











YEAR IN REVIEW



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION AND GENEROSITY

THIS IS WHAT YOU MADE POSSIBLE















DEAR MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Dear Members and Friends,

With summer ending and the new Jewish year beginning, it is inspiring to look back and see how much we have accomplished as a community in the past year.

For 157 years, Beth Israel has been at the center of San Diego Jewish life. At celebratory occasions, in moments of great sorrow, or through crises, people have gathered at Beth Israel to find strength, connection and joy.

Throughout this past year, we have worked tirelessly to strengthen membership engagement by reducing the barriers to belonging and increasing opportunities to become involved and make a difference. We have engaged in thoughtful learning, developing our spirituality and working to repair the world around us. All of these efforts reflect our commitment to connect people and make them feel welcome and known.

As you move through these pages, we hope you will share our pride in Beth Israel's thriving community. Beth Israel truly is our second home, a place of safety and warmth, where we can all find meaning in Judaism.

There is much to be proud of and there is yet much to do. As we celebrate Rabbi Berk's years at Beth Israel and search for our next senior rabbi, we are blessed to have a strong foundation and vital community on which to build our future and help us attract a leader who will partner with us in the years ahead.

We are grateful for and inspired by your continued generosity, commitment and love that helps Beth Israel thrive. Get involved. Volunteer at the Hunger Project. Attend an adult education program. Walk in the Pride Parade. Make a donation. It is your continued generosity, involvement and love that makes Beth Israel prosper.

As we welcome a New Year, may 5779 be a sweet one for you and your family.

L'Shanah Tovah,



Rabbi Berk Senior Rabbi



Gary Hirschfeld President



Lesley Mills Executive Director









- We streamed High Holy Days services live at cbisd.org to increase access for members and guests unable to attend and to share our worship experiences with the world
- We launched a new Young Family Shabbat Service, geared to families with children in elementary school
- Our Friday morning Shvitz Minyan with Rabbi Solomon offers gentle, yet brisk, yoga and morning prayers
- Torah Study is a serious dive into Sacred texts led by our rabbis and is attended by 35-50 people each week
- Our lay-led Shabbat morning service ("Minyan") continues to go strong after 27 years. Volunteers lead the service, chant Torah, and give the dvar. This past year was the first time religious school teens led a service
- Over 220 people attended our 1st Night Seder

- Rabbi Alyson Solomon was installed as our Associate Rabbi during Sukkot with Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld, Dean of the Hebrew College Rabbinical School in Boston, delivering the drash and blessing
- Rabbi Jeremy Gimbel was installed as our Assistant Rabbi during Chanukah amid much music. Rabbi Jonathan Stein delivered the drash and blessing
- Our well-attended, casual outdoor summer Shabbat services ran from mid-June through mid-September in the Price Family Courtyard
- Continuing a tradition of 37 years, we celebrated interfaith Erev Thanksgiving services with First United Methodist Church
- 40 students became b'nai mitzvah
- 15 10th grade religious school students were confirmed

OVER 2,600 PEOPLE ATTENDED OUR HIGH HOLY DAYS SERVICES LAST YEAR









WE EDUCATED 555 CHILDREN IN THE LEE & FRANK GOLDBERG FAMILY RELIGIOUS SCHOOL AND THE BILL & SID RUBIN PRESCHOOL

















- We honored retiring Religious School Director Ava Kurnow after her more than 30 years in Jewish education
- We prepared new leadership of the Lee & Frank Goldberg Family Religious School under previous Youth Director Gilad Hoffman and Assistant Rabbi, and Educator Jeremy Gimbel
- We provided a fun, safe and loving community for over 220 campers at Camp Chaverim and Camp Sababa over the summer
- 70 teens participated in our award winning Madrichim program
- Our Lee & Frank Goldberg Family Religious School educated a total of 425 students in 42 classes taught by 26 teachers
- 60 children ages eight through 18 attended specialized youth programs in our J2, NOAR and BITY youth groups

- With more than 130 infants, toddlers and preschoolers, our preschool was at a record-high enrollment with 12 classrooms and 31 teachers and teacher assistants
- We grew the infant center from 12 to 24 infants and we are now at capacity with a wait list
- We installed new artificial grass on our main preschool playground
- Five UCSD students interned in preschool classrooms
- We supported 9 families through the Embrace-a-Family Holiday Program
- The preschool garden produced tomatoes, snap peas, pomegranates and more that the children enjoyed as snacks
- Our etrog tree produced etrogs for the first time
- Bill & Sid Rubin Preschool Director Cathy Goldberg visited Israel for the first time on an Educators of Reform Judaism trip



We welcomed author and journalist Yossi Klein Halevi for our Scholar-in-Residence/Shabbat San Diego Weekend. He spoke on the doom and gloom in Israel the month before the Six Day War and the euphoria in Israel the month after. Over 200 people attended the weekend programs.

Other highlights included:

- Congregants enjoyed a summer study of Song of Songs with Rabbi Solomon
- Members prepped themselves for the Holy Days with Rabbi Cantor Bernstein with "Awareness, Wisdom, Transformation", a Mussar practice
- Dr. Al Ray taught a year-long course featuring Jewish Wisdom and the Aleph Bet
- Rabbi Lenore Bohm and our two women rabbis spoke to 75 community members on Women in the Rabbinate
- We partnered with the San Diego Jewish Book Fair in presenting Senator Barbara Boxer

- Rabbi Paula Reimers explored Islamic Views of Protagonists in Torah with a 5-week course
- DayTimers Speaker Series brought monthly speakers including KPBS' Kenny Goldberg, and more
- Intro to Judaism class had a record 46 participants.
 Students included interfaith couples, individuals seeking conversion and members looking to learn more about their faith, culture and history
- Our Living Jewishly Series, which runs in tandem with the Intro class, included these public workshops: Synagogue Geography, Light Up Your Chanukah, Shabbat & Havdallah at Home, and Passover Step-By-Step
- TRIBE, for those in their 20s 40s who "Jew together," had a fruitful year with programs involving study, gettogethers and more
- TRIBE introduced a First Friday of the Month Shabbat experience









ILOO & BOBBY GRUDER

We were the new kids on the block three years ago when we moved here.
Familiar faces are grounding and simply walking into the temple and seeing the clergy and assistants are a heartfelt experience. Beth Israel has provided us with spiritual, educational and community opportunities. Finding Beth Israel, we realized we were part of a whole new family. — Iloo Gruder

















WE SUPPORTED GUN SAFETY AND PARTICIPATED IN MARCH FOR OUR LIVES

- Over 200 activists attended a film screening of Little Stones, a powerful documentary that weaves together the stories of four women who use art to create social change
- We partnered with local organizations and put together the art show titled "Welcoming the Stranger Through Art", where we learned how local artists work with refugee women and students in El Cajon to produce beautiful artwork, and empower the refugees to use their voices and share their stories
- Social Action and Women of Beth Israel co-sponsored an author lecture and book signing for Raising Ryland, an eye-opener into raising a transgender child
- 25 people joined the Beth Israel team for the ADL Walk Against Hate

- We offered a public nonpartisan session on statewide ballot measures prior to the midterm elections
- In partnership with Hadassah, Social Action held a panel and expo, Face the Facts: Human Trafficking in San Diego. 200 community members gathered at Beth Israel to learn about the stories, statistics and solutions surrounding human trafficking in San Diego
- Beth Israel proudly marched and was represented by over 30 Beth Israel members at the San Diego Pride Parade, which is among the largest pride parades in the United States, attracting over 200,000 people
- For more than 30 years, our Hunger Project volunteers have fed close to 600 homeless adults and children every Sunday at St. Vincent de Paul Village









Our Caring Community provides support and help in difficult times, and celebrates major milestones. Some of our highlights are:

- We reached 150 families; delivered Mish bags to the ill and bereaved and Mazal bags to welcome new babies
- We engaged 262 Lee & Frank Goldberg Family Religious School students for Family Education Day where the students prepared food for Caring Community
- We sent 106 Rosh Hashanah and Purim care packages to Beth Israel college and military youth by Cindy's College Crew
- We mailed 600 birthday cards to congregants 75 and older
- We created new programs Fill the Freezer and Compassionate Meditation
- Katey Lindley joined us as the new Director of Caring Community

Our newest program, Encore: Baby Boomers and Beyond, is for members ages 55 - 75. Programs this year included:

- Rabbi Laura Geller, Rabbi Emerita of Temple Emanuel in Beverly Hills, spoke on Rituals for a New Stage of Life and Proven Practices for Personal Growth
- Rabbi Lenore Bohm presented a four-part series on Wise Aging: Looking Ahead
- We collaborated with UCSD on a three-part series on the latest research on healthy aging, grief and innovative coping mechanisms
- Participation in Encore programs increased by 33%



LAUREN HAYWARD & SUNMIN AHN FAMILY

We joined the temple to strengthen our connection to the Beth Israel community. The community we found here has celebrated holidays with us and supported us during the birth of our twins. Our older son loves the Bill &



Sid Rubin Preschool, and our new twins had a beautiful naming ceremony in the Price Family Courtyard. We attend Tot Shabbat, where my wife and I have connected with other young families. We've become good friends with other families, including other LGBT families. We've found a community at Beth Israel that has made our lives richer. We are very happy to be members. — Lauren Hayward















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- Our videos were viewed for over 11,885 minutes
- Our most viewed Facebook video was the "Sweet Homemade Hamantashen", video which reached almost 10,000 people and was shared 55 times
- We increased our "likes" by 101 people

- 350 people attended our annual fundraiser, Camp Eemah, to honor Helene "Eemah" Schlafman for 50 years of visionary leadership in Jewish education at Beth Israel
- Proceeds from the event went to support Beth Israel's programs and services.
 Approximately \$35,000 of the funds raised was committed through "Raise the Paddle" to enhance youth programming
- 1,100 people celebrated Purim at the community Purim carnival, a combined effort of Beth Israel, Beth El, Ohr Shalom, Beth Am and the Jewish Community Center
- In collaboration with Shabbat San Diego, Beth Israel hosted over 300 community members for a Hamantaschen Bake
- 70 new members enjoyed a wine & cheese gathering before a Shabbat service. They were welcomed by Beth Israel clergy and board members

- Four "Soul Sundays," hosted by Rabbi Solomon, were opportunities for religious school parents and others to learn and socialize with each other through hiking, yoga, challah baking and meditation
- In the past 12 months, the Men's Club Dinner Forum served 550 guests and featured speakers like former Caring Community Director Liz Levine and Cantor Emeritus Sheldon Merel
- A congregational Self Study was conducted as a first step in our senior rabbi search.
 296 members responded to three surveys. Another 200+ participated in 15 focus groups
- At the Annual Meeting we honored volunteers of the year Kimberly Carnot and Janet Acheatel



- We launched Give to Your Heart's Content creating ways to reduce barriers for people to become members of our temple
- 100% of Jewish families enrolled in the preschool are now temple members. This increase is attributed to our Preschool Family Membership Initiative
- 18 Shabbat Tables, a series of home-hosted Shabbat dinners, enabled us to continue building community and friendships
- Shabbabeque, our outdoor Shabbat service and dinner attracted over 500 people

- Musical Chairs: A Progressive Shabbat Dinner followed a summer 2017 courtyard service. The event was so popular we repeated it. More than 200 people attended the two dinners
- By offering a Bill & Sid Rubin Preschool graduate discount off of Kindergarten tuition, we doubled our matriculation rate. Creating a Transitional Kindergarten class in the Lee & Frank Goldberg Religious School, enabled our members and nonmembers to experience religious school at a younger age
- Transitional Kindergarten enrollment continues to grow as we engage our youth in lifelong Jewish learning













RACHEL & RYAN GOLDENHAR FAMILY

When our kids started at the Bill & Sid Rubin Preschool, we made wonderful friends and immediately felt part of a lovely, warm, caring community. We joined a chavurah and have enjoyed celebrating milestones together



throughout the years. The friendships keep us connected to the synagogue. My grandparents were members of Beth Israel and my grandmother taught in the Lee & Frank Goldberg Family Religious School. Being a member of Beth Israel provides us with a beautiful spiritual home and makes us feel connected to the generations before us and to our roots and our Jewish faith as we pass these values on to our children. – Rachel Goldenhar

Thank You

TO OUR DOR L'DOR SOCIETY MEMBERS

Your generosity makes membership open to all, including those who can't afford full dues.

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*of blessed memory



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As of August 27, 2018

Bebe & Marvin Zigman



We have been members of Beth Israel for 37 years, and it was the first temple in the area to open its doors to us as an interfaith couple. Through the years, we have raised a family, built lifelong friendships and enjoyed and



participated in many celebrations, classes and services. What keeps us connected to the temple is the clergy. We have developed a very close relationship with Rabbi Cantor Bernstein who has been there for us through the happiest and saddest of times. She is not only our rabbi but one of our dearest and closest friends. She is the reason why we stay so connected and are so supportive of Beth Israel. - Silvana Christy





CLERGY

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Rabbi Arlene Bernstein Rabbi Cantor

Rabbi Alyson Solomon Associate Rabbi

Rabbi Jeremy Gimbel Assistant Rabbi & Educator

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