BETH ISRAEL annual review

LOOKING BACK . LOOKING AHEAD

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dear members & 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 this past year. As our home away from home, we have steadily and thoughtfully reopened following the Covid pandemic, welcomed our families and their children back to campus, and infused our worship, schools and programs with new energy. We have been nimble with our inperson and digital offerings, and grateful for our time together, whether on-line or in-person. We are excited for our future!

In the ensuing pages, we reflect back and look ahead. We hope you will enjoy reviewing the highlights and images of the past year and will share our excitement as we preview the opportunities ahead. We are particularly excited as we embark on the implementation of the Seven Strategic Commitments that emerged through our strategic plan (see page 12). As we learned from many of you in the process, our offerings are strong, and we continue to both improve and evolve as we move forward.

For over 160 years, Beth Israel has been at the center of Jewish life in San Diego. Our leaders, staff and members work passionately to make our synagogue a place that inspires Jewish pride and provides a path to meaningful Jewish living. In the coming months, we invite you to actively engage in YOUR Beth Israel community. It is your involvement that makes us strong and ensures a vital community for all who seek one.

Thank you for your continued generosity and commitment. As we welcome a New Year, may 5783 be a sweet one for you and your family.

L'Shanah Tovah,



Rabbi Jason Nevarez Senior Rabbi



Dan Jones President



Lesley Mills **Executive Director**

worship & festivals

WE OFFER MOVING WORSHIP SERVICES AND MEANINGFUL SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

We build a strong sense of community through moving worship services and provide many opportunities to find inspiration, meaning, comfort and spiritual enrichment through our observances, programs, services, and relationships.

- We welcomed the community to in-person High Holy Days services on campus and continued to stream live
- A safe and exciting Chanukah was celebrated this past year. Our campus was lit up with blue lights and we enjoyed a festive and musical service
- The Annual Purim Carnival and Purim Spiel returned in person this year. Games, jumpies, and a variety of food and hamantashen kept our children engaged
- Our choirs continue to grow, with 76 youth and 23 adults
- Minyan and Torah Study are back in person
- Congregational commemoration of Yom HaShoah





weddings were officiated by our clergy

students became b'nai mitzvah



baby namings were celebrated in our congregation







education

The Bill and Sid Rubin Preschool provides children with a warm, loving environment that helps them transition from family to school. This transition starts for children as young as a few months old and continues in our preschool where we offer a nurturing, excellent early childhood education geared at ages 24 months to five years. We engage elementary aged children in our Lee & Frank Goldberg Family Religious School and teens in our High School Program.

- 22 teens were confirmed at our Confirmation ceremony
- 70 letters were written by our children to active-duty service members
- After a long delay due to Covid restrictions, the Platt Youth to Israel trip took off in June with Rabbi Nevarez and the staff team along with 23 students
- Our Pre-K and Kindergarteners checked out 97 books from the Brody Library this year
- Thanks to a generous donation by longtime members Helene and Allan Ziman, we now have a beautiful garden in the Bill and Sid Rubin Preschool, Jeanette's Enchanted Garden, named in honor of Helene's mother
- 84 preschoolers experienced a stimulating and nurturing school year, rich in Jewish culture and traditions
- 29 infants were part of our infant care center, where we nurtured, guided, encouraged and challenged each child according to his or her needs and stage of development

caring community

Beth Israel offers compassion and acts of loving kindness to individuals and families during times of need. With this in mind, we engage our congregants, young and old, in helping to create a caring community.

- We delivered 274 Mish bags to the ill and bereaved
- We engaged the Lee & Frank Goldberg Family Religious School through Family Education Days and together students and their families contributed these items that were used in mish bags:
 - 146 bags of cookies 85 get well cards 80 lasagnas/fill the freezer meals 10 fleece blankets • 7 matzoh covers • 180 challah covers 68 Shabbat candlestick holders
- Gracious congregants continue to perform mitzvot and help their community by donating: 324 quarts of soup • 346 casseroles • 23 baby blankets • 263 challot

In addition to the numerous contributions made by congregants, Female Athletic Volunteers donated 47 bags of cookies/brownies and an array of coloring books, markers, crayons, chalk, books, stickers, puzzles, cards, and toys

On behalf of Caring Community, donations were made to the San Diego Humane Society: 91 sock/squeaky toys • 87 cat wands • 85 bags of small animal trail mix • 16 small animal blankets • 13 kitten chasing toys • 6 octopus chew toys







sock/squeaky toys were donated to the San Diego **Humane Society**



108

college and military Crew

47

donated by Volunteers





we collected



overflowing barrels of pajamas for Ukrainian relief



Beth Israel continues to offer programs and experiences tailored to engaging and educating our members and community at large. These experiences are made possible through the hard work and dedication of our committees and volunteers. Some highlights include an Elul Master Series: In Residence with Neshama Carlebach, Shabbat Tzedek: Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz, "Antisemitism: Here and Now" with Deborah Lipstadt in conversation with Rabbi Jason Nevarez, and our Scholar-In-Residence Weekend with Rabbi Carole Balin. Some of our newer, more social programs, such as Member Meetups and Trivia Night exemplify the importance of community coming together around common interests.

- Our Social Action Committee was selected to take part in the ADL-URJ Act Against Antisemitism Pilot Program. Generous grant funding from this partnership enabled Beth Israel to collaborate with local and national organizations in the Antisemitism space.
- The Adult B'Nai Mitzvah program was back for the first time in over six years.
- TRIBE continues to offer a space for young adults in San Diego seeking a tribe of friends who "Jew together" and find ways to do kindness in our community
- Popular Member Meetups included: Passover Casserole Making for Caring Community, Kumsitz: Come and Jam with Rabbi Gimbel, Nature Journaling at Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, and Hike – Calavera Lake in Carlsbad.
- Virtual Chanukah Zentangle: A Guided Meditative Doodling Experience
- Photography Event: Israel Impressions, Presented by Photographer Paul Margolis ٠
- DayTimers continues to host Book Club, Movie Mavens, and their • Speaker Series

I am so grateful for the opportunity to grow and learn about the deep and rich world of Judaism. I look forward to a lifetime of learning and involvement with the wonderful clergy, and community. - Katherine Paculba Lacher



events & celebrations



Beth Israel's annual fundraiser celebrated the 25th anniversary of our beloved Rabbi Cantor Arlene Bernstein. The event was attended by more than 400 people. Over \$415,000 was raised, \$90,000 of which was for the Rabbi Bernstein Israel Travel Scholarship Fund.

Other special events we celebrated:

- Walk Against Hate with Beth Israel
- Installation of Rabbi Jason Nevarez
- Interfaith Thanksgiving Service Experience
- Congregational celebrations of Purim and Passover
- Shabbat Under the Stars: Our first outdoor Erev Shabbat service of the summer which included the celebration of two upcoming b'nai mitzvah, a baby naming, blessing our teens traveling on the Platt Youth to Israel trip, and ending with a lovely Oneg Shabbat





Passover 2022 had over 150guests



more than 90k was raised

through Raise the Paddle





BETH ISRAEL IS MORE THAN JUST A SYNAGOGUE. BETH ISRAEL IS HOME.



Eight years ago we joined Beth Israel for the exceptional children's educational program and it has exceeded our expectations. Both of our daughters enjoyed the Lee & Frank Goldberg Religious School and are currently madrichim. As a family, we felt a wonderful connection to Beth Israel and love the personal touch from leadership and staff. We are grateful to be part of this community.

- Ilana, Steve, Simone and Dalia Shupper

For questions about membership, contact Director of Membership and Engagement Bethany Eisenberg at beisenberg@cbisd.org or 858.900.2554.



Remember your loved ones on the Memorial Wall or a Memorial Bench. Order online at www.cbisd.org/memorials or call Katey Lindley at 858.900.2525

member spotlights







Jessica Cohen grew up at Beth Israel, but it wasn't until she was an adult with children that she really became connected and cherished being a member of the congregation. Jessica, Colton, and Delaney find comfort, friendship, and community at Beth Israel. They love joining community events, attending religious school and family education programs, Shabbat services, and holiday programs. Beth Israel is a place they feel comfortable being themselves and accepted while creating friendships.

Jessica Cohen, Colton and Delaney Earp



For our family, Beth Israel membership has always meant that anytime one of us walks on to campus, there will be a familiar face with a smile making us feel welcome. Finding friends and support throughout the years has been integral in creating our sense of Jewish community and belonging in San Diego. The consistent theme throughout our 22 years of membership has been that regardless of the stage of life we are in, Beth Israel has been an invaluable source for fostering connections and finding kindred spirits. From being drawn to the warmth and friendliness of Makom as young adults, to (Julie) teaching in the day school, preschool and religious schools, to making connections that followed us with our two girls through their preschool years and then into the religious school, to journeying through two B'nai Mitzvah, to a family of four now dangerously close to an empty nest, there has always been a place within Beth Israel that fits.

Julie, Katelyn, Elizabeth and Andrew Gardner



400+

people participated for monthly Rosh Chodesh and other Women of Beth Israel events

150 Yom HaShoah candles were distributed by the Men's Club



Coming together to discuss and share our lives, careers, values, and spiritual journeys with all Beth Israel members who identify as female. We enrich our community through outreach, working with other groups in our Beth Israel community, providing tzedakah and volunteering in the greater community.

- Count Your Blessing fundraiser held by Women of Beth Israel raised over \$5,000
- Twelve gracious volunteers offered to host Rosh Chodesh events on Zoom attended and appreciated by dozens of members each month

men's club

The Men's Club offers adult men a Jewish setting in which to learn and socialize while supporting our congregation.

- Monthly Speaker Forums, open to the congregation, were attended by an average of 55 participants every month
- The Men's Club and its volunteers built the Sukkah in the Price Family Courtyard for the congregation's children to decorate and to learn about Sukkot



55

people joined the Men's Club for our **Annual Padres Ball** game day during Jewish Community Day at the Padres



financial highlights

Where we've been

- In response to the ongoing pressures brought on by the pandemic, we reduced expenses and leveraged other financial resources, such as government funding, to help us bridge revenue shortfalls.
- Membership revenue continued to flatten over the past year. We saw a downward trend in incoming new members during the pandemic.
- Our preschool revenue, a substantial supporter of our operations, was significantly impacted by the pandemic restrictions.
- Our Cemetery and Mausoleum operations continued to be a significant contributor to our revenue.
- We decreased the percentage we drew from the Endowment in order to safeguard the principal.

Where we're going

- Other financial resources (government assistance) have not continued, and we are working hard to normalize operations and strengthen revenue streams.
- A commitment to financial sustainability is one of the seven commitments that emerged from our strategic plan. This commitment will be the focus of our effort to strengthen our financial picture while building on our vision for the future..
- We are seeing a steady resurgence in membership as the campus continues to open and more activities emerge. Member engagement will be at the forefront of our efforts.
- We will continue to analyze and identify financial improvements and innovations to increase the efficiency of our resource utilization.

How you can make an impact

- Please consider increasing your membership commitment. Your financial support is at the foundation of our congregation's fiscal well-being.
- Share your story. Tell others in the community why Beth Israel is your synagogue home. You can also help us attract, and retain, members.
- Make a contribution to our Endowment Fund, either with a cash pledge or by committing a legacy gift.
- Consider also supporting other focused campaigns as they arise, including those related to the needs of our facility.
- You can make the difference. We need your financial support to be able to provide you with the services, programming, and the warm and welcoming community which we call home.



increase your support



share your story



make a legacy gift

strategic vision

Beth Israel is an inclusive, accessible, and inspiring Jewish community in San Diego. We promote deep, communal connections as well as broader societal collaboration and impact. As a pioneer in the continuing evolution of Reform Jewish life in San Diego and beyond, Beth Israel strives to offer members of its community powerful Jewish learning, inspirational prayer, ongoing work in the pursuit of social action and iustice, and a commitment to understanding the unique connection between all Jews and the State of Israel.

Through our most recent strategic planning process, our congregation has adopted 7 commitments that will serve to sustain and advance these principles.

seven commitments



COMMITMENT TO INCLUSION AND BELONGING • Our vision is to ensure our congregational mission and values reflect the commitments that emerged in the strategic plan, and that our worship, programs and educational offerings are aligned strategically to embrace diversity and inclusion at every point of entry.

COMMITMENT TO SERVICE • Our vision is to practice excellence, agility and efficiency in our offerings by establishing regular goals and priorities, ensuring greater cohesion and partnership between staff and volunteers, and embracing service, to one another and the community at large, as a core tenet.

COMMITMENT TO MUSIC • Our vision is to increase our insight of our members' experience and preferences our member experience around music and cultivate new opportunities that will enrich that experience.

COMMITMENT TO INNOVATION • Our vision is to use thought leadership and technology as a strategic resource by researching and analyzing cutting edge opportunities, multi-modal community building and digital offerings that meet both our short and long-term goals.

COMMITMENT TO FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY • Our vision is to achieve financial independence by continuing efforts to build a philanthropic culture and strengthen financial platforms such as the endowment and building fund that ensure our near-term and longterm sustainability.

COMMITMENT TO ROBUST COMMUNICATION • Our vision is to ensure robust communications both internally and externally by bolstering and broadening our brand across all platforms and modalities.

COMMITMENT TO LIFELONG LEARNING • Our vision is to create and maintain connective threads in a lifelong learning journey for our membership. At any stage of life, our community members will have the opportunity to gain new knowledge, exploring and deepening what it means to be Jewish.

looking ahead

As we move into the new year, we have exciting and engaging programs and events coming up for all ages!



Beth Israel Day of Service Sunday, October 23, 2022 9 a.m. to 12 Noon

Join us as we come together and give of our time on Rabbi Nevarez will be leading our Beth Israel inaugural service various synagogue projects, such as painting our gaga learning experience to the Dominican Republic. We will be pit, sprucing up a garden bed or assembling packets looking for a few adults to join him and our teens. Join Rabbi for membership. Beverages and snacks provided. Nevarez and a representative from Bridges to Community in February 2023 for this once in a lifetime opportunity! For more information, contact Rose Orlovich at rorlovich@cbisd.org



Chanukah Artist in Residence Friday, December 16 -Saturday, December 17, 2022

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16 @ 6:15 PM Friday night services featuring Jacob "Spike" Kraus. Shabbat services are available via live stream and in-person.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17 9:30 am - 10:30 am: Young Family Prayers & Pancakes with Spike 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm: Kumsitz jam session/sing-a-long with Spike

lacob "Spike" Kraus is a singer/songwriter, educator & innovator, whose music has been included in the cantorial curriculum of Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion, and is featured by Jewish Rock Radio & PJ Library.



Beth Israel Service Learning Trip to the Dominican Republic February 2023



Scholar in Residence 2023 Friday, April 28 – Sunday, April 30, 2023 (Acharei Mot - K'doshim Leviticus 16:1-20:27)

Rabbi Geoffrey A. Mitelman is the Founding Director of Sinai and Synapses, an organization that bridges the scientific and religious worlds, and is being incubated at Clal – The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership.

Friday April 28th - Sermon and Post Oneg Presentation

Saturday April 29th – Torah Study

Sunday April 30th – Sunday Morning Session during **Reliaious School**

This program is made possible in part by the Bonnie Graff Scholar-in-Residence Fund

SAVE THE DATE for Beth Israel's Annual Fundraiser: Saturday, June 3, 2023

thank you

TO OUR NER TAMID CIRCLE & DOR L'DOR SOCIETY MEMBERS

Your generosity above the sustaining level makes membership open to all.

Julie & Mitchell Dubick

Lois & Martin Ehrlich

Lynn Epsten

As of August 25, 2022

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NER TAMID CIRCLE

ANGELS (M'LACHIM) Allison and Robert Price

LEADERS (MANHIGIM) Karen Foster Silberman & Jeffrey Silberman Lee Goldberg Debby & Hal Jacobs Anne & Ronald Simon

BUILDERS (BONIM)

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Francine & Phillip Ginsburg

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Jennifer Isaac & Philip Thalheimer

Lisa & Charles Helsel

Kristin & Andrew Hampshire

Jenny Hill Bratt & Andrew Bratt

Jerome Hall

Your annual membership commitment of at least \$2650 is an investment in Beth Israel's future.

As of August 1, 2022

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thank you to our sustaining member

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MARTIN & BILLY FERRON GOODWIN



Beth Israel is a warm and embracing community and we always feel like we are coming home every time we attend Shabbat services or community events.

- Martin Goodwin



CLERGY

Jason Nevarez Senior Rabbi

Arlene Bernstein Rabbi, Cantor

Jeremy Gimbel Associate Rabbi

Sheldon Merel, z"l Cantor Emeritus

Michael Berk Rabbi Emeritus

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROGRAM STAFF

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Heather Taylor-Williams Executive Assistant llene Tatro Program Director

Bethany Eisenberg Director of Membership and Engagement

Katey Lindley Caring Community Director

Simone Blaise Communications Manager

Natalie van de Burgt Financial Director

Barbara Thompson *Bookkeeper*

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Lynn Thedell Teacher & Student Support

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Van Khoth Jose Presichi Jim Mastro Sann Sok



For questions about membership, contact Director of Membership and Engagement Bethany Eisenberg at beisenberg@cbisd.org or 858.900.2554.

Belonging. Community. Partnership.