Committee and Staff Reports for the Annual Meeting

June 2, 2019
## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee and Group</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult Learning Committee – Barry Schwartz</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Renovation Committee – Yuval Gilbert</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp Report – Michael Klau</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Campaign Committee - Larry Marks</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caring Committee – Andrea Fein &amp; Hildy Neumann</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chavurot – Rabbi Shoshana Friedman</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development Advisory Group and Free Will Annual Campaign – Nora Abrahamer</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distinguished Service Award Committee – Rose Mandelbaum</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and Youth Committee – Heidi Smith Hyde on behalf of the Education/Youth Committee</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Director’s Report – Linda Katz</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History Committee – Hildy Newmann</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusion Committee - Elaine Ober &amp; Lisa Stephani</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel Education / Action Committee – Rich Goldstein &amp; Amos Lassen</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Committee - Karen Keely</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Committee – Elynn Finkelstein</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitzvah Day – Heidi Smith Hyde</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music, Prayer and Ritual Committee – Robin Orwant</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominating Committee – Jon Katz</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passport to Israel – Kathy Arnstein on behalf of Temple Sinai</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel Committee – Harvey Cotton &amp; Judy Ferber</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee</td>
<td>Chair/Contact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabbinic Liaison Committee</td>
<td>Susan Laster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabbinic Search Committee (for Assistant Rabbi)</td>
<td>Charlie Homer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainbow Committee</td>
<td>Marvin Kabakoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shabbat Mishpacha</td>
<td>Rabbi Shoshana Friedman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security Committee</td>
<td>Mike Klau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sinai U</td>
<td>Student Rabbi Sam Blumberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Renewal Committee</td>
<td>Charlie Homer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syrian Refugee Resettlement Project</td>
<td>Jill Winitzer &amp; Mel Stoler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tzedek@Sinai Committee</td>
<td>Tammy Kallman &amp; Janet Sanders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology Committee</td>
<td>Alex Cooper, Rose Mandelbaum, Danny Ruberman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Adult Learning Committee

The Adult Jewish Learning Committee had another successful year of providing a variety of presentations and films. This year we developed a new initiative under the theme “Exploring Jewish Values/Exploring Our Jewish Inner Lives” with the goal of weaving our religious values together with our personal lives.

1. Barry Schwartz assumed the role of primary Co-chair in February with Toby Axelrod continuing as Co-chair.
2. Our attendance in classes averages between 15 and 40 participants. This year we experimented with different days, times and formats in order to attract a wider audience.

Highlights from 2018/2019

The Committee
• We have 12 very active committee members: Barry Schwartz, Toby Axelrod, Rich Goldstein, Rose Mandelbaum, Janet Seckel-Cerrotti, Paul Jacobson, Amos Lassen, Paul Jacobson, Merry Arnold, Judith Caplan, Jeremy Wolfe and Doug Bitman (with Rabbi Vogel attending most meetings and providing a D’var to begin our meeting).

Technology/Logistics
• This year our use of the Charles St. Room for classes was reduced and the use of the Weintraub Family Room increased. This was very helpful when presenters were using AV equipment which is easily set up in Weintraub.
• Heidi Smith Hyde identified a teacher from the Sinai religious school who opened the Charles St. room, turning the alarm off before classes and on after classes and setting up and taking down chairs.
• We continue to coordinate with other committees regarding scheduling and co-sponsorship of programs. Our Cohon Memorial Lecture this year was co-sponsored by Tzedek@Sinai.

Special thanks to Linda Katz, Heidi Smith Hyde, Nancy Hogan and Paul Kelly for all their help.

The Programs
• This year we created a special initiative titled “Exploring Jewish Values/Exploring Our Jewish Inner Lives” consisting of 4 major topics:
  ➢ “Mussar: Living Out Our Values with Intention” led by Merry Arnold
  ➢ “Shabbat Candles, Hidden Light” led by Rabbi Shoshana Friedman
  ➢ “Mindfulness, Jewish Perspectives and Jewish Values” led by Rabbi Vogel and Neil Motenko
  ➢ “Finding Your Way With God: Personal Explorations” led by Student Rabbi Sam Blumberg
  ➢ In all there were a total of 14 sessions woven throughout the year. Additionally, under this theme we included our Scholar-In-Residence program with Rabbi Nehemia Polen “Opening the Heart with Sacred Melody”
• Our Scholar-In-Residence was held this year on Sunday and drew a large audience. The Cohon Lecture was on Friday night along with a Saturday program that included lunch. Rabbi Shoshanna again provided meaningful sessions in the fall and spring. One focused on Shabbat and the other on welcoming the immigrant and refugee.
• Our Cohon Lecturer was Rabbi Jill Jacobs, Executive Director of T’ruah, a social justice organization which mobilizes 1800 rabbis and cantors along with thousands of American Jews to protect human rights in America and Israel. She used torah teachings to underscore the work of improving the lives of those less fortunate. Judith Caplan organized the Friday night Oneg.
• This year we had two of our congregants lead a multi-session class in conjunction with Hebrew College. “Rise of the Rabbis” featured video lectures by distinguished faculty that were watched on-line prior to coming together every 2 weeks for discussion of the videos.

• The Cinema@Sinai film series, led by Amos Lassen, included films on Saturday evenings. After the film, attendees would discuss the film.

• “An Introduction to Mussar” was presented for a third straight year by Merry Arnold, who then ran an 8-week program in conjunction with Hebrew College. Due to its popularity, Merry will lead another Mussar multi-session class this coming year. Additionally, a multi-session program on Mussar and Social Justice will be presented this coming year.

• A Different Side of Israel: Social Issues Behind the Scenes was presented by a former Sharon native now a resident of Israel. The Jaffa Institute addresses the needs of severely disadvantaged children and families who might be Israeli, Palestinian, Christian, or Muslim. Remarkably, everyone gets along well!

• Ongoing programs: Saturday Torah Study, and the weekly Thursday morning group, continued this year having over 30 regular attendees.
  - New teachers: We had 3 new congregational teachers this year as well as Student Rabbi Sam Blumberg.
  - Other Committees:
    Please see activities of the Caring Committee, Israel Education and Action Committee, and the Rainbow Committee for information regarding their learning programs.

Long Term Objectives
1. Institute regular scholar-in-residence Shabbaton programs, beyond the Cohon lecture, with leading Jewish scholars, as a regular part of the culture of Temple Sinai. We continue to achieve this goal with Rabbi Nehemiah Polen and Rabbi Jill Jacobs. We are working with Rabbi Vogel on next year’s speakers for our Cohon Lecturer and our Scholar-In-Residence program. We have invited Rabbi David Jaffe to be our SIR program focused on Mussar to be followed by another multi-session program on Mussar and Social Justice co-sponsored by Tzedek@Sinai. We are still negotiating for the possible Cohon Lecturer to be held in the Spring.
   Overall: Meeting expectations.

2. Institutionalize a 3-year cycle for Adult B’nai Mitzvah
   The next Adult B’nai Mitzvah class will begin in 2020.
   Overall: Meeting expectations

3. Measure the number of different congregants attending Adult Learning Courses at Temple Sinai.
   This is the fifth year we have had this goal. We have been taking attendance for all AJLC courses. This year’s data/analysis has not been completed prior to this report.
   Overall: Meeting expectations.

4. Develop qualitative outcome measures for our programs.
   The committee is working on identifying how we measure success beyond attendance and other quantitative measures. This will be addressed as we revise our Mission and Purpose Statement.
   Overall: In process.

We will continue the theme of “Exploring Jewish Values/Exploring Jewish Inner Lives” this coming year. We will also review and update the committee’s Purpose and Mission Statement developed in 2008.

Acknowledgements-our programs throughout the year would not be possible if it weren’t for our very talented congregants who prepare and provide wonderfully enriching and meaningful material. We have heard
from several new congregants that they were drawn to Temple Sinai by the various learning opportunities Temple Sinai provides!!

Submitted by Barry Schwartz, Co-chair

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Building Renovation Update

The Temple Sinai building renovations are complete!

The bulk of the renovations funded by the Capital Campaign were completed last fiscal year. In the early months of this year, final touches were put on the Weintraub Family Community Room, the Library and the passageway. The space was painted and cleaned up and new signage was created and installed. The coffee bar area was completed, coffee equipment ordered and installed, and Java Nagila is now a warm and well-used gathering place for the Sinai community on Sunday mornings.

After some delays, the fire alarm panel for the building was put into service, the elevator servicing the school building was completed and inspected, and a wheelchair lift for the bimah was installed.

Dedications were held for major donors over the course of the year and a large community-wide celebration was held in early November. At that time, a mezuzah was placed on the entryway to the renovated Weintraub Family Community Room and the space was dedicated.

Submitted by Yuval Gilbert

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Camp Report

This was a banner year for Jewish camping at Temple Sinai in many ways.

This past year we started with a group of Temple Sinai Members taking a day trip to the Berkshires to see and learn about our two traditional overnight camps. While there, Temple Sinai members toured the camps, met with the directors and saw some of our campers. This coming summer’s excursion has been scheduled for August 6th. For more information or if you would like to be part of the tour, please see any member of the Camp Committee.

This past July Martha Hausman was added to the Crane Lake/Eisner Camp Board. This is a huge honor and it also means that Temple Sinai has a member on the regional and national committees. This representation puts our temple in a unique position to recruit campers.

Logan Gerber came to Temple Sinai this past winter as our second annual youth speaker. Logan works for the Religious Action Center (RAC), an arm of The Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), and came to us from her office in Chicago. Logan is the RAC’s National Teen Campaign Organizer and has been very involved with organizing NFTY’s response to gun violence in our schools. Logan had dinner with some of Temple Sinai’s teens and then spoke at a Friday night service. Everyone who heard her was very impressed with the work she and the RAC are doing. This year’s speaker has already been identified and we are in for a treat.

The exciting news is that this summer Temple Sinai will have 36 of our youth attending URJ’s Crane Lake, Eisner, and 6 Point Science and Technology, as well as Teen Trips to Israel. Not only is this the largest number of our temple’s youth involved with summer programs, but our number exceeds many temples larger than ours. The range of people attending the camps includes first time campers through counselors; the largest cohort is at Crane Lake, followed by Eisner and then 6 Point. We also have two students from Temple Sinai
traveling to Israel with kids from their bunks. The numbers above do not include children from Temple Sinai who attend independent Jewish sleep-away camps or Grossman Camp, the JCC’s Jewish day camp. The reason is those camps do not keep records by temple.

Over the last 18 years Jewish camping has become part of the culture of Temple Sinai. The reason for our success is the strong partnership between our Camp Committee, our educators, our clergy, our professional people and our funders.

This coming year, The Camp Committee is looking forward to a more inclusive camp day, one that includes some of the area’s independent Jewish Camps. The goal is to continue to increase the number of Temple youth who find Jewish fulfillment at Temple Sinai and their Jewish summer home.

Respectfully submitted by Mike Klau

The Campaign for Temple Sinai

The Capital Campaign was a huge success. We reached our increased goals ($2.8 million in upfront donations, pledges, and legacy gifts). Today, our membership is enjoying the benefits of our renovated facilities as well as support for our important engagement activities.

As of the end of March, the grand total for the campaign reached $2.83 million. Of that, $2.0 million has been received and over the next few years we should collect another $360,000 in pledges which will be used to pay down our bank loan and reduce interest payments. The legacy gifts will contribute another $435,000 but, of course, the timing of that is uncertain.

We especially want to thank Caryl Hull Leavitt and Cathy Cotton for their hard work on the Donor Recognition Wall sculpture that now graces the rear wall of the Weintraub Community Room. Caryl created the beautiful and inspirational design while Cathy kept the project moving forward and attended to a myriad of details.

And we can all thank each other for our collective generosity. You were there when we needed you.

Submitted by Pauline Gerson and Larry Marks

Caring Committee

In both happy and challenging situations, Temple Sinai congregants provide caring activities for individuals and families who had or adopted babies, relocated, experienced a loss, fell ill, became injured, had surgery, became isolated at home, or spent time in a hospital or rehabilitation center.

We have a rotating Monthly Coordinator leadership model to better distribute our work of assisting the Rabbis in providing support to the congregation. Two Monthly Coordinators each month serve to match congregant issues with members willing to provide assistance. We have concluded our 19th year as a Caring Committee.
Caring Committee expenses are covered by the Temple Sinai budget, the Aryeh Friedman Fund and the Caring Committee Fund. We also receive many generous monetary and in-kind donations from Temple Sinai congregants, family members and friends.

Deepen Communication

During the 2018-2019 year:
- We personally delivered or sent cards, shiva platters, fruit baskets, plants, floral bouquets, get-well gifts and meals to families in need of our support. We visited those who were sick or bereaved, made check-in telephone calls and sent messages of cheer, condolence, encouragement and congratulations.
- We transported several congregants to temple services or to other locations as needed.
- We have established ongoing connections between volunteers and congregants with long-term issues. These relationships involve regular visits, telephone calls and, in some cases, meal deliveries.

As data from our communication and tracking system, Hineynu, is currently unavailable, we can’t specify the number of people and families we helped. However, we were able to address all of the needs that came to our attention through the Rabbis or otherwise.

Broaden Commitments

- Many of last year’s monthly coordinators returned for the 2018-2019 Caring Committee year and new volunteers signed up to fill open positions. We reorganized our volunteer list to make it easier for the coordinators to use in identifying volunteers for particular tasks and we updated the monthly coordinator guidebook to address a broader range of issues.
- We now have a volunteer who writes cards to express our community’s joy on happy occasions and sympathy or support for sad or challenging issues.
- We continue to expand our volunteer base by encouraging members of the congregation to help us with our work. Our goal is 100% participation of the congregation in doing mitzvot for one another.

Gain Inspiration

- We thank our Monthly Coordinators for their generous donation of time, caring and commitment to our community.
- We thank our new volunteer Emily Case for the many lovely cards she has written and sent on behalf of the Caring Committee.
- We thank Deena Blau for monitoring and restocking the supply of MiSheberach cards and the Jewish Lights Publishing Company pastoral care pamphlets. These materials, which help our members and visitors deal with various life and death challenges, can be found on the tables in the back of the sanctuary and outside the restrooms next to Ehrenfried Hall.
- We thank the many other volunteers who stepped up to provide support and assistance to our community. New volunteers are always needed - please contact Andrea Fein or Hildy Neumann to sign on to help.
- We also thank all those who showed their appreciation for the work of the Caring Committee by making a monetary donation.

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Fein & Hildy Neumann
Chavurot

Temple Sinai's size allows people to feel known and to get to know others. Nevertheless, there is great value in creating opportunities for congregants to engage and connect in smaller units known as chavurot (singular: chavurah).

The JP/Rozzy Havurah, as it is known, has continued to grow and flourish now in its third year. It met about 4 times this past year for Shabbat dinner or Havdalah. The families are good friends, and the children all enjoy each other’s company.

The South Brookline Havurah has also met a few times on the same model.

The Young Adult Havurah for Sinai members in their 20s and 30s has had a much quieter year, as this population naturally ebbs and flows in interest and membership. There have been a few dinners, and perhaps the biggest success is the friendships that the core group has individually with each other. The Young Adult Havurah provides a unique place for Sinai community members in this age bracket, as couples or individuals, to connect with peers and explore Judaism together.

Submitted by Rabbi Shoshana Friedman

Development Advisory Group and Free Will Annual Campaign

The Development Advisory Group, made up of about ten Sinai members with expertise and experience in fundraising and philanthropy, was formed this year as a “think tank,” advising us on how to enrich and grow Temple Sinai’s culture of philanthropy; with Temple Sinai’s growth, increased staffing, renovated building, and rich programming, new resources are needed to sustain our work and community. Forming the Group was a result of a recommendation by the Strategic Planning Committee.

This year we worked on new approaches to reaching out to our congregation to encourage financial support of Sinai’s inclusive and welcoming community, so that financial resources are not a barrier to membership, and so all who are interested can take part in Temple Sinai’s rich Jewish life. The Group worked on re-thinking our Annual Free Will Campaign’s letters, personal solicitations, events, leadership gifts, etc. Going forward the Group will also focus on legacy gifts, endowments, and bequests, planning for Sinai’s future.

This year’s budgeted Annual Campaign goal was $115,000. As of mid-May we have raised $137,000, thanks to a generous matching gift and the Development Advisory Group’s work. We are most grateful for the generosity of our community and to the Group’s dedication and wisdom! Enhancing our resources so that Temple Sinai can continue to grow and be the best it can be is the Development Advisory Group’s goal.

Respectfully submitted by Nora Abrahamer

Distinguished Service Award Committee

We are proud to announce that Nora Abrahamer is the recipient of Temple Sinai’s 2019 Harry Wheeler Distinguished Service Award. Judaism has always been an important part of Nora’s life. She grew up in a Conservative home, attended Hebrew school, and learned the significance and passion of being Jewish from her parents, who were Holocaust survivors. Nora’s involvement with Judaism deepened during college when she spent her senior year in Israel during the Yom Kippur War. After college, she worked as a teacher and also in the Jewish community, starting with summers at the JCC’s Grossman Day Camp. She eventually became the
director of Grossman Camp and Camping Services, a position she held for 4 years. After spending a year and a half in Costa Rica where her husband, Dan, was completing research for his Ph.D., Nora returned to Boston and began working for B.U. Hillel, where she remained for 17 years, eventually becoming Associate Director.

Nora and Dan joined Temple Sinai in 2000 when their son Jeremy was in 2nd grade. They were familiar with Sinai through long-time friends Charlie Homer and Judy Fabricant, and loved the temple’s values, its approach to Judaism, its size, and the warmth of the community.

It wasn’t long before Rabbi Waldorf and Jeremy Wolfe got wind of Nora’s background and experience with Jewish non-profits. She quickly got involved in synagogue activities, serving as Chair of the Free Will campaign for several years, joining the Board of Trustees, and later becoming an Assistant Treasurer. Next came 4 years as Treasurer, followed by 2 years as Vice President during Pauline Gerson’s term as president. The natural next step for Nora was the presidency, which she assumed in 2016.

Nora has also served on multiple committees, including Budget, Personnel, Strategic Planning, Growth, Security, Renovations, and the Capital Campaign Cabinet, as well as recent search committees. Last year she began playing a pivotal role on the newly formed Development Advisory Group, whose purpose is to explore and advance fundraising efforts and encourage a culture of philanthropy within the congregation.

All Nora’s experiences, both personal and professional, have served as building blocks. She brought her background and skills from her previous roles to the demanding job of Temple Sinai president. Nora is passionate about being part of our Jewish community and contributing to the strength of that community in areas including Jewish identity, education, and culture. Each accomplishment and experience has been a motivating factor that propelled her along to the next venture. And those ventures will continue after she leaves the presidency. In addition to her ongoing roles at the temple, Nora will be one of 10 presidents from around the country asked by the URJ to serve as a mentor to a new synagogue president. The person who is matched with Nora as his/her mentor will be fortunate indeed.

Thanks to committee members Michael Klau, Alex Cooper, Rochelle Seltzer, Larry Marks, Pauline Gerson, and Harvey Cotton, with special thanks to Judith Freedman Caplan for her many contributions.

Submitted by Rose Mandelbaum, Chair

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Education and Youth Engagement Committee

2018 – 2019
Overall K - 12 enrollment - 152
Formal student enrollment (K - 7) - 100
Sinai U (Grades 8 - 12) - 52
New students - 10
New Families - 3

2017 - 2018
Overall K - 12 enrollment - 168
Formal student enrollment (K - 7) - 120
Sinai U (Grades 8 - 12) - 48
New students - 21
New Families - 13

School Enrollment
This year, we saw a drop in K – 7 enrollment (although teen participation is up). Due to some significant demographic factors, we welcomed very few new school families this year. Our religious school parents are helping out by posting blurbs about Temple Sinai in their respective PTO bulletins. According to Brookline Town Hall, elementary age enrollment has levelled out, and will continue to do so for the next five years. We need to step up our recruitment efforts in order to attract new families to our school. We are doing a good job retaining our currently enrolled families.

**School Security**
Due to the tragic events that took place in Pittsburgh, security has become a major topic of concern this year. We now have a weekly Sunday police detail during morning religious school hours. In addition, our new PA system is almost operational, and plans are underway for a police training and CPR workshop in the fall. Many thanks to Michael Klau and the Security Committee, who have worked tirelessly to ensure the safety of our precious children.

**Programs, Programs and More Programs!**
Dozens of successful school programs were planned and executed this year, including – *but not limited to* - a back-to-school family picnic at Larz Anderson Park, 8 Rosh Hodesh gatherings, 8 Shevet Achim gatherings, 6 Class Shabbat presentations & song performances, 12 family education programs, 3 milestone class presentations, a Purim Day celebration featuring Marvin the Marvelous, 5 Junior Youth Group events, 5 volunteer dates at Family Table, 3 B’nai TELEM social justice field trips/speakers, Mitzvah Day with nearly 100 participants, and other assorted field trips to Mayyim Hayyim, the Makery, the Clayroom, and more. These events helped build community, promote Jewish learning, and create excitement in the school.

**Art Space Learning Partially Funded by CJP**
Our fifth graders studied the ancient prophets, and identified Jewish values they wished to explore, including *tzar ba’alei chayim* (kindness to animals) *kavod habriot* (respect for all), *lo ta’amod* (do not stand idly by), and *ma’achil re’evim* (feeding the hungry). The students explored the narratives of key figures such as Rebecca, Abraham, and Amos. Speakers from Tzedek @ Sinai spoke with the class about their work, and how they live their Jewish values every day. Their studies culminated in the creation of four gorgeous social justice art panels.

**Sinai U Participation**
Our teenagers are more involved than ever, with over 50 students regularly participating. We offered them a multiplicity of ways in which to connect with their synagogue community. Below are the modes of engagement that were available to our teens this year, many of whom attend Jewish summer camp. Student Rabbi Sam Blumberg did an incredible job supervising the café, connecting with uninvolved teens, and overseeing the weekly Sinai U7 program.

- Madrich Corps
- Temple Café - *new*
- Tikkun Olam Sundays *monthly volunteering at Family Table*
- Rosh Hodesh group for girls
- Shevet Achim group for boys
- Tsippy Youth Group
- Facing History & Ourselves - *new*

**Facing History and Ourselves**
Ten students in Grades 10 – 12 met monthly with Holocaust scholar, Rachael Cerrotti, to explore the Facing History and Ourselves curriculum. The students were paired with local Holocaust survivors, with whom they met on a number of occasions. During the visits, the students listened to and recorded their survivors’ stories. The program resulted in a poignant multi-generational breakfast in May, during which the teens presented their projects to the community. Some students created videos, while others wrote original booklets.
**Shabbat on Wheels**  
K – 2 families participated in a new Shabbat on Wheels program, led by teacher, Alana Geboff. Alana visited religious school families’ homes to bake challah with them, and to engage in Shabbat learning and experiential activities. It was a meaningful and fun way to do some Jewish learning and community building beyond the walls of the synagogue.

**Remembering Pittsburg**  
Following Pittsburgh, our sixth graders wrote beautiful poems of solidarity which were delivered to the Tree of Life Synagogue, along with a framed picture. After the tragedy at Christchurch in New Zealand, families wrote letters of support which were delivered to a local Boston mosque. We continue to teach our students about kindness, or *chesed*, and in K – 2 we organized a special *chesed* workshop where students learned to flex their superhero muscles.

*Submitted by Heidi Smith Hyde on behalf of the Education/Youth Committee*  
*Co-chairs: Merav Socolovsky, Elaine Ober & Michael Klau*

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**Executive Director’s Report**

Listed below - in no special order - are some projects, activities and events which have taken place since May, 2018:

**Return to Temple Sinai from Off-Site Location**  
In May, 2017, to clear the building for construction, many things were put into storage and the temple staff moved into off-site offices at Benchmark Senior Living Corporation’s Chestnut Park facility at 50 Sutherland Road in Brighton. The staff moved back to Sinai last June and items were returned from storage at that time. While it was good to return to our Temple home, the early days of our return created many challenges! The renovations were not fully complete when we moved back, so painting and construction noise coexisted with our normal Temple activities. Some spaces were not ready to accommodate either the staff or the stored items and it took some time and a lot of moving of our possessions to return to the routine rhythm of Temple life.

**Congregation Kehillath Israel High Holiday services at Temple Sinai**  
Our neighboring congregation underwent a major renovation over the last few years, including renovation of their sanctuary. Because they were unable to use their own prayer space for Rosh Hashanah, they requested use of Temple Sinai’s sanctuary for their Second Day Rosh Hashanah services. The Temple Board voted to make an exception to its policy of not allowing non-members to use its sanctuary space and gave KI the use of our sanctuary for those second day Rosh Hashanah services without charge. KI also made use of a number of our classrooms for their children’s programming. That classroom space was given to them at a nominal charge. Helping the staff of KI plan their holiday services in our unfamiliar space coincided with the planning for our own High Holy Day services, which was at the same time as planning for the start of a new school year while continuing to complete the details of the return of the staff from temporary offices and the return of our items from storage. It was a challenging time!

**Computers and Technology**  
The full report of the Computer and Technology Committee can be found elsewhere in this document. In addition to their efforts, we

- Purchased and configured a desktop computer in accordance with the Board’s one-new-computer-a-year policy – this year for the Executive Director.
- Assisted by Alex Cooper, began to investigate credit card vendors and systems to enable Temple Sinai to accept credit cards for payment of dues, donations and other items. The target date for making that change is January, 2020.
- Investigated the possibility of sending texts as a way to augment our communications and publicity efforts.
• Continued our contract with a consultant, Dwight Porter of Primekey Management, to provide computer and technology support.
• Assured that we had fully functioning technology available for immediate use for our return to Brookline from our temporary offices.
• Continue to lay the groundwork for phasing out our Rakefet database with the goal of implementing ShulCloud, a customer relations management system used by many other synagogues across North America as soon as feasible.

Facility
Last fall, the major renovations to our Weintraub Community Room, front office, school entryway and library were substantially completed. In addition:
• At the direction of the Temple Board with the goal of improved security, installed light sensor-operated light fixtures to illuminate the temple front steps and school portico. Accesses to the building are now well lit.
• Worked with an ad hoc group of temple congregants headed by Susan Laster and Zippy Ostroff on ideas to make changes to the kitchen to improve its usefulness and appearance without making a substantial financial commitment. Painting and re-flooring of the kitchen is scheduled for summer’s end.
• Made masonry repairs to the monumental stairs of the sanctuary, sunken garden and brotherhood steps, some of which were crumbling and dangerous.
• Removed a crumbling no longer needed chimney and made repairs to a second chimney which was the cause of leaking water into the Education Director’s office and hallway.
• Installed a sophisticated buzzer entry system which allows us to see who is trying to enter the building and “buzz them in.” The software allows us to unlock the door not only from the front office but also from staff cell phones.
• Increased the number of panic buttons which contact the police in an emergency.
• Upgraded and relocated below-code wiring in the kitchen and installed a sensor for the overhead lights in the kitchen to turn on when a person enters the room. The time-honored tradition of members feeling their way around in a dark kitchen for a hidden light switch is now over!

Off-Site Program Space
Temple Sinai continued to utilize space a nearby building on Charles Street for adult learning programs on Sunday mornings during the school year and have already entered into an agreement to continue use that space in the coming year.

Communications
Temple Sinai sponsors a large number of programs and activities which we advertise within our own congregation and in the wider community. We utilize a variety of media to do so. Our weekly electronic newsletter, the “Sinai Update,” is our primary way of communicating with our members and friends and serves as the basis for material disseminated in other formats and media. The number of Sinai Update recipients has grown to almost 1,000 people, including members, prospective members, and friends. In addition to the Update, additional emails about various Temple programs are sent each week – some to the entire data base and some to smaller selected groups of people who might find the program of interest. Our Constant Contact program allows us to monitor how many people read our emails and the “open” rate is high. Information about programming is included on a Temple Facebook page which is maintained by member Tami Orr-Petler. Flyers are created and distributed for most Sinai programs. The Temple also provides selected press releases about Sinai programs and classes to local print and electronic media, resulting in listings in local newspapers and on the Boston website, jewishboston.com -- all at no cost to the synagogue.

For some time, we have had cloth banners advertising Temple Sinai hanging from light standards on Beacon Street. Weather and time took their toll on our previous banners, so this year they were replaced by new ones, designed by congregant Jill Winitzer. These provide the Temple with highly visible “24/7” advertising to the Brookline community.
In addition to our use of electronic communications, our printed news publications are mailed to more than 475 individuals and printed at no cost to the Temple under an advertising and printing contract with Liturgical Publications Incorporated. The Sinai “Lu’ach,” a newsletter published 10 times a year, is put together by Content Editor Deb Nam-Krane and Production Editor Beth Winkoff. Karen Keely is the content and design editor of our magazine-format publication “Kolot.” Kolot is being published three – four times a year and includes a growing number of articles submitted by our members and staff.

Rental of our facility
Because of our construction, in 2017 we needed to advise our commercial tenants that they would be unable to rent space at Temple Sinai during the construction year. Moving was both a hardship and a financial burden for them. Because Temple Sinai relies on rental income to help balance the budget, when we moved back to Brookline we reached out to those tenants inviting them to return to our space without an increase in rent. Some of them did not return because they found their substitute space suited them well. Only three of our former tenants came back. Of those, two returned but for less time than before. The Construction Committee knew that this reduction in rental income would be a likely result of our construction project.

To attract new tenants, we created a rental information page on our website, https://www.sinaibrookline.org/about-temple-sinai/general-information/facility-rental/ which offers general information and pictures of our available space. We ran a rental advertisement on Craig’s List and spoke with a representative of the Brookline Chamber of Commerce about the availability of our space. In addition, we reached out to congregants familiar with real estate marketing for advice.

Our space has been shown to a number of potential rental clients. As a result, we did take on two small tenants: one is a small Hebrew tutoring program for adults who use our classrooms on some weekday mornings. The second is a new mothers’ group which is scheduled to start renting in June.

Recruiting new tenants is a long-term project and does not yield quick results. The overwhelming number of people looking at our space will not end up renting it. On the other hand, some of the people to whom I have already shown our space will not rent now but may return in a few months or even years to rent space from us in the future. It took many years to build our rental clientele prior to renovations and I anticipate it will take a number of additional years for our rental income to return to its pre-construction levels.

Staff Changes
Former Administrative Assistant Nancy Hogan tendered her resignation in November. During the month of December after Nancy left, temporary employees provided administrative support to the temple on a patchwork basis. After a careful search, we hired Paul Kelly as our new Temple Administrative Assistant. Paul, began work in January 2019. Our appreciation to Kathy Arnstein, who trained him to do the multitude of administrative tasks required of the job and who continues to serve as a resource. Paul’s job includes answering the phone and greeting visitors, mailing out yahrzeit letters, ordering supplies and sanctuary flowers, maintaining RSVP spreadsheets, doing large mailings to the congregation, maintaining our Rakefet and Constant Contact data bases and offering a welcoming presence to visitors and members. He also handles Rabbi Vogel’s schedule and Rabbi Shoshana’s b’nai mitzvah scheduling, and provides varying levels of administrative support for all members of the staff. Added to his administrative responsibilities, Paul has volunteered his mechanical and technological expertise on projects large and small. He is a welcome addition to our staff.

Because our building is so heavily used, prior to our renovation year, we employed one part time custodian (Mario Calderon) a Sunday custodian (Ron Luce) and an additional part time custodian. That third part-time position wasn’t needed and wasn’t filled during our renovation year. Now that we have returned to Brookline and with the additional cleaning required by the opening of the new Java Nagila coffee bar, there was once again a need for a third custodian. After using cleaning services for a few months, Estela Fernandes was hired
in January. She does regular cleaning in various parts of the building on Friday and Monday mornings, and occasionally fills in at other times, as well.

**Community Shabbat dinners**
This year, the Temple hosted ten community Shabbat dinners. Included in that number is the Tu B’Shevat Seder organized by Elaine Ober and Zippy Ostroy and the Second Night Passover Seder, organized by Ellen Bruder-Moore and Jeremy Wolfe. Initially, member volunteers provided the organizational work for our Shabbat dinners. Because in recent years we have been unable to recruit a member dinner coordinator, the organizing, record keeping, publicity and billing for the dinners now falls to the staff. A Religious School teacher has been hired to provide on-site coordination the night of each dinner and we continue use Jo Shields to cater the majority of them. Despite our best efforts, attendance at our Friday night dinners was slightly down this year.

**Memorials**
There were no new plaques installed on the memorial wall of the Temple’s sanctuary in 2018-2019. As it is every year, a printed Scroll of Remembrance booklet, prepared by congregant Rose Mandelbaum, was distributed at the Yom Kippur yizkor service.

**Acknowledgement and thanks to congregants...**
Over the course of the year, there are many other programs and initiatives which are organized and produced by Temple Sinai congregants – for which staff provided varying degrees of assistance and support.

- Editing and putting together the “About Our Synagogue” pamphlet placed in our pews (Rose Mandelbaum)
- Working in concert with congregant Julie Bruno, we sent 100 Mishkan Tefilah prayer books out for repair or rebinding.
- The Temple Membership Directory (also prepared by Rose Mandelbaum) was distributed in January
- The Distinguished Service Award Committee is headed by Rose Mandelbaum. This year the DSA is being awarded to Nora Abrahamer.
- A series of receptions for donors to our recently completed capital campaign were held over the past year. These lovely and often touching small ceremonies were arranged by Nora Abrahamer, Cathy Cotton and Diane Ripstein.
- The Temple’s annual budget -- a complicated and important document -- is put together by a hard-working committee of congregants. Once again his year, the Budget Committee was chaired by Yuval Gilbert with assistance from President Nora Abrahamer, Larry Marks, and staff member Kathy Arnstein.
- Portraits of past presidents of Temple Sinai had always been hung in individual frames in the old Weintraub Auditorium. With renovation, those portraits were combined into a stylish installation of panels designed and supervised by Steve Logowitz.
- Each February, Temple Sinai holds a Jewish Poetry Festival, attracting both poets and poetry-lovers. This past year was the tenth annual festival and featured poet Zvi Sesling. Deb Leipsiger organizes these popular events and Larry Lowenthal serves as the moderator.
- A wall acknowledging the generous donations of our many contributors to the recent Capital Campaign was designed and the installation was supervised by Caryl Hull Leavitt. This stunning art work hangs in the newly renovated Weintraub Family Community Room.
The grand piano which had been used in Weintraub for many years was moved to the sanctuary. The second piano in that room could no longer be tuned and needed to be discarded. A new upright piano was recently purchased and installed in the Weintraub Family Community Room due to the work of congregants Jackie Borck and Larry Marks.

Professional Development
I was a regular participant in the MATSA, the Massachusetts Association of Synagogue Administrators and Executive Directors representing houses of worship from all the streams of Judaism. Temple Sinai hosted a meeting of this group in May, 2019 and I was pleased to give a tour of our renovated space to my colleagues. Rabbi Vogel gave a d’var Torah to the group.

And finally ……
I would like to express my continued appreciation to the Board and many other members of the Temple Sinai community who have always provided me with assistance and wise counsel on a wide variety of matters. The Temple could not exist and my own job would be impossible without the generous work of its members.

Submitted by Linda Katz, Executive Director

History Committee
The primary activity of the History Committee is historic preservation of items from Temple Sinai’s past. We maintain the Temple Sinai archive, promote community/continuity with our history, and serve as a resource for inquiries and events. Our work of incorporating new material, culling unneeded items, and performing other maintenance activities preserves the record of Temple Sinai’s history – where we came from and what we’ve accomplished – for the future.

Deepen Communication & Broaden Commitments
During the past year, we selected certain historical items for digitization so that these materials can be made more widely available, will be preserved digitally as their physical forms deteriorate, and are protected by a back-up copy.

In addition, we identified and distributed items that fit better in other collections:
• We delivered three boxes of Janot Roskin sheet music to the Evelyn B. and Janot S. Roskin collection at the New England Historic Genealogy Society’s (NEHGS) Jewish Heritage Center.
• We provided a copy of the Temple Sinai archive inventory to the NEHGS archivist so that they are aware of what we have.
• We donated items related to Rabbi Samuel Cohon (Rabbi Beryl Cohon’s brother) to American Jewish archives in Cincinnati.
• We sent vinyl records from Rabbi Beryl Cohon’s personal collection to his nephew Baruch Cohon and donated others to the ARCHive of Contemporary Music in New York City.
• We also sent Cohon family film reels to Baruch Cohon.

In doing so, we ensured that these items are better placed and will have more use, thus strengthening Temple Sinai’s connection with the broader Jewish community.

Gain inspiration
By capturing the many ways in which our synagogue has prayed, educated, enlightened, supported, and defined Judaism over the years, our archive provides a rich tapestry of "ways of being Jewish." Rather than preserving the past as a fixed entity to be replicated by future generations, it enables us to understand how
Temple Sinai members adapted to changing times, culture, and mores, while also allowing us to identify those practices that have remained consistent.

Archives are only as useful as they are used. While ours remains largely dormant, our hope is that it will serve as a valuable resource for current and future rabbis, cantors, educators, and researchers. We can't anticipate how, exactly, the archive will be used in the future, but we can and do employ our best judgment about what should be preserved today because we believe it might be important to others in years to come.

*Respectfully submitted by Hildy Neumann on behalf of the History Committee*

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**Committee for the Inclusion of People with Disabilities**

In 2018-2019, the committee brought Belo Cipriani, a disability rights advocate, author, and journalist to Temple Sinai as a Friday evening speaker to mark Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month (February). In addition, the committee was one of several groups to co-sponsor children’s book author Leslea Newman for a weekend of speaking, workshops, and classes. With the renovation work completed, the committee hired accessibility advocate and consultant, Matan Koch, to do walkthrough of the new spaces. A couple of issues surfaced, which have now been remediated, and Matan was extremely positive about what we had accomplished. The committee is always looking for new members.

*Submitted by Elaine Ober and Lisa Stephani*

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**Israel Education / Action Committee**

The Israel Education/Action Committee is a forum that broadens our understanding of the State of Israel’s history, art, literature, culture, and society. The Committee has no ideological or political agenda. We are committed to promoting tolerance and respect for the multiplicity of opinions within the Congregation regarding the State of Israel. The Committee’s activities frequently take the form of presenting movies and speakers, making Temple members aware of the range of Israeli cultural life, and promoting opportunities for attendees to engage directly with Israelis from all walks of life.

During 2018-19, the Committee sponsored the following activities:

**TEAM KEHILLAT HALEV**

One of our most exciting initiatives involves establishing a relationship with Kehillat HaLev, a Reform congregation in Tel Aviv. In October 2018, Rabbi Naomi Efrat visited with us in Brookline. She gave a D’Var Torah at Friday night services. While on trips to Israel several synagogue members visited Kehillat HaLev in Tel Aviv, met with its leadership, and attended services and other events. Rabbi Vogel also visited with them on his recent sabbatical. We had a joint Hanukah candle lighting with Rabbi Efrat and a number of the children in her school (via Zoom), featuring a menorah we had given them as a gift. With the help of Heidi, several children from our Hebrew school participated in the ceremony.

The Reform movement in Israel is very small and it faces challenges that are quite different from those faced by American congregations, going forward, we plan to establish links between the lay leadership of both congregations, to develop an ongoing dialogue on issues of common interest, and to conduct other joint programs.
Wexner Fellows – Presentation of Harvard Kennedy School Wexner Fellows continues to be a mainstay of the Committee’s focus. The Wexner fellows are mid-career Israeli government officials from a variety of disciplines who study for a year in Boston. This year’s speakers were:

- Ronit Heyd, who is the Executive Director of Shatil, an Initiative of the New Israel Fund
- Gidon Rubenstein, Head of Security Unit, in the Israeli Prime Minister’s Office
- Yonatan Guilman, Head of Research and Development Branch in the Prime Minister’s Office

Anat Hoffman - The Committee was a co-sponsor of a talk given by Anat Hoffman, who runs the Women of the Wall organization in Israel. Anat has visited with synagogue members before and we would like to thank Mike Klau for organizing this activity.

Yom HaZakiron – On May 7, the Committee helped co-sponsor a very well attended presentation by a number of local rabbis and other Jewish organizations to mark the annual Israel-Palestinian Memorial Day ceremony produced in Israel by Combatants For Peace and the Parents Circle-Families Forum.

Joint Book Group Discussion – The Committee co-sponsors an annual discussion with the two temple book groups about books written by an Israeli or about Israel.

As part of Cinema@Sinai, we screened the film “In the Land of the Pomegranates” that looks at the Israel/Palestine situation through the eyes of a group of young Israelis and Palestinians who are brought together outside Israel in a supervised program to discuss the issues of the conflict.

Friday, May 10, 2019, the Committee sponsored a Friday evening community supper to note Israel’s 71st anniversary. Although the program was not as elaborate as the one we had sponsored the prior year, the Rabbi gave a D’var Torah at a very well attended service.

Dr. Dov Waxman of Northeastern University spoke on the new nation-state law.

We also want to mark the departure of Shirley Partoll from our Committee in light of her move to New York City. Shirley had been a long time member of the synagogue and was an important contributor to our activities.

Submitted by Rich Goldstein & Amos Lassen, Co-Chairs

Library Committee

The temple renovations of 2017-18 created wonderful opportunities for Temple Sinai’s library. The Weintraub Family Community Room now includes a beautiful Beit Midrash Corner, in memory of Rose and Carl Thurer and Lily and Sidney Lehrer, with built-in shelves full of Jewish books – fiction, memoirs, Torah and bible study, history, mysticism, and more. These books are all catalogued so that Temple members can check our collection at any time; the catalog is available at https://www.librarything.com/catalog/TempleSinaiBrookline.

The books are available for check-out to the Temple Sinai community! Each book has an old-fashioned library card in a pocket inside the back cover; just fill out the date, your name, and your email address and drop the card into the small white card box sitting right there. When you’re ready to return the book, drop it in the clearly labeled large woven basket. Books are checked out for a two-month period.
Downstairs, the Larkin Library has also been renovated, including the removal of its columns, and it is now a more cheerful, open room that makes a lovely meeting space. The shelves are full of yet more Jewish books, although these are not yet organized and catalogued.

The Library Committee is creating a system for ongoing maintenance of the library and will also tackle the project of organizing the downstairs books this summer.

Submitted by Karen Keely on behalf of the Library Committee

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Membership Committee

The Membership Committee develops and implements programs to reach out to prospective members, strengthen bonds, and deepen support for new and existing members. We organize events and personal outreach to insure that all may engage meaningfully in the Temple Sinai community.

Committee Members: Elynn Finkelstein, chair; Bev Zibrak, Betty Canick, Jen Katz, Amos Lassen, Lucy Sandler, Jane Silberberg.

Membership Report as of May, 2019
The number of current members is 350 households. Membership one year ago was 351. This year, New Members accounted for an increase of 22. There were 20 resignations and 3 deaths.

Sinai Ambassador Program: Elynn Finkelstein, Bev Zibrak, coordinators.
Goals: To assign an Ambassador who offers to meet 1:1 and welcome new members to Temple Sinai. The new member has a contact at Sinai, and the Ambassador helps identify new member’s interests and goals. The Sinai Ambassador Program, which began 2016, is an initiative designed to strengthen engagement and outreach at Temple Sinai. It demonstrates that as a community, we personally welcome each new person who chooses to join us. We honor community, connection, and commitment. This coming year, the Membership Committee is considering expanding the Sinai Ambassador mission to include reaching out to current members who are less engaged.


Annual New Member Shabbat Service and Dinner
The Membership Committee welcomed new members at our fifth annual New Member Shabbat Service and Community Dinner, February, 2019.

Rabbi Vogel’s Welcoming Dessert, November 2018
Membership Committee representatives were included in this warm and informal evening at Rabbi Vogel’s home with his family. New and existing members introduced themselves and focused on the journey that led them to Temple Sinai and their current interests and path forward.

Prospective Member Shabbat@Six and Dinners
In September 2018 and May 2019, we greeted prospective members and sponsored the pre-service nosh. The dinners were another venue for all to mix and mingle casually.
Spring Ambassador and New Member Celebration
This year, Rabbi Shoshana and the Membership Committee organized a fall meeting for Ambassadors as well as our Spring Celebration Event.

• For the latter, 34 people joined us for lunch and fun as we honored the Ambassador Program. Along with several Temple Board Members, many Sinai leaders graciously attended to add their support.
• This event also enabled the community of ambassadors to spend time together-- to mingle and compare notes. It afforded another opportunity for ambassadors and new members to connect.

Goals for the Coming Year:
1. To promote creative ways to reach out to prospective members.
2. For the Ambassador Program to continue to grow in strength, number, and visibility.
3. To consider expanding the Ambassador Program to help existing members re-engage in Temple Sinai.
4. To develop a community among the ambassadors by coming together for a fall meeting and an annual spring event.

Respectfully submitted by Elynn Finkelstein

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Mitzvah Day Task Force

Mitzvah Day was held on Sunday, April 28. This is a multigenerational event that connects the congregants to their community and beyond. We had a large turnout with nearly 100 participants, ranging from preschoolers to senior citizens. The program began with a pizza luncheon in Ehrenfried Hall. Participants were asked to contribute $5.00 per family to help defray the cost of the luncheon. Following the luncheon, the participants dispersed to their various sites. There were six different sites which congregants had preregistered for on-line. The on-line registration was coordinated by Rose Mandelbaum.

The Temple has had long associations with each of the organizations chosen for our Mitzvah day activities. A brief description of each site is listed below:

1. Jewish Family and Children’s Service
The participants for this site created spring flowerpots for the senior citizens who would take part in the upcoming gathering for Holocaust survivors. Many cheerful flower pots were painted and would serve as a reminder to the survivors that they have not been forgotten. The project coordinator for this site was Sharon Berreby.

2. Yawkey Family Inn
The Yawkey Inn serves the families of children undergoing medical care in Boston hospitals. We had two different projects benefiting the Yawkey Family Inn.

The first project had congregants prepare a lasagna dinner, including salads and desserts, for the families staying at the Inn. The food was dropped off at the inn and at their satellite site located at 21 Autumn Street in Cambridge. This part of the project was coordinated by Pam Templer.

The second part of the project was to assemble goody bags for the children undergoing medical care. The volunteers assembled dozens of goody bags which were delivered to the Inn, together with the dinner. Janet Cline coordinated this part of the project.

3. Brookline Emergency Food Pantry
The Brookline Emergency Food Pantry provides food to over 500 Brookline low-income families. Robbie Singal coordinated this site. Temple volunteers loaded and unloaded grocery bags full of canned goods collected by
the Temple. The participants sorted and stocked the shelves of the pantry with the canned goods. Many thanks to our religious school families who donated over 200 cans over the course of several months.

4. Anna Bissouette House
Anna Bissouette House is a residence for formerly homeless senior citizens. Ellen Blinder coordinated and led volunteers in preparing a lasagna dinner for the residents. The residents look forward to the Temple providing this meal each year. Her team prepared lasagna, salads and desserts for the residents. After dinner the volunteers spent time talking with the seniors.

5. Chestnut Park Assisted Living
The Sinai Singers performed a concert at Chestnut Park Assisted Living located at Cleveland Circle. The Temple’s music teacher, Yoni Battat, led the Sinai Singers in the choral portion of the program. Yoni also performed a few songs in Yiddish which the residents all enjoyed. This site was coordinated by Heidi Smith Hyde.

6. Edward L. Cooper, Sr. Community Garden
The Edward L. Cooper, Sr. Community Garden and Education Center is located in Roxbury. The site is starting a garden dedicated to the clients of the food pantry which they host each month. The Temple participants helped start the garden by preparing the seedlings, which will be planted at the beginning of the growing season. Deborah Nam-Krane and Michael Nam-Krane coordinated this project.

7. Clayroom Fund Raiser to Prevent Gun Violence
Members of our TSIPPY youth group visited the Clayroom last month to paint soup bowls, which were sold at Mitzvah Day (along with homemade soup). The proceeds will benefit NFTY’s Gun Violence Prevention Program. This project was led by youth advisor, Dani Asbel. Many thanks to the Clayroom for donating the bowls.

Bob Ullman delivered all the pizzas that day, while Ellen Blinder purchased the rest of the food for the luncheon. Janet Cline, Ellen Blinder, Pamela Karmazine and Leah Carnow helped to set up and decorate Ehrenfried Hall for the festivities. Tzedek@Sinai held a letter writing campaign for the Green New Deal.

All of the site coordinators should be acknowledged for their work in helping to make Mitzvah Day a success. Rose Mandelbaum should be recognized for her work in the on-line registration.

Family Learning Coordinator, Leah Carnow, should be acknowledged for her help with Mitzvah Day coordination.

Submitted by Heidi Smith Hyde

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Music Prayer Ritual (MPR) Committee

The MPR Committee advises and supports the rabbis and cantorial soloist in matters concerning the music, prayer, and ritual activities of the congregation. As the voice of the congregation on these matters, the Committee strives to be aware at all times of the spiritual needs of the congregation. In partnership with the congregation’s clergy, the Committee formulates policy for ritual activities that are part of the life of the congregation. Updates on the Committee’s activities over the past year are listed below.

1. The MPR Committee offered a new “Teaching and Reflection Service” on Rosh Hashanah morning that ran parallel with the traditional Rosh Hashanah service in the sanctuary. Rabbi Shoshana led the parallel service, which emphasized participatory singing, discussion, and quiet reflection in our newly renovated Weintraub Community Room. Survey respondents who attended this service provided universally positive feedback. People said they enjoyed being in a smaller room, which fostered a more
intimate experience, and they liked singing together, hearing stories, and having time for meditation and reflection. Given the success of this pilot project, the Committee will consider offering services like this again in the future.

2. In response to feedback from the High Holiday survey, the MPR Committee is consulting with sound specialists to improve our sound system for the High Holiday services.

3. Last year, we welcomed Maayan Harel as our student cantor, and we are pleased that she will continue to serve as our Part-time Cantor next year. She will co-lead High Holiday services as well as Shabbat morning services, including all bar/bat mitzvah services.

4. The MPR Committee bids a fond farewell to Associate Rabbi Shoshana Friedman as she embarks on her next adventure. We are so grateful to have benefited from her boundless energy and enthusiasm, her wisdom and deep Jewish learning, her social justice leadership, her amazing ability to connect with teens and adults in our congregation, her beautiful voice, and her inspiring spiritual guidance for the past four years. We wish her well in all her future endeavors.

5. Members of the MPR Committee assisted in the search that led to the hiring of our new student rabbi Talia Stein. We look forward to working with her in the coming year.

6. The MPR Committee co-sponsored a Nava Tehila concert with several other Jewish congregations and organizations in the Boston area. The concert was held Sunday, May 12th, at Temple Beth Zion.

7. The MPR Committee will consider incorporating guest musicians and new kinds of music at select Shabbat evening services next year. This initiative is still in the planning stages, but we hope to begin implementing it in the fall.

Respectfully submitted by Robin Orwant, Chair

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Nominating Committee

Nominations for the Board of Trustees

Officers – for a term ending in 2020

President            Charles Homer
Vice-Presidents            Susan Laster
Scot Osterweil
Treasurer            Yuval Gilbert
Assistant Treasurers           Jennifer Katz
Zippy Ostroy
Mel Stoler
Secretary            Alice Speck

Board members – for a term ending in 2021

Andrew Darien
Bonny Gilbert
Heidi Holland
Karen Keely
Elaine Ober
Amelia Orwant (Teen Representative)
Caroline Potter-Ng
Robert Thurer
Bev Zibrak

Board members – for a term ending in 2020
Harvey Cotton completing the unexpired term of Alice Speck
Continuing on the Board of Trustees, in addition to the 18 members who will be elected in the upcoming election, are:

- Past Presidents, continuing under the by-laws: Nora Abrahamer, Michael Klau and Pauline Gerson
- Board members with a term ending in 2020: Arlene Weintraub, Robin Orwant, Michele Mendoza, Barry Schwartz, Roberta Falke, Laurie Farrell, Glenn Kaplan
- The Rabbi and Executive Director are members of the Board, *ex-officio*

The Nominating Committee consisted of: Abby Cox, Elynn Finkelstein, Pauline Gerson, Tracey Hyams, Michael Klau, Deborah Nam-Krane, Doug Reichgott, Paul Rosenstrach

*Submitted by Jon Katz, Chair*

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**Passport to Israel**

“Passport to Israel” is a program that enables a child to take an educational trip to Israel when he/she is in high school. It is a special kind of savings plan that helps make travel to Israel affordable. Annual contributions are made for seven years beginning in the 3rd grade. Additional contributions are made by Temple Sinai and Combined Jewish Philanthropies.

- Ongoing participants: 34
- In 2018-2019 we had 2 new 3rd grade participants
- In 2018-2019 we had 0 new 7th grade participants
- In 2018-2019 we had 3 participants request the funds for a trip to Israel
- In 2018-2019 we have 7 other participants eligible to take their trip
- In 2018-2019 we had 2 participants withdraw from the program
- In 2018-2019 we had 1 participant transfer their account to a sibling (who is taking a trip)

*Submitted by Kathy Arnstein on behalf of Temple Sinai*

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**Personnel Committee**

This past year, the Personnel Committee completed its review of Rabbi Vogel. The review process entailed creating an evaluation tool and soliciting feedback from Temple staff and leadership, including officers and committee chairs. The Committee reviewed the feedback and prepared an evaluation which Harvey Cotton and Nora Abrahamer delivered to and discussed with Rabbi Vogel.

The Committee was also asked to review market salary data for certain staff positions and to provide input into compensation reviews for staff. In addition, the Committee was asked from time-to-time to provide input into various administrative and budget matters, including the hiring of additional Temple personnel and review of employment terms.

We are thankful for the contributions of Committee members Nora Abrahamer, Gary Altman and Arlene Weintraub, and all of us would be thankful for some additional members. Any other Temple member interested in serving on the Committee should feel free to contact Harvey Cotton or Judy Ferber.

*Submitted by Harvey Cotton and Judy Ferber, Co-Chairs*
Rabbinic Liaison Committee

The Rabbinic Liaison Committee is a committee of Temple Sinai members that meets 2-3 times/year. The current Committee members are: Susan Laster—Chair, Mark Goldner, Janet Fine

The purpose of the Committee is to provide Rabbi Andy Vogel an opportunity to share reflections on the relationship between the Rabbi and the Congregation and to address, in an informal setting, any problems that may arise in such a relationship. This structure is suggested by the provisions of the National Commission on Rabbinic-Congregational Relation’s Guidelines and is included in the Temple Sinai Rabbinic contract. The content of the meetings remains confidential.

In addition to meeting in person several times a year, we also “advertise” from time to time in the TS newsletter so that members are aware we are always available to hear concerns.

This year our Committee has only met 1 time, 10/30/18. This was an anticipated decrease in the number of meetings due to Rabbi Vogel’s sabbatical. We plan to have one more meeting before the fall of 2019.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Laster

Assistant Rabbi Search Committee

Committee Members: Charlie Homer, Justeen Hyde, Nora Abrahamer, Robin Orwant, Merry Arnold, Scot Osterweil, Guy Berreby, Vienna Revis, Leah Cotton, Elizabeth Russo, Erin Deemer, Janet Sanders, Heidi Holland, Noam Scully, Heidi Smith Hyde

The Temple Sinai Board of Trustees chartered a search committee in December, 2018, to fill the role currently held by Rabbi Shoshana Friedman. After conducting an extensive search and considering many excellent candidates, the committee selected Talia Stein to serve as Temple Sinai’s student rabbi for the 2019-2020 year.

Talia will be a fifth year (senior) rabbinic student at Hebrew College starting this fall. After completing her Master's in Public Policy at the University of Maryland, Talia worked as a community organizer in Chicago. She then served as the Director of Jewish Student Life at the University of Washington in Seattle, and led their highly successful work in building engagement among not only students but faculty and professionals in the Seattle area. As a rabbinic student, she continued to expand and deepen her social justice capabilities, completing fellowships with "T'ruah, the Rabbinic Call for Human Rights" both domestically and in Israel, and most recently supporting the development of a new social justice team at Temple Beth Shalom in Needham. She has camp experience and much, much more! As important as all these qualifications are, Talia particularly impressed the Search Committee with her warmth, her insightful questions, her self-awareness and her humor.

We anticipate that Talia will be able to spend 25-30 hours per week at Temple Sinai as she completes her final year of school. Talia's primary responsibilities at Sinai will include supporting the activities of Tzedek@Sinai, focused on community organizing and social justice and bringing a clergy presence to this work; continuing to deepen the engagement of our members with each other and with Judaism; and participating in the leadership of Shabbat and holiday prayer and ritual. She will teach prayer to the students in our school and other educational activities as well. She will also have regular office hours two or three days a week.
Also of note, Sam Blumberg, a rising fourth-year rabbinic student at Hebrew College, will continue to provide leadership for our Sinai U youth programming. Sam will spend roughly 20 hours each week at Temple Sinai, and will also assist with B’nai Mitzvah preparation for many of our youth, teach in adult learning, and be an active member of our clergy-staff leadership team.

Submitted by Charlie Homer

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Rainbow Committee

The Rainbow Committee had a busy and successful year. We were heavily involved in the campaign to defeat the attempt to roll back equal rights for transgender people. In August, we had a speaker Kaden Mohammed, from Keshet and the Mass Trans Political Coalition, do a Trans 101 for members of the congregation. He did an excellent job. We then had “Yes on 3” buttons made, with a rainbow background, and handed them out, together with a fact sheet, at the conclusion of Rosh HaShana morning services, and at other events up to the election. Finally, for our first Rainbow Shabbat, on October 19, we brought in Mimi Micner, Advocacy and Campaign Specialist at Keshet, to speak on the referendum issue. She was well-received by the congregation. We were thrilled that the proposal to roll back rights was defeated in November by a 2/3 majority.

Leslea Newman, well-known author of *Heather Has Two Mommies* and some 70 other books, was our speaker for the second Rainbow Shabbat, on March 29. She read several moving, Jewish-themed poems, and then her new children’s book, *Gittel’s Journey*, about the journey of a young girl to the new world by herself. It was an amazing evening, and numerous people commented that it was among the best programs we had ever done. Leslea followed this up by working with two religious school classes on Sunday morning, reading to one class, and doing a poetry workshop with the other. She followed that by presenting an adult education class on her journey as a lesbian Jewish writer, effectively giving a seminar on queer history going back to Stonewall, interspersing her own writings about different periods and events. The weekend was co-sponsored by the Inclusion Committee, the Adult Education Committee, and the Religious School.

While it may not be possible to top this year’s activities, the Rainbow Committee will continue to work with Temple Sinai groups as well as with Keshet and other organizations on programming relating to Jewish and LGBTQ issues during the coming year.

Submitted by Marvin Kabakoff

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Shabbat Mishpacha

Shabbat Mishpacha is a Shabbat morning program for families with children ages 0-5. We sing, hear a story, and play and socialize together while celebrating Shabbat. This year Shabbat Mishpacha met monthly from September-June and participation has grown! There is a core group of about seven families, and we are working on spreading the word to increase attendance. Like K’tonton, this is a free program that is open to all, and it serves as a good introductory experience for children who might join religious school. Over the past four years many children have come regularly, and they could probably lead the songs themselves by now!

Submitted by Rabbi Shoshana Friedman
Security Committee Report

After the tragic mass shooting at The Tree Of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Nora Abrahamer, Temple Sinai’s president, convened a new Security Committee made up of lay and professional members of our community. The committee members are Heidi Smith Hyde, Linda Katz, Nora Abrahamer, Elliott Friedman, Jon Katz, Michele Mendoza, and Alice Speck, and the chair was Mike Klau. Thank you to each member of the committee for their hard and thoughtful work.

The committee met with Brookline Police and spoke with other experts. We also spoke with JCC, CJP, URJ and other Temples in the area. After many productive meetings, the committee made the following recommendations to the Board:

• All doors to the classroom building (50 Sewall Ave.) should always be locked.
• The Temple should increase the number of emergency buttons. The buttons are used to summon the police.
• Blueprints of Temple Sinai should be given to Brookline Police. The information will be downloaded into the computers in all the police cars.
• It was proposed that Brookline Police train all staff and temple leadership on how to deal with active shooters and how to “Stop the Bleeding.”
• Outdoor lights should be installed or upgraded at the school and sanctuary doors.
• Outdoor cameras should be installed to monitor the frequently used doors.
• A Brookline Police officer should be stationed outside of Temple Sinai on Sunday mornings during Religious School.

The Board voted to approve all the recommendations. This, with the improvements in security made during the renovations, e.g. installing a buzzer and camera at the school door, should make Temple Sinai a safer community.

Respectfully submitted by Mike Klau

Sinai U

Sinai U is Temple Sinai’s multifaceted teen engagement initiative. Students in grades 7-12 participate in Sinai U.

This year Sinai U continued to strengthen and deepen teen engagement, encouraging teens to be involved in various social, learning, and service-oriented programming. 52 teens were enrolled in weekly or monthly programs. Here are a few highlights of the year:

• Seventh grade students met as a class on Sunday afternoons for Sinai U7, focusing on social justice as the main topic of study.

• Java Nagila, Temple Sinai’s new Sunday morning café, was staffed by 6 teen baristas who helped to provide a warm and caring community atmosphere for Religious School families each week.

• Rosh Hodesh: It’s a Girl Thing and Shevet continued to meet monthly with a trained facilitator to talk about Jewish identity and issues facing teens. This year 15 teens were involved in the programs.

• TSIPPY, Temple Sinai Passionate Proactive Youth, had 5 active teens this year who attended monthly meetings, organized fundraisers, and enjoyed activities together.
• Facing History and Ourselves engaged 10 teens in monthly learning about the Holocaust, including student interviews with local Holocaust survivors.

• Madrich Corps and Tikkun Olam Sundays (see Religious School report) continue to be successful in engaging multiple teens in meaningful service work.

• We launched our joint participation with The Tent: A Jewish Learning Community for Greater Boston Teens, a school for 8-12th graders held at Temple Israel of Boston in collaboration with multiple area congregations. 9 teens were enrolled in the program and we are continuing the partnership for the upcoming school year.

Submitted by Student Rabbi Sam Blumberg

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Strategic Renewal Committee

Participants: Charles Homer, Chair, Nora Abrahamer, Merry Arnold. Harvey Cotton, Yuval Gilbert, Steve Logowitz, Larry Marks, Rose Perrizo, Alice Speck, Mike Toffel, Rabbi Andy Vogel

In the fall of 2017, the Temple Sinai Board of Trustees charged a new committee, the Strategic Renewal Committee, with developing a renewed strategy for our continued progress towards the vision for Temple Sinai articulated over a decade ago.

The Strategic Renewal Committee convened in February, 2018. The charge of the Strategic Renewal committee was to revisit Temple Sinai’s mission and vision and the major thrusts of its strategic initiatives in light of:

• the Temple’s progress in accomplishing many of the goals articulated in its prior plan
• the growth in Temple membership
• the changes in the context of Jewish life in the current world

The committee set itself the task of identifying what current activities/directions the Temple should keep and improve; which ones it should stop; and which new ones it should pursue. The committee also sought to map out recommendations for what changes to Temple governance, staffing, finances and other supports are needed to accomplish these directions.

In order to accomplish this, the Committee undertook the following activities:

1) Review of the prior strategic plan, written output of the report of the strategic review committee, and the recent report of the Growth Committee. In particular, the findings from the Growth Committee provided valuable data about Temple Sinai’s external and internal environment that informed the deliberations of the Strategic Renewal Committee.

2) Development and implementation of a communication plan to inform and engage the Temple Community.

3) Collection of input from the Temple community through a survey about what is going well, where there is room for improvement, and how the Temple can better fulfill the members’ needs and desires (Communication Subcommittee).

4) Inquiry into several major areas of Temple work to understand the alignment between current activities (e.g., Music, Prayer and Ritual; adult and youth education; committee work more broadly) and the Temple’s vision and pillars, as well as to discern implicit strategies in these areas (Tacit Strategy Subcommittee).

5) Deep dive into understanding the financial and administrative needs of Temple and developing recommendations for future action (Finance and Administration Subcommittee).

6) Synthesis into priorities for program and policy development.
7) Preparing a final report with specific recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

**Strategic Renewal Committee Recommendations**

Based on the work of three subcommittees (Communication, Current Strategies and Finance), the Strategic Renewal Committee made the following general recommendations to the Board which were approved in December, 2018.

1) The Temple Sinai Board of Trustees should renew its endorsement of the broad framework of the four pillars—Torah, Avodah, Tikkun Olam, and K’hillah shel Hesed—as the overarching framework for Temple Sinai as a community.

2) Temple Sinai is transitioning from a *pastoral organization*—one focused primarily on personal connections with the Rabbi—to a *programmatic community*, one that requires empowered staff and lay leaders. To support this transition and continue to meet the needs and aspirations of Temple members, the Board of Trustees should take actions to promote:
   - A clearer articulation of overall Temple strategy, including a growth strategy as well as strategies specific to each pillar—adult, youth and school education; ritual and prayer; social justice; and caring/inclusion. These should be endorsed by the Board and linked to defined aims and measures. This latter step will also enable building a culture of continuous improvement.
   - An explicit alignment of committees with that overall strategy—with articulation of committee mission, aims and objectives
   - A more stable financial foundation including:
     - An emphasis on building a culture of philanthropy
     - Strengthening and modernizing financial management systems that better support Temples of our size and complexity
   - Stronger management practices in human resource management, to better support staff and volunteer leaders

3) Enhanced communication pathways to members to better make members aware of and invite greater participation in the many opportunities for engagement.

**Specific Actions that follow from these general recommendations are noted below:**

a. A clearer articulation of overall Temple strategy, including but not limited to a growth strategy endorsed by the Board and linked to defined aims and measures. Build a culture of continuous improvement.

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<th>Who</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board of Trustees</td>
<td>0-1 year</td>
<td>Develop overarching strategic goals related to growth, finances and pillars; identify measures reflecting goals.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board of Trustees</td>
<td>0-1 year</td>
<td>Establish mechanism (e.g., a committee and/or designated Board officer) to track and report on progress towards strategic goals.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board of Trustees</td>
<td>1-3 years</td>
<td>Establish a mechanism (e.g., a committee) charged with ongoing monitoring of the immediate and regional Jewish community environment to monitor trends in demographics, programming and the like to guide Temple strategy; join URJ benchmarking activities for similar monitoring of finance and other arenas.</td>
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b. An explicit alignment of committees with that overall strategy—with articulation of committee mission, aims and objectives.
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<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
<td>1-3 years</td>
<td>Provide training to committee leaders and relevant staff in continuous improvement—settings goals, using measures, making changes and tracking progress.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee Chairs and Senior Staff</td>
<td>1-3 years</td>
<td>Professional staff and relevant committees to articulate specific aims/goals aligned with the Temple mission/vision which will be reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees each year.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee Chairs</td>
<td>1-3 years</td>
<td>All committees establish goals and measures and include these in their annual reports.</td>
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### c. A more stable financial foundation with

i. an emphasis on building a culture of philanthropy.

ii. strengthening and modernizing financial management systems that better support Temples of our size and complexity.

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| Board of Trustees | 0-1 year | **Create a Development Advisory Committee**

The Development Advisory Committee would have a chair or co-chairs appointed by either the President or selected and/or approved by the committee. The committee will be tasked with providing leadership and developing strategies that can improve the fundraising capabilities at Temple Sinai in general, with a focus on Free Will in the near term. |

| Board of Trustee | 0-1 year | **Restructure the Finance Committee**

The restructured Finance Committee would be chaired by the Treasurer and include members of the congregation (Board members and non-Board members. The purpose of the Finance Committee is to propose, develop, guide, and review initiatives & processes that impact the finances of the temple directly or indirectly, with the goal of strengthening our financial planning and management processes. Fundraising is not within the scope of this committee, except as it can assist in helping with the logistics of fundraising (i.e., making it easy for people to give). |

### d. Stronger management practices in human resource management, to better support staff (especially those without employment contracts) and volunteer leaders.

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| Personnel Committee | 0-1 year | Work collaboratively with each staff member to:

- develop clear job descriptions for each staff member’s position
- confirm that each staff member’s job description is appropriate in terms of
workload
- create an on-going, regular and scheduled process of reflection and review with each staff member, including:
  - setting annual or semi-annual goals with each staff member
  - evaluating those goals, in a regular in-person conversation with an appropriate lay or staff partner
  - providing productive feedback to staff members about their job performance, and discussing challenges to be addressed
  - discussing what steps to be taken by the congregation might assist the staff member in performing his/her job

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<tr>
<td>Board endorsed based on recommendations from Personnel Committee</td>
<td>0-1 year</td>
<td>Develop and confirm clear lines of reporting and accountability between staff members, as appropriate, and between staff and lay leaders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board endorsed based on recommendations from Personnel Committee</td>
<td>0-1 year</td>
<td>Establish a regular process with all non-contract staff for an in person annual/periodic review of compensation including addressing cost of living, benchmarking and changes in scope/job responsibilities as appropriate.</td>
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e. Enhanced communication pathways to members to better make members aware of and invite greater participation in the many opportunities for engagement.

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<tr>
<td>Board of Trustees/Officers</td>
<td>0-1 year</td>
<td>Create a formal Communication Officer or other like lay position and/or Communication committee with Executive Team representation that is responsible for strengthening Temple capacity to communicate with all members and monitor the effectiveness of these efforts.</td>
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Submitted by Charlie Homer, Chair

Syrian Refugee Resettlement Project

As a result of meetings with the rabbi that began in late 2016, the decision was made to enter into an agreement Jewish Family Services of Metrowest to fundraise and help support a family of three Syrian refugees for a year which we have now exceeded. Our goal has been to help Khaled (father), Hind (mother) and Israa (daughter) adjust to life in America and become as self-sufficient as possible. We formed a great team whose initial primary objective was finding housing for the family who arrived mid July 2017. JFS found temporary housing for them in Natick and permanent housing in Framingham. They have appreciated the many gift cards and other donations of furniture, clothing and household goods that was an integral part of helping them set up their apartment.
The ESL team currently works with the family in the home an average of 3-4 times each week. The family continues to have ongoing support from several members who have medical backgrounds. They accompany them to appointments with doctors, dentists and therapists. Other volunteers pick up and drive the family to the appointments in Boston and there are several volunteers who take the dad food shopping weekly. Recently the family received a car from the Karam Foundation and now Khaled is driving himself and his family just about everywhere!

During the past year, our emphasis has been on helping the family become more independent in scheduling medical appointments and taking care of all their daily needs. They are actively awaiting handicapped accessible subsidized housing and could be moving in the coming months.

Volunteers meet monthly and work closely with Jewish Family Services of Metrowest. Former committee members occasionally visit. The family is just delightful, easy to spend time with and very appreciative for all our support. The committee continues to support them as they face ongoing medical challenges and make progress adjusting to life in America. We are grateful to all who have supported them from our temple community and beyond.

Submitted by Jill Winitzer and Mel Stoler, Co-Chairs of Syrian Refugee Resettlement Project

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Tzedek@Sinai Committee

Tzedek@Sinai is a catalyst for organizing people at Temple Sinai for social justice, to work towards sustainable social change. We connect members of the temple community with people and resources, both within and outside the congregation, to build and use the community power of Temple Sinai for social justice. We follow the principles of community organizing and we seek opportunities for collaborative action to increase our impact and deepen community relationships.

This year we welcomed new people to the renamed T@S Organizing Team (formerly the T@S Strategy Team). We undertook a review of the T@S mission and recommitted ourselves to these principles, with a particular focus to work with all arms of the temple to engage diverse groups, and work with families and youth.

We also conducted a series of House Meetings last summer. About 50 people participated in 9 groups, representing many ages and perspectives at our synagogue. Our thanks to the hosts and facilitators who made these meetings possible. These meetings help us stay connected to the pulse of the congregation and hear the issues and social justice concerns of our members.

In addition to the “what” people want to work on, we also heard ideas about “how.” For example, parents of B’nei Mitzvah students spoke about their desire for their children to connect with social justice work at the synagogue, perhaps having a way to plug into ongoing initiatives at the temple. We also learned that people are interested in how Judaism can strengthen and inspire their social justice work, whether that work is done on a volunteer basis or, as is the case for many at Temple Sinai, in their professional lives. We think there is an opportunity to lift up and support the many social justice professionals in our community, and help others learn from their work.

We especially want to recognize and thank Rabbi Shoshanna for her guidance and support of Tzedek@Sinai, and personally for her support of us as co-chairs these past two years. It has been a journey! We wish her well.

The core of Tzedek@Sinai is working with congregants to identify timely issues for action and organize outcome-oriented campaigns with definable measures of success. The reports of these issue teams and collaborations follow:
**Criminal Justice Reform (CJR) - submitted by Michael Nam-Krane**

The CJR team this past year has been concerned primarily with the District Attorney campaigns. We helped with events led by Temple Israel, hosting DA Rachel Rollins and the ACLU's Rahsaan Hall. We hope people have a better understanding of the power of DAs and the need to get involved in their elections. We are also planning to visit the Norfolk DA and possibly DAs in other counties. We want these DAs to know that Temple Sinai constituents are watching and are concerned about their policies.

Presently, we are gearing up for support of a pending bill in the Massachusetts State House, promoting food security. The bill creates a common application for MassHealth and SNAP (a food benefits program). Proper nutrition is not just a good breakfast but rather necessary to a healthy, functioning society. The dysfunction from lack of nutrition sadly leads too often to involvement with the criminal justice system, a pattern we see as unnecessary in our resource blessed nation.

Other present efforts in the works are collaborations on gun control and especially with the Immigrant Justice team on the treatment of immigrants (like we have been since Abraham) by law enforcement. We must never forget what happens to those turned away. Finally, we are looking for new business. The CJ team needs new people with new ideas. The momentum of CJ reform in recent years needs to be carried forward. Progress can be slow but, as Jews, it is our responsibility to see that progress never stops.

**Immigrant Justice - submitted by Janet Sanders**

The Immigration Team continues to lead Temple Sinai’s involvement in our community efforts for immigrant justice through our participation in the Newton Sanctuary and Solidarity Collaborative, and the Beyond Accompaniment network, which supports people detained in immigration jail in Boston and their families.

There are 30 people from Temple Sinai serving as volunteer companions for the family that is receiving hospitality at the sanctuary church in shifts of 2-6 hours and overnights. Susan Harr represents Temple Sinai on the collaborative’s core team to manage the many details of this undertaking; she deserves our great thanks for her amazing dedication and countless hours devoted to the safety, well-being, and security of family and volunteers alike. Lynn Shyevitch and Roberta Falke are our volunteer coordinators, working hard to ensure all shifts are covered, and new volunteers are oriented and trained. This winter, Roberta hosted a gathering of our Sanctuary volunteers at her home, to thank people and build community, which was warmly received and well-attended.

Temple Sinai members also participate with the Boston Immigrant Justice Accompaniment Network (BIJAN, pronounced “Beyond”), a grassroots network of congregations, activists, and community groups that provides accompaniment and support to people who are detained in ICE jail and their families. Beyond volunteers accompany detainees to immigration court hearings; write letters of support to the court; raise and pay bond funds; help transport people on the next leg of their journey, and provide temporary housing when needed.

This work was highlighted by Rabbi Shoshana’s Yom Kippur sermon on the immigration crisis and our moral call to action. Later in the fall, we sponsored an Immigration Shabbat (co-sponsored with the Syrian resettlement committee) where we were privileged to hear from a young asylum seeker from Africa who spoke about the political persecution and personal danger he faced in his home country, and the help he’s received from the Boston community through Beyond. Following services, we hosted a light dinner in Weintraub to give people the opportunity for more personal conversation with him. More than two dozen people came. This is a format we will continue.

In November, we launched a fundraising campaign to support these efforts; our goal was $25,000 to support the Beyond Bond Fund, and to contribute to the operation of the sanctuary coalition, which we are obligated
to do. So far, we’ve raised $19,235 which includes online gifts to the GoFundMe, gifts sent directly to the temple, and gifts sent directly for our campaign to Beyond’s fiscal sponsor. To put this work in context, over the past 17 months, the Beyond network has supported hundreds of people inside and coming out of immigration detention and has raised over $350,000 to help bond 70 people out of immigration detention. We are proud that Temple Sinai is a partner in this work.

The Immigration Team continues to monitor opportunities for action and advocacy, including attendance at monthly vigils outside SouthBay Correction facility, Jericho walks at ICE offices, and legislative lobbying.

**Food Justice - submitted by Deb Nam-Krane**

The recently formed Food Justice Team works to both address systemic problems and provide immediate solutions to hunger that stems from income inequality. In addition to our own work, we look for ways to partner with other Tzedek@Sinai issue teams.

**Healthcare Reform - submitted by Bonny Gilbert**

The focus on Healthcare next year will be to identify and form a Temple Sinai team to work with GBIO on its healthcare agenda for 2019-2020 (GBIO’s only policy agenda next year). GBIO is focused on getting important healthcare legislation passed in the 2019-2020 Massachusetts Legislative year. The areas of focus will fall into 1 or more of these categories: lowering the prices of medications; improving mental health care parity; reducing out-of-network & surprise medical bills; and providing Mass Health to the 20,000 immigrant children in the state that do not have sufficient documentation to receive health care. The first step for this work is to find the Temple Sinai members who are upset about their own healthcare costs, or access to care, and want to make a change. The Temple Sinai team will work with the other congregations to identify legislative priorities and work to get new legislation passed.

**GBIO Membership - submitted by Scot Osterweil**

In the past year GBIO was instrumental in getting an estimated $1 billion in concessions from the participants in the upcoming Beth Israel/Lahey merger. We held major actions in the run-up to the election, shining a spotlight on which Suffolk DA candidates supported criminal justice reform. In the election a pro-reform candidate, Rachel Rollins beat out a heavily favored insider Greg Henning whose failure to appear at a GBIO candidate event was widely publicized. We also celebrated the opening of the Dearborn STEM academy, a project that was many years in the making. In the coming year GBIO will be focusing on building its membership, particularly seeking out groups currently underrepresented in our membership (Latino, Asian, Catholic, labor organizations), while current member congregations focus on local initiatives.

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**Submitted by Tammy Kallman and Janet Sanders**

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**Technology Committee**

The Technology and Website Committee’s accomplishments this year included the following:

- Updated the Tzedek@Sinai section on the website to make it simpler and more up to date with current events.
- Added elements to the website to make the Temple’s caring and justice work more prominent on the site.
- Created the online sign up form for Mitzvah Day.
- Continued the ongoing process of updating committee and other descriptive pages on our website.
- Maintained the main event calendar on the website.
- Maintained the monthly school calendar.
• Posted each issue of the Sinai News email newsletter on the website
• Created online registration for all community dinners from September - May
• Updated and improved the online school registration system
• Worked with Executive Director to create a new facility rental page for the website and provided consultation to her on a variety of other technology issues

Submitted by Alex Cooper, Rose Mandelbaum, Danny Ruberman