Israel—you will find other people at Temple Emanuel who share your passion.

Being part of a community matters because life is better, healthier and happier when you share it with people you love.

HERE FOR YOU

*with people that keep loneliness at bay
and friendship close at hand*



The Gate of Teaching Jewish Values to Our Children

The Talmud tells the beautiful story of a man wandering in the wilderness who is hot and hungry and thirsty when he comes upon a tree. The fruit of the tree was sweet, its shade was pleasant, and it had a stream of water flowing by its side. After eating, drinking and renewing himself, the traveler asks: "Tree, how shall I bless you? If I pray that you have sweet fruit, you already have sweet fruit. If I pray that you offer shade, you already offer shade. If I pray that you continue to be sustained by life-affirming waters, you are already sustained by life-affirming waters. My prayer then is: *may all of the shoots that are planted from you give birth to trees that are like you.*" Ta'anit 5B.

Our aspiration is that the best of our values—*tzedek, chesed, ahavat tzion, k'vod habriot, tzelem Elohim*, justice, righteousness, love of Israel and the Jewish people, respect for human dignity, seeing the divine image in all of God's children—will be transmitted from generation to generation.

The Gate of Teaching Jewish Values matters because Jewish values are beautiful, and we create a better and kinder world when those values are owned, lived and loved by our children and grandchildren.

HERE FOR YOU

transmitting our noblest values to the next generations





What is the Point of Your Life?

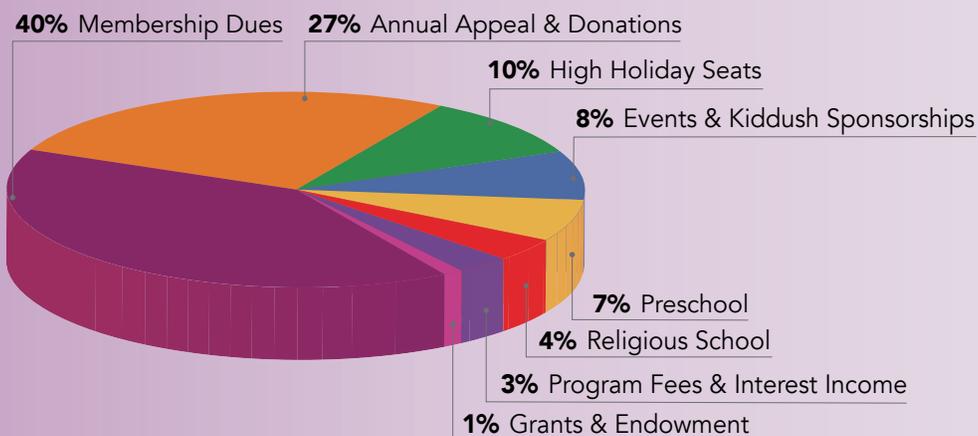
If what Hillel taught is true, the point of your life cannot only be your life. If what Hillel taught is true, the point of your life must also include, in real and important ways, the lives of others. "If I am not for myself who will be for me? But if I am only for myself, what is my life? If not now, when?"

Our purpose at Temple Emanuel is to be faithful to all of Hillel's teaching: a better you, a better world, now.

To do that, to run a shul that has programs, services and happenings that deepen your game, that allow you to have the impact on the world that you want to have, and to do all of this with urgency, takes a lot of resources.

That is why our Annual Appeal is so crucial. We offer deeply meaningful opportunities to a deeply diverse community, across Seven Gates, seven days a week, for all. We can do so only because of our Annual Appeal.

REVENUE SOURCES



Your gift to our Annual Appeal gives us the resources to build a Jewish community for a better you and a better world.

As the pie chart shows, our Annual Appeal is the linchpin of our budget, comprising 27% 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 to a growing segment of Next Generation members, young people just starting out, looking for community and meaningful connections. We can be a shul for all, we can encourage the membership of young families, and we can be active in all Seven Gates every day of the year, only because of our Annual Appeal.

The point of our life cannot only be our life. The point of our life must include something beyond our life. Thank you for your continued generosity, which helps us create lives of meaning, purpose and joy, and which helps us shape a better world.

Our Prayer

What is our heart's call? What is our prayer? There are hundreds of pages of liturgy, hundreds of hours of services, over the course of a year. All these pages, all these hours, all these services, all these prayers, boil down to a single essential plea: "Lord, help me be the best version of me." Help me not just get through the day, though it is important to get through the day. Help me not just discharge my duties and responsibilities, though it is important to do so. Rather, help me fully embody all of my highest ideals and noblest values.

For each of us, there are many versions of us. The Hebrew word for face, *panim*, actually means faces. It is plural, because no one has one face. Everyone has faces.

The purpose of our community is to bring out everybody's best version of themselves: the most loving, the most generous, the most caring, the most honest, the most impactful. If our prayer is answered, and we can become the best version of ourselves, we can have our best impact on making our world a better place.

Because we are such a splendidly diverse community, different things will bring out the best in different people. For some it is learning. For others it is a trip to Israel. For others it is serving in the kitchen of the Mass Avenue Baptist Church. For others it is daily minyan. Or singing in a choir. Or hanging out with our friends in Sisterhood or Brotherhood or at Kiddush after services.

Thank you. It is only because of your generosity that we have enough going on at Temple Emanuel to bring out the best in everybody. Your gift to our Annual Appeal allows us to be alive and humming with energy, intensity, spirituality, impact, deep friendship, supportive relationships, inspiring learning, beautiful singing and urgent prayer, which fulfills our core prayer: "Lord, help me be the best version of me." If we have been able to help our members fulfill this prayer, so that they can shape a better world, we have you to thank.



TEMPLE EMANUEL LEADERSHIP 2019 – 2020

OFFICERS

Mady Donoff, *President*
Liz Goldstein, *Executive Vice President*
Robert Kann, *Vice President, Administration and Finance*
Leslie Gonzalez, *Vice President, Education and Youth*
James Cohen, *Vice President, Tikun Olam*
Cheryl Stober, *Vice President, Membership*
David Pemstein, *Treasurer*
Diana Gould, *Secretary*
Stuart Cole, *Immediate Past President*
Lisa Hills, *Honorary Officer*

DIRECTORS

David Bunis, <i>Chair</i>	David Goldstone
Michael Gardener, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Merle Hass
Joseph Ackerstein	Lawrence Heimlich
Jordana Alford	Sheryl Kalis
Elizabeth Brody Gluck	Joanne Kazarian
Lois Cohen	Amy B. Klein
Michael Crystal	Valerie Lowenstein
Debbie De Botton	David Mamon
Karen Dresner	Meryl Miller
Robert Finkel	Martin Paley
Abby Flam	Julia Rashba-Step
Aaron Ganz	David Rozenson
Debbie Ginsberg	Pamela Weinfeld

SENIOR STAFF

Wes Gardenswartz, *Senior Rabbi*
Michelle Robinson, *Senior Rabbi*
Elias Rosemberg, *Hazzan*
Aliza Berger, *Rav Hazzan*
Daniel J. Nesson, *Hazzan Sheini and Ritual Director*
Jeff Lurie, *Executive Director*
Ilene F. Beckman, *Religious School Director*
Wayne Goldstein, *Harry Kraft Director of Informal Youth Education*
Erin Moseley, *Events and Communications Director*
Terri Swartz Russell, *Director of Family and Adult Education*
Lois Madeson, *Preschool Director*

ELECTED TRUSTEES

Marcie Abramson
Elana Beckman
Barry Benjamin
Larry Benowitz
Barry Bergman
Allison Blank
Gary Bloomstone
Ruth Cope
Richard Corn
Harvey Creem
Karen Crystal
Ariel Cudkowicz
Enrique Darer
Udi Dotan
Jayne Friedberg
Joan Wasser Gish
Larry Glazer
David Golden
Barbara Goldman
Marilyn Goldman
Steve Goldstein
Joshua Goodman
Allan Heff
Rob Heinstein
Deborah Hirsch
Jerry Jacobs
Gary Jacobson
Sidney Kadish
Amy Kahn
Ellen Kass
Phyllis Kassels
Sheila Kempler
Brenda Kerbel
Diane Konowitz
Darrell Kotton
Wendy Landon
Samantha Levine-Neudel
Cynthia Levinson
Daniel Lieman
Ronald Marcus
David Nislick
Jim Noonan-Sloan
Mel Norris
David Noymer
Russell Oken
Jane Goldman Ostrowsky
Daniel Palestrant

Rachel Pemstein
Sarah Perry
Jill Radsken
Sarah Richmond
Alan Rottenberg
Steve Samuels
Penny Scharfman
Lynn Segal
Zvi Shtifter
Amy Silberstein
Peter Silberstein
Dena Snyder
Stanley Steinberg
Hope Suttin
Melissa Sydney
Peter Weil
Stephanie Weitzman
Jeremy Welford
Yaffa Willner
Emily Zadeh
Shana Zandman

EX-OFFICIO TRUSTEES

Joanne Cudkowicz
Donald Freedman
Elyse Friedman
Molly Goodman
Howard Greene
Roberta Gross-Torres
Howard Guthermann
Danny Mandeau
Sherene Michlin
Bruce Polishook
Ariel Raphael
Tina Rodbort
Jan Schwartz
Glen Seidman
Robin Shaevel
Leslie Shapiro
Adina Smith
Louise Wolfe
Alice Zimelman

HONORARY TRUSTEES

Frank Aronson
Adele Fleet Bacow
Joel Berkowitz
Joyce Bohnen
Michael Bohnen

Steven Broder
Beatrice Carp
Lloyd David
Sheila Decter
Sharlene Finkel
Ralph Gilbert
Bruce Gold
Anita Granoff
David Granoff
David Greenfield
Jill Grossman
Steven Grossman
Roslyn Gill Heafitz
Malcolm Hindin
Cydney Josephy
Barry Karger
Robert Kraft
George Krupp
A. Van Lanckton
William Levine
Carole May
Ralph Metson
David Phillips
Barbara Resnek
Steven Ross
Judy Shankman
Bunny Shapero
Edward Shapiro
Joel Sherman
Marsha Slotnick
Martin Solomon
Leslie Bornstein Stacks
Denise Telio
Eric Ungar
David Weinstein
Kenneth Zises

PRESIDENTS ASSEMBLY

Stuart Cole
Lisa Hills
Amy B. Klein
Michael S. Benjamin
Barbara F. Resnek
A. Van C. Lanckton
Malcolm E. Hindin
Ralph M. Gilbert
Marsha K. Slotnick
Anita M. Granoff



Temple Emanuel
**Challah
Bake**





SPECIAL THANKS TO

Our Annual Appeal Committee

Amy B. Klein, *Chair*

Michael Benjamin

Gary Buchman

Jim Cohen

Stuart Cole

Kimberly Creem

Mady Donoff

Barbara Epstein

Aaron Ganz

Jack Gould

Lisa Hills

Sheryl Kalis

Joanne Kazarian

Fay Lewis

David Mamon

Lewis Muhlfelder

Rachel Pemstein

Barbara Resnek

Steve Samuels

Adam Suttin

Paula Sidman

Our Temple Emanuel Photo Corps

Al Kaplan, *Chair*

Judi Bornstein

Bonnie Greenberg

Sheryl Kalis

Joani Katz

Sheila Kempler

Brian Lefsky

Gary Melnick

Jenny McKee-Heinstein

Amanda Teo

**And for Graphic Design to
Fenway Group**



Temple Emanuel welcomes the participation of interfaith couples and families, and people of all abilities, backgrounds, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations and gender identities.



TEMPLE EMANUEL

385 Ward Street
Newton, MA 02459

Prsrt First Class
US Postage
PAID
Boston, MA
Permit No. 50300

