



# **2015 ANNUAL MEETING**

**92nd Annual Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, June 7, 2015  
9:30 AM – 11:00 PM**

**AGENDA**  
**92<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**Sunday, June 7, 2015**

Pre-Meeting Budget Discussion - 8:15 am  
Bagel Brunch - 9:00 am  
Annual Meeting – 9:30 am

1. Welcome & Call to Order.....Jonathan Kass, President
2. D'var Torah..... Rabbi Steven Moskowitz
3. Verify Quorum ..... Seth Goldman, Secretary
4. Approval of Minutes, June 1, 2014..... Seth Goldman, Secretary
5. President's Report..... Jonathan Kass
6. Treasurer's Report ..... Steve Keiles
7. Rabbi's Report..... Rabbi Steven Moskowitz
8. ANDI Youth Group Report..... Riley Minkoff
9. Foundation President's Report.....Mark Beizer
10. Sisterhood Report ..... Judy Blumenthal
11. Acknowledgement of Outgoing Board Members..... Jonathan Kass
12. New Business:
  - a. Nominating Committee Report..... Amy Lipeles
    - i. Introduction of Nominating Committee
    - ii. Introduction of Nominees
    - iii. Introduction of Incumbent Members of the Board of Directors
    - iv. Election of the 2015/16 Board
  - b. President Elect Remarks .....Steve Keiles
13. Adjourn

**TEMPLE ISRAEL, LONG BEACH**  
**91<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**Sunday, June 1, 2014**

1. Welcome and Call to Order – Jonathan Kass, President

- J. Kass called the meeting to order at 9:42 AM.
- J. Kass welcomed the congregation to the 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of Temple Israel.

2. D'var Torah – Rabbi Steven Moskowitz

- Rabbi Moskowitz provided the D'var Torah.

3. Verify Quorum – Seth Goldman, Secretary

- S. Goldman verified that there was a quorum for the Annual Meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes of June 2, 2013 Annual Meeting – Seth Goldman, Secretary

- S. Goldman presented the minutes from the 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Congregational Meeting held on June 2, 2013.
- Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes of the 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Congregational Meeting held on June 2, 2013 were unanimously approved.

5. President's Report – Jonathan Kass, President

- J. Kass commented on some of the unique events during the past year, including the High Holy Days services conducted at Temple Israel, the occurrence of Thanksgiving and Hanukah on overlapping days, the 25 year anniversary of Charmaine Weiner and 30 year anniversary of Cantor Finley as employees of Temple Israel.
- J. Kass reviewed some highlights of the Temple Programming, including three separate artist/scholar-in-residence programs, various community events including the Long Beach Symphony and mayorial forum, and the Social Action Committee's program on the Cambodian genocide.
- J. Kass discussed the implementation of the Temple's Strategic Plan, including a review the existing membership and dues structure and the likely adoption of a modified structure in the coming years, the efforts made to add lay leaders to the Temple, and the use of a new internet based program to help members connect.
- J. Kass elaborated on the efforts of Temple Israel to be open to the community and to all who are interested regardless of their financial capabilities. Among the efforts in this regard, J. Kass highlighted the Jewish Federation's donation to support the Torah Center, the JCC program to provide a free membership to families with children enrolled in the JCC early childhood program, the Tot Shabbat and other programs aimed at growing new members, the support of the Temple Israel Foundation and the Sisterhood, and the support of the Gala, which ended 40% above the budgeted fundraising goal. All this support has enabled the Temple to incorporate successful outreach and membership recruitment programs into recurring programs in the Temple Israel operating budget.
- J. Kass provided an update on the renovated Temple Israel building. 2013-2014 was the first full year in the building and we continue to improve the management and operations of the building. On the particularly positive - the Foyer has functioned as the gathering place that was envisioned in the remodel. On the negative - the ceiling beams in the social hall gave way. The problem was discovered in time to shore up the beams and prevent the ceiling from caving in. The Temple is working with the contractors to permanently repair the ceiling beams at the least cost and inconvenience to the Temple. The Temple does not intend to simply assume responsibility for the damage and costs.

- J. Kass discussed the significant work of the Cantor Search Committee and the current status of the search. The Committee interviewed more than 2 dozen candidates and conducted site visits with three candidates. The Temple was unable to reach agreement with the three candidates who came for site visits. The Temple will engage part time cantorial and other singers to conduct the musical programs at the Temple for the coming year while the search for a replacement continues.
- J. Kass thanked the Board, committees, committee chairs for their service during the past year. He also thanked Sharon Amster-Brown, the Torah Center teachers, Eric Shatzkin, the Temple Israel staff, Cantor Finley, and Rabbi Moskowitz for their hard work and dedication over the last year, which also marked Rabbi Moskowitz's ten year anniversary with Temple Israel.

#### 6. Rabbi's Report – Rabbi Steven Moskowitz

- Rabbi Moskowitz thanked Jonathan Kass for his presentation and his hard work over the past year.
- Rabbi Moskowitz described how the past year had been a year of opening doors by opening the temple to outside events and communities through the Long Beach Symphony, the Long Beach Opera, the Governor George Deukmejian future focus program, the forum on the Cambodian genocide, and the various neighborhood groups that use the Temple, including the neighborhood watch.
- Rabbi Moskowitz also noted various educational programming achievements. He expressed how fortunate the Temple is to have Sharon Amster-Brown. He also noted how the Temple has solidified its high school educational program with the 9<sup>th</sup> grade program and increased participation through the ANDI Youth Group participation in NFTY. He recognized the great work that Kara Liu has done with the youth group. Rabbi Moskowitz also mentioned that the 10<sup>th</sup> grade class will lead the service on June 6 and that the Torah Center had received \$6,500 in grants to enhance special needs education. Finally, the Rabbi noted the success of the PJ Library, which provides a Jewish storybook each month to children age 0 to 6 years old, and which the Board renewed for an additional year.
- Rabbi Moskowitz also described various achievements in the adult education program.
  - The efforts to extend Judaism through a Taste of Judaism, Introduction to Judaism, and the post-Introduction to Judaism class were all successful during the year, as evidenced by the 12 people attending the post-Introduction to Judaism class.
  - The Regional Shabbatone had 80 attendees.
  - The Adult Education Brochure was robust, interesting, and beautiful.
- Services and programs are being streamed and available on-line.
- Rabbi Moskowitz detailed the upcoming June 2014 programs.
- Rabbi Moskowitz encouraged members of the congregation to join him on the third Temple Israel Congregational Trip to Israel June 28 through July 10 of 2015.
- Finally, Rabbi Moskowitz encouraged everyone to attend the Cantor Finley celebration on June 14.

#### 7. Treasurer's Report – Steve Keiles, Treasurer

- S. Keiles provided a summary of the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014.
  - There was a net surplus of approximately \$73,000.
  - Revenue sources in the operating budget are approximately 60% from membership, 17% from Torah Center, and 23% from gifts and fundraising.
  - Expenses were well-managed during fiscal year 2013-2014.

- The budget is approximately \$1.4 million, so even a relatively small change in actual dollars on revenue or expenses can have a significant percentage impact on the overall budget.
- The Gala was extremely successful, netting approximately \$70,000, which was a significant amount more than the net \$50,000 that was budgeted.
- S. Keiles provided an overview of the capital campaign for the building.
  - A total of approximately \$6.1 million was pledged.
  - A total of approximately \$5.5 million has been collected already.
  - There is approximately \$620,000 to be collected over the next few years.
  - The Temple has a line of credit with the bank that was draw down to complete the building and is being repaid with payments on pledges. The current balance is approximately \$620,000 on the line of credit. When netted against pledges that have been paid and on deposit, additional pledges to be paid, and the remaining expenses for the wall of honor, it is anticipated that there will be a small net positive balance from the capital campaign after payment of all expenses and repayment in full of the line of credit with the bank.
- S. Keiles discussed the work of the committee on re-envisioning membership at Temple Israel.
  - The members of the committee include Steve Keiles, Susan Philips, David Philips, Deborah Lewis, Eric Shatzkin, Stuart Friedman, Burt Dubowy, Valerie Condon, Greg Basich, Paul DeYoung, and Seth Goldman.
  - The purpose of the committee is to consider changes to membership to make it consistent with strategic plan of Temple Israel to ensure that the Temple is inclusive, open to the community, and is removing barriers to membership.
  - The committee is consulting best practices within the reform community, drawing from experiences of other temples, and conducting a congregational survey.
  - The expectation is that Temple Israel will adopt and implement beginning with fiscal year 2015-2016 a membership system that is based on commitments rather than dues and dues relief.
- S. Keiles expressed his thanks and appreciation on behalf of Temple Israel and the Budget and Finance Committee to Rabbi Moskowitz in connection with the membership review efforts, to Sharon Amster-Brown in connection with the Torah Center budget, Eric Shatzkin for his efforts on all fronts including replacing the Temple's accountant and bookkeeper, the Vice Presidents for their efforts on the budget, and the members of the Budget and Finance Committee.

#### 8. ANDI Youth Group Report – Shelbi Malone

- S. Malone, Vice President of Programming for the ANDI Youth Group reported on the activities of the youth group.
  - The NFTY Fall Kallah was a wonderful event that provided a feeling of unity to those that attended and inspired them to form the youth group this past year.
  - During the year, the youth group hosted monthly game nights, had someone attend every NFTY event, and supported various social action programs.

- The youth group formally adopted the name ANDI at the end of the year and ended the year in the “black” financially.
- At this year’s Fall Kallah, there will be 23 people from Temple Israel and every 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grader will be part of the ANDI Youth Group.
- S. Malone noted that participating in the ANDI Youth Group has changed the way that kids that are involved look at Judaism.
- There were questions from the congregation.
- Kara Liu noted that there is an upcoming regional NFTY event and that the Temple is looking at ways to establish a youth group for 6, 7, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

#### 9. Foundation President’s Report – Mark Beizer, Foundation President

- M. Beizer began by thanking the Foundation Board for their work during the past year and recognized Janet Schultz and Carole \_\_\_\_\_ for their service as they were leaving the board this year.
- M. Beizer provided an update on the Foundation’s activities.
  - The endowment ended the year with a balance of \$1,570,000, an increase of \$75,000 for the year.
  - Pledges of legacy gifts reached \$2.2 million, representing a \$500,000 increase for the year.
  - The Foundation provided grants of approximately \$75,000 to the Temple, including \$38,000 for the operations of the Temple, sponsorship of the Lapid-Shario and the Pilgir lecture series, and \$15,000 in Torah Center scholarships through the Ruth Davis Fund.
- M. Beizer noted that the Foundation’s primary goals during the coming year will be to provide bridge financing for a full-time cantor, when that position is filled, and to fund a capital maintenance fund for the purpose of maintaining the building.

#### 10. Sisterhood Report – Judy Blumenthal

- J. Blumenthal provided an overview of the activities of the Sisterhood during the year.
  - A focus on social events including the women’s night out series.
  - A donation of \$4,600 to the Temple to purchase and install the sanctuary shade.
  - The purchase of new Hour of Mourning prayer books.
  - The ongoing operation of the gift shop.
- J. Blumenthal noted that the sisterhood presently has 120 members and ended the year with a balance of \$9,000 in its budget.
- J. Blumenthal noted that the annual sisterhood meeting is June 5.

#### 11. Acknowledgement of Outgoing Board Members – Jonathan Kass, President

- J. Kass recognized the outgoing board members: Valerie Condon, Dawn Haldane, and Gary Roberts.
- J. Kass thanked each of them for their commitment, service, and support for Temple Israel.

#### 12. New Business: Nominating Committee Report & Election of Directors – Amy Lipeles, Immediate Past President

- A. Lipeles spoke for the Nominating Committee.
- She thanked the members of the Nominating Committee: Jonathan Kass, Steve Keiles, Ed Green, Joanne Levy, Janet Schultz, J. Adams, J. Schimsky.
- A. Lipeles noted that the committee made an effort to open the nomination process to the congregation and that it had been quite successful.
- A. Lipeles presented the nominees for the Board of Directors of Temple Israel
  - Rick Burney (new)
  - Leslie Ciletti (new)
  - Deborah Fabricant (new)
  - Gail Freedman (new)
  - Steve Gordon (new)
  - Danny Levy (new)
  - Martha De Young (incumbent)
  - David Tillman (incumbent)
  - Barry Mitnick (incumbent)
  - Dov Mayo (incumbent)
  - Seth Goldman (incumbent)
  - Deborah Lewis (incumbent)
  - Steve Keiles (incumbent)
  - Evan Braude (incumbent)
  - Joanne Levy (incumbent)
  - Joyce Feldman (incumbent)
  - David Philips (incumbent)
  - Jonathan Kass (incumbent)
  - Amy Lipeles (incumbent)
- Motion made and seconded to elect the slate as directors. Unanimously approved.

### 13. Adjourn

- Upon motion made and seconded, the Annual Meeting was adjourned at 10:55 AM.

## **A YEAR OF GROWTH**

### **YOUTH PROGRAMS**

The expansion of teen leadership and involvement has been one of the most dynamic aspects of this past year's congregational growth.

- Temple Israel's National Federation of Temple Youth (**NFTY**) chapter, **ANDI**, has grown into one of the most engaged chapters in Southern California. It was especially recognized at this year's NFTY National Convention in Atlanta as a model of teen engagement. Several of our teens have been recruited to serve on positions of regional leadership. Our Youth Advisor, Kara Liu, has been recruited to serve on the faculty for the NFTY Leadership Experience at URJ Camp Kutz this summer.
- **SoCal 678**, a new program in NFTY, is designed for students in 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades. In November Temple Israel hosted a regional gathering of this group.
- In May our teens entirely created and led the first-ever **Friday Night Teen Service**. It was a spiritually profound and musically beautiful service. The teens are now planning to conduct a **Teen Erev Rosh HaShanah Service** and a quarterly **Teen Shabbat Service** on Friday Nights.

### **PROGRAMS FOR 20-30 YEAR OLDS**

This year we launched a new initiative especially for those in their 20s and 30s.

- **Pop-Up Shabbat** is intended to be a Friday evening Shabbat experience off-site from the synagogue. These are held at different locations and involve different themes and include a Shabbat dinner, music and fun. The first was held on February 6 and the second on May 29.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

We have continued to expand our initiative of presenting ourselves as an asset to the entire community.

- **Make A Difference Day** – A new initiative launched this year. On February 22 together with our neighborhood partners the Belmont Heights Community Association and the Belmont Heights United Methodist Church we turned out over 225 volunteers at over a dozen projects to help make our city a better place. We have already scheduled our second annual event for March 6, 2016.
- **Future Focus** – Our third annual community forum featured Chief of Police Robert Luna.
- **Cecilia Tsan Concert** – We presented as a gift to our city a free concert with cellist Cecilia Tsan and pianist Tim Durkovic. About 250 people attended.

- **Community Emergency Preparedness** – Board Member Ed Green expanded on emergency preparedness work he has done for the congregation by offering to share that work with other community groups and to possibly create an emergency preparedness consortium of local congregations.

## **INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM**

Our Taste of Judaism, Introduction to Judaism and study leading to conversion classes remain a central focus and continue to draw dozens to them.

- **Taste of Judaism** – 24 students attended.
- **Introduction to Judaism** – 20 students attended.
- **Post-Intro Conversion Study Group** – 12 students are registered.
- **Regional Introduction to Judaism Shabbaton** – Temple Israel was again the site for this regional event, which attracted about 80 students and which was co-led by Rabbi Stephen Einstein.

## **FULL-TIME ORDAINED CANTOR**

One of the most noticeable examples of our congregation's growth has been the hire of our first ever full-time ordained cantor.

- **Cantor Sara Hass** will join our congregation next month.

**Eric J. Shatzkin**  
**Annual Meeting 2015**  
**Executive Director's Report**

**Temple Programming:**

In the 2014-2015 fiscal year, Temple Israel continued its strong tradition of engaging programs. Our summer offered two Shabbat In The Park Friday night services, held at El Dorado Park. For both we had over 50 people join us for the service prior to the performance by the Long Beach Municipal Band. Our summer concluded with what has become an annual tradition, our "Shabbabaque" held at the Alpert JCC, with Shabbat Service and then potluck dinner by the pool. Our attendance at this program was approximately 200 people, both members and guest. A special thank you to the Dempsy family who once again generously provided all our main course grilled items, including the portable large barbeque to prepare it, and to our Men's Club for helping with the preparation and serving as grill masters. Other programs of note included our first annual Belmont Heights Make A Difference Day, where we worked together with the BH United Methodist Church and the BH Neighborhood Association for an afternoon of community services. Rabbi Moskowitz was fundamental in bringing this vision together, and with the help of our community it was a huge success. Critical to the pulling together of all the different projects was Andrea Friedenthal. Her energy towards helping others in need is inspirational. Lastly, we concluded the year with a free concert for the community, featuring Cecelia Tsan, first cellist of the LB Symphony and cellist for our Yom Kippur service, as well as a wonderful pianist, Tim Durkovic. The sanctuary was filled and many, having not visited our Temple were amazed by the beautiful transformation. Once again, the Rabbi was instrumental in bringing this special program to our community, and hopefully we can make it an annual event.

We continue to receive feedback from guests and new members that our community is warm and welcoming. A special thank you to Jay Alhadeff who took over the Shabbat Greeter Program established by the Membership Committee from Karen Calechman this year.

I have been fortunate to work closely with the following members, volunteers, and staff on our established programs and special events:

- Harvey Harmatz, Beth Sterling and Sharon Amster Brown for Adventure in the Park
- Joyce Feldman and the entire Committee on the Purim Bag Fundraiser
- Leah Lieberman and Sharon Amster Brown for our Congregational Retreat
- Joel Perler and Matthew Simmons, Annual Gala Chairs, and the entire Gala Committee

**High Holy Days**

This year, we used our experience from the previous year and made some slight changes to our High Holy Days service schedule and implementation at the Temple. As it wasn't used much the year prior, we eliminated the parking lot rental and shuttle. We also changed the time of the Yizkor Memorial Service to put less pressure on the Family Service to complete. We added stantions to control crowd flow as well. I greatly appreciate the continued help of Jerry and Joanne Levy, who not only helped with the planning, but also oversaw the entire

usher corps for the High Holy Days. It was with Jerry's hard work and the work of those who volunteered their services that allowed our High Holy Days to go off as well as they did. For this upcoming year, we will also be adding a ramp along the Loma Ave. sidewalk to assist in drop off for those with disabilities or who have trouble walking.

### **Committee Work**

Of all the Temple Committees, I work closest with the Membership, Budget & Finance, and Ways & Means Committees.

### **Membership**

David Philips was appointed and accepted the position of Vice President of Membership this year. David worked closely with incoming President, Steve Keiles (Treasurer), and our "Reimagining Membership Committee" extensively researching Temple membership and dues models around the country. As a result, we've moved to a model that should open our Temple community to a wider array of people who might have felt unwelcome and unable to contribute in the past. This year, with the Membership Committee, we:

- Continued our Shabbat Greeters program including different groups of members to serve as greeters depending upon the week of the month.
- Held a wonderful Shabbat in November where we welcomed our new members at a Shabbat dinner, as well as continued to thank our members who have been with us the longest.
- Continued our Welcome Bags for new members.
- Continue to learn how to best utilize our tilbConnect online program with hopes that by fall of 2015 our membership will be engaging with and building new friendships with members with similar interests.

### **Budget & Finance**

- Under the leadership of Treasurer Steven Keiles, this year we were able to work within our budget, seeing some savings from staffing situations and through fiscal responsibility, making realistic assumptions in the budgeting process.
- With the great assistance from Dawn Haldane, refined our annual budgeting process, help our VPs work out their departmental budgets efficiently. This allowed the committee to work with a consolidated draft sooner and finish the budget planning over a couple of Sundays.
- Worked to put together a 2015-2016 budget that is realistic but offers additional programs, and includes a budget for a new full time Cantor, as well as items that were determined a benefit to the community and staff.
- Thank you to Gina Zess, our new staff bookkeeper who I work closely with on a daily basis.

### **Ways & Means**

- The Temple conducted a very successful year of fundraising and "fun"raising. The High Holy Day Campaign started are year off positively, bringing in a little more than budget. Our Purim Bag program continues to be a wonderful program that our membership appreciates and supports. Thank you to Joyce Feldman who once again

oversaw our Purim Bags, and thank you to all the volunteers who were spending part of their Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings baking hamantaschen. They are delicious and add a tremendous personal touch to our Purim bags! Our Pop Star Purim Party this year was also a success, as over 200 people filled our sanctuary to listen to the “Thriller Megiller”, and enjoy some festive libations. We also had awarded prizes to best costume and had a 50/50 drawing. Joel Perler recruited incoming Board member Matthew Simmons to Co-Chair for our Annual Gala, and with the help of a great Gala Committee and other volunteers, we held a very successful and fun Temple Gala where we “Built a track to the future.”

## **Building**

- During the summer, we repaired the Social Hall ceiling, replacing and repairing the trusses and fortifying them so we will not experience the issue of ceiling collapse. This was completed with no cost to the Temple, as the contractor and others involved in the Temple remodel took full responsibility. Thank you to Temple member Gary Fields, who was crucial in expressing the Temple’s legal position and getting this work completed prior to the High Holy Days.
- We are very fortunate to have Michael Jackson as our Head Custodian. He and his staff keep our facility in top shape, and he personally was able to install lighting along our outside path to the main doors, as well as over the outside courtyard of the Torah Center building, making our facility much safer in the evenings.
- This year we added hand rails all along the handicap ramp of to the Temple doors.
- Painted and furnished the Lifecycle Room so it can be a welcoming space for parents who need to bring their children out of the service.
- Continue to work with the design committee discussing art work and the décor that will enhance the space.
- Continue to complete the permanent signage around the building, including the Hall of Generations where our members will be able to recognize their loved ones on our Yartzheit Wall.

## **Personnel / Staffing**

- This year we welcomed Gina Zess to the Temple staff as our new bookkeeper. Gina and I have worked diligently over the past year with the accounting staff of Onisko and Sholtz to ensure that the Temple’s finances are accurate and in order.
- Michelle Techau has grown tremendously in her position as the Temple’s graphic designer. We have been able to save a great deal of money not hiring outside services. This year, Michelle designed our JYL Catalog and all the publicity throughout the year.
- Jackie Profeta has proved to be a database wizard, arranges our bulk mailings, and steps in wherever needed in the office. Her strength is an inspiration as she was also dealing with treatment for breast cancer in the early part of the year, but loves the Temple and returned as soon as she was able after her surgery.

- Charmaine is Charmaine, and ever-present rock in our office. We are so lucky to have someone on staff who genuinely loves the Temple and what she does for the community.
- We currently employ 2 part-time custodial staff, Juan Lopez and Yvonne Heidari, who everyone can attest to, are ready to lend a helping hand and complete their work with a smile on their faces.

### **Technology**

- Michelle continues to operate and manage our website in-house. This year we hope to add a new page with video and music highlights, and continue to modify our website to be user-friendly, welcoming, and reflective of who we are as a community.
- This year we “live streamed” our High Holy Day services from the Sanctuary, and received viewers from all over the country. Our new policy will have us live streaming every Shabbat and holiday service throughout the year.

### **Community Partnership**

This year Temple Israel received an allocation of \$15,364.39 from the Jewish Federation to help support our Torah Center. Thank you to Deborah Goldfarb and all those involved with working out these distributions to the local synagogues.

We continue to have a very strong relationship with the Alpert JCC. We continued to welcome ECE families into the Temple, and continued our joint Tot Shabbat with the ECE Shabbat dinner. We continue to look for ways to partner and cross promote. Thank you to the Alpert JCC’s Executive Director, Jeffrey Rips, for all his efforts in seeing that we’re a community who works together for the betterment of our community, not simply individual organizations.

**Sharon Amster Brown**  
**Educator's Report**  
**Annual Meeting 2015**

Our educational program for both children and adults at Temple Israel enjoyed a successful year, and as a congregation, we should be very proud of the high level of learning and participation amongst our congregants.

Our Torah Center enrollment proudly grew by 15 students this year, bringing us to just over 200 students. Our students continue to make me smile and bring joy to this community. Together, preschoolers enter into this congregation with such excitement. Our kindergarteners thrill in receiving their little Torah scrolls at consecration. Our third graders beam as they learn to read Hebrew. Our Youth Choir members share their immeasurable spirit at family Shabbat services. Our b'nai mitzvah radiate pride as they lead our congregation in prayer. Our madrichim inspire other children as they volunteer and assist in our Torah Center. Our high school students impress, as they grow in their own Judaism and continue to encourage us to consider new approaches.

Our Torah Center staff remains consistent and strong. Heartfelt thanks to our teachers for their continued enthusiasm and love of our students. I feel very blessed to have such a wonderful group of people working on behalf of this congregation.

Some of this school year's highlights include:

- A Preschool Class of 19 Students
- Tefillah Families for Grades K-6 to make TC tefillah a more personal experience
- Class Sessions held in Congregants' Sukkot
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Torah Scribe Workshop
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Prophet Presentations in Costumes
- Overnight for 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> at Irvine Regional Park
- 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Shofar Factory Workshop
- 4<sup>th</sup>- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Senior Couples Partnership
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Sleepover at the Temple
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade B'nai Mitzvah Project Fair
- Revised High School Program and Schedule
- Challah Making with Chef-in-Residence Tina Wasserman
- Long Beach Children's Theater Production of Anne Frank at TI for Yom HaShoah
- Presentations by Multiple Holocaust Survivors
- K-6<sup>th</sup> grade Yom HaAtz'maut Family Learning Day, featuring a live Skype call to Israel
- Youth Choir performance at Sabbath Fellowship
- Grades 8-12 Shabbat service, beautifully led entirely by our teens
- Tu B'Shevat Seder for grades 3-8
- Lag BaOmer Observance and Head Shaving for St. Baldrick's Foundation
- 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade and 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Group Events

- Introduction of New Learning Specialist Position to better serve our students with special needs
- Social Action Trips to the Drop-In Center, Federation Towers, Beach Clean-up
- Class field trips to places such as Chabad of Long Beach, Color Me Mine, The Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust, Hillside Memorial Cemetery, El Dorado Nature Center, Ronald McDonald House, and of course our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade trip to New York City

The true highlight however is the creative, loving teaching and learning that takes place during each Torah Center session. It's in these small moments that we find community and foster a true love of Judaism.

Our NFTY youth group chapter named ANDI (Adolescents Now Doing Incredible Things) continues to grow and serves as one of the symbols of hope and excitement for our congregation. ANDI has been recognized as one of the most influential, growing presences within SoCal NFTY and received special recognition at the National NFTY Convention in Atlanta, at which three of our teens and our Youth Director were present. ANDI hosted NFTY's first-ever NFTY 678 events for middle school students in the Los Angeles/Orange County/San Diego area and will be hosting a similar event again next year. Our ANDI group also created our first-ever entirely teen-run Purim shpiel, which was presented to our younger students.

Our early childhood programs are going strong, with our monthly Shabbat ShaPark Shalom program at Marina Vista Park and very popular Tot Shabbat service. In addition, we facilitated a fun early-childhood havdallah potluck, an endeavor we plan to expand during the coming year. We continued our partnership with the AJCC and Long Beach Jewish Federation, as a co-sponsor of the community-wise PJ Library Program.

Our Joys of Jewish Learning program continued to flourish, as we welcomed new and returning adult learners to our congregation. Together, we explored the topic of The Jewish Imagination: Art, Science, and Spirituality. Some highlights included:

- Chef-in-Residence Tina Wasserman
- Screening of the film *The Happiest Person in America* with Director Sara Israel
- Session with Danny Ehrlich, VP and Educational Director of Keshet, on Israeli current events
- Shabbaton with Rabbi Bill Cutter
- Lapid-Shapiro Lectureship with Rabbi Rami Shapiro
- Advance Directives Class with Dr. Mark Dressner
- Adult Tu B'Shevat Seder
- Congregant Art Exhibit
- Field Trip to the Skirball Museum
- Emancipation and Enlightenment Class with Barry Mitnick
- Pilger Lectureship with Rabbi Geoff Mitelman, Executive Director of Sinai and Synapses

- Virtual Learning with Kabbalah Scholar, Dr. Daniel Matt
- Rabbi Moskowitz's Rebbe Nachman of Bratslav class
- Tikkun Leil Shavuot
- Temple Israel Reads One Book program with author Daniel Matt, *The Family*
- Multiple Hebrew and Text Study classes, many led by our own dedicated congregants and experts in the community

Special thanks to our education lay leadership:

Deb Lewis, VP of Education

Freda Ross, TCC Chairperson

Barry Mitnick, JJJL Chairperson

Amy Goldman, HUM Chairperson

Judy Blumenthal, Lynne Kass, and Kendra Cogert – B'nai Mitzvah Advisory members

Joan Leb – Library Chairperson

Mindy Casas – College Connection Chairperson

On a personal note, I want to thank you all for your continued support and willingness to engage with Jewish learning and our Temple Family. My family and I are very fortunate to be part of this community. We look forward to our continued work together, as we strive to make our congregation the best that it can be.

# Board of Directors Slate 2015 - 2016

Steven Keiles ~ President

Directors  
(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

\*Jackie Besley

Richard Burney

Leslie Ciletti

Martha DeYoung

\*Mark Dressner

Deborah Fabricant

\*Jennette Fackler

Joyce Feldman

Gail Freedman

Seth Goldman

Steve Gordon

Ed Green

Daniel Levy

Joanne Levy

Deborah Lewis

Dove Mayo

Joel Perler

David Philips

\*Matthew Simmons

Jonathan Kass

Past President

*\*Indicates New Appointments*