

Annual Meeting-President's Remarks

When I first started writing my report for this annual meeting, I quickly realized that I was focusing entirely on the events of the past 3 months. I'm sure that everyone understands why. But an annual report is meant to cover an entire year. So, I went back and re-read my 2019 report. It put some things in perspective.



Dan Young
Temple President

On May 22, 2019, at our last annual meeting one of the things that loomed large was a flood in the building that had disrupted the Temple office for a few months. We had weathered that, operations had returned to normal, and I was anticipating a relatively quiet year where we could focus on two initiatives:

- 1) help to establish the Jewish Cemeteries of Greater Dayton, and
- 2) continue a discussion, at the board level, about Jewish inclusiveness that had been started by previous presidents Bart Weprin and Carol Finley. It's worth taking a minute to think about this. Some things are on hold for a while, and for good reason, but we have plenty to do.

That was May 22. How quickly things can change sometimes. Just a few days later, on May 27, the tornados came through Dayton. We all remember the injury and damage and disruption that they caused, and also Temple Israel's response in taking care of both our congregation, and our effort to help the Greater Dayton region. Somehow, through all of it, we managed to have our cultural festival as scheduled, high holidays went smoothly, and we sent one of our largest delegations every to the URJ Biennial. Through all of this, the tornado recovery stretched for many months and is still ongoing in some ways.

Not too long after that, in January, word of coronavirus was starting to circulate around the world, and.... Well, here we are now. COVID-19 has impacted our community physically, emotionally, and logistically. I have to make an admission here. When Temple had to temporarily close it's physical doors, I thought we were in trouble. I was worried that online Jewish events would lose a lot in translation. Wow, was I wrong. 10 minutes into an event, I've mostly forgotten that we're miles apart. There are technical problems and glitches, yes, and I would still prefer to physically be there, but the impact of seeing and talking with 10, 20, 40 or more other fellow congregants, from every generation, participating together... it's very, very

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Welcome New Board Members



Lois Goldberg



Bonni Buchanan



Dennis Lieberman



Vicki Minor



Rabbi Karen Bodney-Halasz
Senior Rabbi
Remarks from the Annual Meeting

At our annual meeting last year, the world looked remarkably different. Knee-deep in building repairs and preparing for a not so friendly visit from the KKK, we had no idea what was on the horizon – destructive tornadoes, a water shortage, and, of course, the tragic mass shooting in the Oregon District. I opened High Holidays in the fall by acknowledging our pain and encouraging us to use our tears—to find ways we could grow from our trauma, individually and collectively. We reflected on what it meant to be Dayton Strong—supporting one another through the hardest of times.

This gave us momentum to get to know each better through new opportunities.: Cappucino with the Clergy, the Common Grounds café, a Kever Avot program, and Great Wolf Lodge Hanukkah celebration. We furthered relationships with our Dayton community, volunteering at the Firehouse, stuffing backpacks with Crayons to Classrooms, participating in vigils and memorials following the Oregon District shooting, and continuing conversations about long term recovery. We also joined with Reform Jews from across the state at the RAC OH lobby day in Columbus and across the country at Biennial.

All of these interactions help us feel rooted. And we are—deeply. We just celebrated 25 years here on Riverside Drive, reflecting on all of our milestones. But now, we are feeling uneasy again. Even though we happily put 2019 in the rear-view mirror, 2020 has brought its own set of challenges and growth.

We felt deep loss as we mourned the death of our beloved Rabbi Emeritus, Irving Bloom. And then, before we were able to meaningfully celebrate his life together, our own lives were turned upside down by this global pandemic. We watched as friends and family painfully suffered from Covid-19 in fear and isolation. We have been filled with worry about keeping ourselves and loved ones safe, about childcare, school, and summer camps and about our jobs and the economy. And we have learned—how to mourn alone, learn alone, work alone, quarantine alone, and even graduate alone.

All of this alone time can make us feel, well, alone. But we are NOT alone at all. We are a strong and vibrant community, a holy community – a kehillah kedoshah. And we face these times together, just as we have before.

So many of you have stepped up to prevent the fabric of our community from fraying. Together, we have reached out to congregants, sent meals, made masks, and delivered medicine. And we feel and appreciate this partnership.

And we, the staff, have been working hard to meet your spiritual needs. When this began, we boosted communication. We began to send TIDBITS twice a week, instead of once, filling it with personal messages and videos from us. We knew it would be important for you to be able to hear your loved ones' names read aloud on the Mi Shebeirach and yahrtzeit lists, with opportunities to recite Kaddish and sing prayers of healing.

Temple Israel

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We held a virtual second seder, bringing us into each other's homes and experimenting with new technology. Now we are able to enjoy coffee with the clergy twice a week, Torah study every Saturday, and Religious School classes on Sundays. During this time, we even brought in special programming just for you, including as a session on Coping with Covid with Dr. Betsy Stone, a soulful musical experience with Noah Aronson, and a unique learning opportunity with our Israeli tour guide. We also provided you links to some of the most intriguing online collaborations available during this quarantine. Whether you celebrated Shabbat with some of our movement's greatest musicians, gathered with URJ camps for havdallah, made kugel with Rabbi Sobo, screened the documentary "Viral" with ThinkTV, or learned how to make Montreal Bagels at the Great Jewish Food Fest, the choices have felt endless. And now, tomorrow and Friday, we will hold Shavuot services and Yizkor, allowing us to worship together again with familiar faces, prayers, and music.

When this all began, we never imagined Covid-19 would have such

long-range impact. We hoped we would be able to reopen the building after Memorial Day, if not earlier. But we now know more about the risks of Covid-19, especially with regard to houses of worship and group singing, and do not believe it to be safe or responsible to worship together in



person for some time. I wish I knew exactly how long that will be, but I don't. And so we will continue to rely on data based decisions and recommendations by our movement's leaders and leaders in our state and local communities. In the meantime,

we evolve. Next Friday evening, we will gather again for a "schmooze and a nosh" and soon, we will be holding our Shabbat services online, as well. We will navigate our new normal together, leaning into the uncertainty of this time with humility and support.

As I conclude, Let me reassure you that all of us here at Temple - your clergy, staff, and lay leaders - are committed to the growth and success of our congregation, now as much as ever. We deeply appreciate your patience and flexibility. We will continue to find creative ways to meet this community's needs. We hope you will continue to be active at Temple online and support us as you always have, especially with the cancellation of our festival, our only major fundraiser for the year.

I am truly grateful for your partnership and I, personally, appreciate the ways you support one another and your leadership. It is a blessing and a privilege to be a part of this community. Thank you for the opportunity to work with such an incredible staff and leadership team. This is what it means to be Dayton Strong.

Rabbi's Shabbat Message May 29

As our festival comes to an end and we enter into Shabbat, let us take a moment to pause and reflect. On Shavuot we open our hearts and accept the Torah anew. We celebrate revelation, coming face-to-face with a vision of the world as it could be. We reaffirm the most fundamental of God's commandments, law that shapes our worship of God, both directly and indirectly. God's presence is everywhere: in every person and in the relationships we cultivate among us. When we give honor to others, we give honor to God. It is good to be reminded of such a basic idea, especially as we consider the acts of racism that occurred this week, including the unjust death of Mr. George Floyd.

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, a legendary voice for justice, taught: "The opposite of good is not evil; the opposite of good is indifference." He explained that "...morally speaking, there is no limit to the concern one must feel for the suffering of human beings, that indifference to evil is worse than evil itself, that in a free society, some are guilty, but all are responsible." It is important that we take heed of this lesson. We are all responsible for bringing about the world as it should be and may not allow ourselves to find any form of injustice tolerable. God's presence is in every human being. To worship God means we must acknowledge God's presence in all human beings. Like the Israelites, today we reaffirmed "*naaseh v'nishmah*," "we will do and we will hear." We have sworn to uphold the values handed down to us at Sinai. Now we must bear witness and come to fully understand the state of brokenness in which we live. May doing so give us the courage to honor God by standing up against all wrongs inflicted on others.

4 Jewish Cultural Festival

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak and out of an abundance of caution, we have decided to postpone our 10th Anniversary Jewish Cultural to 2021. We are

truly grateful to all of our community partners and volunteers, and look forward to next year when we can come together and celebrate. If you would like to support Temple Israel, we encourage you to donate online to support our efforts to assist community members in need at this time.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

The Tablet publishes birthdays every five years starting at age 35 and annually starting at 85; we publish anniversaries every five years and annually starting at 60. If you prefer not to be listed, please call Ellen.

July Birthdays

- 4 Terry Pfeiffer
- 6 Ann Asher
- 8 Renee Handel
- 12 Marcia Cox
- 17 Felix Garfunkel
- 19 Kristina Hoyer
- 19 Joan Isaacson
- 21 Julie Bainbridge
- 22 Mary Harris
- 22 Ramon Harris
- 23 Robert Klaben
- 24 Joan Knoll
- 27 Todd Sobol
- 28 Ruthe Meadow
- 29 Helen Ross

July Anniversaries

- 1 Doug and Bethany Einstein
celebrating 30 years
- 7 Howard and Ellen Faust
celebrating 63 years!
- 8 Burt and Alice Saidel
celebrating 64 years!
- 14 Dan Sutch and Robyn Angel
celebrating 20 years
- 19 Jeff and Linda Albert
celebrating 50 years
- 27 Ken and Lisa Blum
celebrating 40 years

We Remember

These names are inscribed on the Memorial Tablets in our Sanctuary and, together with others whose Yahrzeit occurs during these weeks, will be read during Shabbat services before Kaddish.

June 5 and 6

Martha F. Caplan, Sidney Copland, Elaine Donenfeld, Rosella G. Epstein, William L. Fleece, Kitty Friedman, Bertha Levin Goldberg, Sarah Gralnick, Eliza Herzstam, Kate Levine, Marguerite L. Margolis, Ethel Ann Mink, Edward I. Phillips, Gabriel Pollack, Elmer Rauh, Thomas Rutmann, Emma B. Schwab, A. James Sniderman, Louis Suppre, Joseph A. Zissen

June 12 and 13

Mannie Adler, Adam Broock, Emanuel Fischman, Esther Fox, George Garber, Samuel Goldberg, Sam Huber, Regina Huber, Esther Klarin, Abraham W. March, Fannie Budnick Nathan, Elizabeth T. Potasky, Julia E. Rutmann, Terrence Schneiderman, Jeannette Schwartz, Jack Semmelman, Harry B. Slavin, Alfred A. Srere, Florence J. Tenenbaum

June 19 and 20

Constance D. Abernathy, Louis Barnett, Hannah Baum, Gertrude Bennett, Harry Bilenkin, Minnie Bloch, David Dushman, Marcella Nathan Ehrlich, Nettie Dennis Felman, Henry N. Frank, Liam Davison Gates, Louis Golden, Judith Goldenberg, Freeda Hurwitz, Margaret Israel, Joseph G. Lehman, Jule Lester Levinson, Julius Littman, Magnus J. Margolis, Max G. Margolis, Esther Maybrook, Alice Ohlmann, Susan Prigozen, Samuel Rosenthal, Ben Semmelman, Bernice Shalansky, Mary Shaman, Sarah B. Silverstein

June 26 and 27

Eva Bremer, Arthur Eloff, Jennie Evans, Stanley Frank, Jacob Friesem, Charles R. Goldswig, Gerald A. Greene, William B. Israel, Mose N Jacobs, Lillian Manhei Lanzit, Emma Beerman Levine, Arthur J. Margolis, Jack Moss, Esther Elaine Nieman, Benedict Olch, Ada Levenson Perelson, Mathilda Rosenthal, Gail Rouda, Ida Weprin

President's remarks continued from page 1

real. Seeing that we've had near-record attendance at some online Temple events, I suspect that a lot of other TI members feel the same way. I think we've tapped into something here. In the coming months we will continue expanding our online presence, partly out of necessity, since it's going to take some time for things to go back to anything close to normal. The good news here is, I'm now convinced that we can maintain and maybe even grow, our Jewish community in an online format. And when the current restrictions are over, I think that an expanded online presence is going to be a permanent feature, working in parallel with the people in the physical room. It could help us form a larger and more inclusive Jewish community. I think the Rabbis are probably smiling a bit to hear me say this. I can admit when I'm behind the curve on something.

Looking towards the future, we know that society is starting to experiment with various kinds of re-

opening, and Temple Israel will eventually as well. Once we are legally allowed to, which will probably be fairly soon, then the details are up to us: how soon? What do we resume first? What do we wait longer on? I've spoken with quite a few of you in the past months, some way or another. I've heard a near-unanimous



opinion that we shouldn't rush opening. We all want to see the doors open, but we should probably take some extra time to do it right. For the sake of the health and lives of our congregants, especially the ones at high risk. I can't predict the future,

but I think that we're going to be re-opening a bit later than many other parts of society. Temple staff and the lay leadership are already actively discussing this. Please reach out to me if you have a specific opinion on this. I'd like to hear it.

Our Rabbis, our staff, and our whole community have come together to carry on our Jewish life through this pandemic, and we will continue to build on what we've already done. Actually, this is something that Jews do quite well, right? We have a long of history of drama, disruption, and worse, and getting through it as a community and somehow still managing to maintain and celebrate our Judaism.

Next year, I hope that Linda Novak takes up this position in somewhat different circumstances. Less news is sometimes good news. I also think that we should throw a party when the building fully re-opens. Thank you, and please stay healthy.

Do You Get TIDBits?

Temple's weekly e-mail has all the latest information about worship and events and offers easy links to RSVP. To sign up for TIDBits, visit Temple's website and click on the "About Us" tab and select "Get TIDBits" from the drop down menu.

It's Time To Renew Your Membership

This month, you will receive a packet showing your past contributions and asking you to set your membership contribution for Temple's new fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

Please return your completed form as soon as possible. Suzanne Shaw, Temple Israel's Executive Director, will set up your membership account *based on your response*.

Temple never denies membership to anyone for financial reasons. We hope that those who can will increase their contribution in the coming year.

When you voluntarily increase your membership contribution, you help sustain Temple's programs and services both for yourself and for our community. Member donations make up half of Temple's revenues, and the balance comes mostly from Temple Israel Foundation and fundraising.

If you can afford to give more, please do. We count on you. Increase from regular to mitzvah membership (\$1875), or from a mitzvah membership to Lamed Vav membership (\$2400), or anywhere in between. If you're already a Lamed Vav member, consider giving more if you can. Your donations allow us to remain a vibrant center of Judaism for our entire community.

6 Tribute Donations

Temple gratefully acknowledges the following gifts received during April 2020.

Temple will list donations of \$10 or more in The Tablet, and mail a notification for donations of \$18 or more. Donations of \$100 or more are described as "generous." A complete list of Temple funds is available online at www.tidayton.org/aboutus/foundation/. For more information, please call Temple.

Generous Contributions

In Appreciation of

Suzanne Shaw

Anonymous

In Yahrzeit Memory of

Lillian Friedman

Dennis Kahn and Linda Ohlmann

Kahn

Lori Ohlmann

Margaret Perlman

Marcia Cox

Contributions

In Honor of the Special Birthday of

Cheryl Carne

David Sofian

Gert Kahn

Howard Faust

Jeanne Betty Weiner

Joan Marcus

Ron Gilbert

Shelly Charles

Ralph and Sylvia Heyman

Harvey Tuck

Lori Ohlmann

Joyce Kardon

Lori Ohlmann

Ralph and Sylvia Heyman

In Memory of

Asher Bogin

Ray and Eleanor Must

Chad Gottschlich

Lori Ohlmann

Don Green

Lois Harris

Shirley Dushman

Cicely Nathan

Linda Novak

In Support of Temple Israel

Anonymous

Frieda Blum

Nichole Moses

In Yahrzeit Memory of

Anna Davis

Lee Davis

Anna Katz

Larry and Natalie Katz

Barbara Michaelson Holt

Jon, Emily and Max Holt

Beatrice Levine Greene

Helene Schmerin

William Sherman

Lois Harris

Ben Friedman

Lori Ohlmann

Bennett A. Laderman

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Dave and Ginger Heuker

Louise Vaughn

Paul and Katherine Cooper

Max Asher

Merrill and Ann Asher

Michael Shane

Felice Shane

Minnie Y. Schatzley

Carol Graff

Contributions were made to these funds:

The **General Operating Fund** supports Temple Israel in the current year.

The **Block Social Action Fund** supports the work of Temple Israel's Social Action Committee.

The **Cemetery Operating Fund** helps to maintain and improve Riverview Cemetery.

The **Stanley and Elaine Donenfeld Greenspace Fund** helps beautify Riverview and the grounds surrounding Temple Israel.

The **Fund for Tomorrow** supports all aspects of Temple Israel's operation.

Rabbi Bodney-Halasz uses her **Discretionary Fund** to advance Temple Israel and Judaism.

The **Patterson Campership Fund** helps Temple families send their children to GUCI.

The **Walter and Selma Ohlmann Fund** supports Temple in the current year.

We Mourn These Deaths

Erika Garfunkel
wife to Felix Garfunkel

Janet Bogin

Betty Chernick

Ivan Zawatsky

Ellen Rosenthal
wife to Ned Rosenthal