

2021-2022 | 5782

YEAR IN REVIEW



A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

TO OUR TEMPLE BETH EL COMMUNITY

After a long two years, we are truly grateful to be together with you for this Congregational Annual Meeting. Tonight we will celebrate this past year, vote on our incoming Board of Directors, and share our excitement for 2022-2023. In the midst of all of the small reunions that have taken place as our community opens back up, this one feels extra special – truly a moment of Shehechyanu, of gratitude for reaching this time together.

Within these pages, we are proud to share with you some of the highlights and accomplishments of our community in 2021-2022 (5782). This Year In Review is entitled Chazak, meaning strength – a memory book for the connections made, lifecycles celebrated, and holidays celebrated together this year. In the interest of “being accountable to each other,” we have also included financial information that we hope will help you understand the sources of income and uses of our annual budget. As always, we are available to answer any questions.

As you review this report, we hope you will share in our pride, knowing that you have been a part of making all of this happen. We truly could not do this without your generous gifts of time and treasure.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Asher Knight

Cantor Mary Rebecca Thomas

Rabbi Dusty Klass

Rabbi Beth Nichols

Benjamin Benson, President

Alan Kronovet, First Vice President

Jonathan Friedman, Chief Operating Officer

For more information, visit www.templebethel.org/annual-meeting

MEET JONATHAN FRIEDMAN

Jonathan Friedman has been named Temple Beth El's first-ever Chief Operating Officer (COO). He began work on April 25.

“We were lucky to find Jonathan at this stage in his career when he was ready for a new challenge,” said TBE's Board President, Benjamin Benson. “He wants to apply his passion, business skills, and know-how to the betterment of Jewish life in Charlotte. In uncertain times, he is the right leader to help our congregation build for a promising future.”

Previously, Friedman was general counsel for a successful healthcare startup and a litigator at a prestigious New York law firm. He attended UNC Chapel Hill and Columbia Law School.



If you would like to schedule time with Jonathan, please email COO@templebethel.org.

Friedman and his spouse, Rachel, are TBE congregants, graduates of the Bernstein Leadership Class XI, and together co-chaired the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte's “Super Sunday” fundraising event last year. Friedman also served on the boards of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte and the Charlotte Jewish Preschool.

OUR MISSION

Temple Beth El is a vibrant and inclusive Reform Jewish community that values warm welcome, meaningful relationships, and inspirational personal growth. We are a congregation where learning, prayer, and deeds help to transform people's understanding of themselves, channel the power of community, and inform our responsibilities to the world.

We do this in a sacred community where:

We learn together.

We pray together.

We act together.

We play together.

We care for each other.

We are accountable.



OUR PILLARS

We learn together. השכלה We engage in mindful learning and the pursuit of Jewish wisdom which bring values into our daily lives.

We pray together. רוחניות We develop Jewish spiritual practices and inspiring communal worship that uplift the soul and help us reach out to God.

We act together. צדק וחסד We lead significant acts of loving kindness and world repair. We value being an integral part of and contributor to the greater Charlotte community.

We play together. שמחה ואושר We create fun social settings where we can relax, laugh, and be ourselves. Join one of our small groups or cohorts to connect with fellow congregants today.

We care for each other. עמית We open our doors to all, we value and support one another in times of joy and sorrow, connected to Jews in greater Charlotte, Israel, and across the world.

We are accountable. אחריות We believe that each person is valued and has unique contributions. As stakeholders, we financially support the congregation and make sound governance decisions.

WE LEARN TOGETHER

WE ENGAGE IN MINDFUL LEARNING AND THE PURSUIT OF JEWISH WISDOM WHICH BRING VALUES INTO OUR DAILY LIVES

WE DEVELOP JEWISH SPIRITUAL PRACTICES AND INSPIRING COMMUNAL WORSHIP THAT UPLIFT THE SOUL AND HELP US REACH OUT TO GOD.

WE PRAY TOGETHER

GRADE-LEVEL RETREATS ARE BACK!

Two Religious School retreats took place this year: a 4th-6th grade retreat and an 11th-12th grade trip. These important gatherings created space for our youth to learn and bond with each other as well as our clergy. Whether at Camp Thunderbird (4th-6th grade) or in Atlanta (11th-12th grade), connection and community were at the forefront. For some 4th-6th graders, this was their very first time away from home; for other kids and teens, this was a welcome return to time away with their peers after two years without retreats.



ISRAEL SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE WEEKEND

Over the Shabbat of April 1-2, 2022, Dr. Ken Stein, a noted professor of Middle Eastern History, Political Science, and Israel Studies at Emory University, joined our community for several programs and discussions about Israel.

Shabbat services, Torah study, and a special Havdalah program on Saturday night were infused with in-depth conversation about U.S. – Israel relations, the Middle Eastern peace process, the creation of the State of Israel, and more. This exciting weekend was generously funded by Sam and Emily Zimmern through the Ahavat Medinat Yisrael Endowment.



HIGH HOLY DAYS

As we began to return to our building, we were so happy to offer options of in-person or online High Holy Day participation. Congregants drove through our parking lot to pick up sweet treats and holiday resources, and then joined us wherever they felt most comfortable. Our clergy and staff then led us in Seatbelt Sukkot, a way to experience the lulav, etrog, and sukkah like never before!



SPECIAL SHABBATOT

TBE celebrated Shabbat in so many ways this year! Here's a small sampling of the special Shabbatot we enjoyed together:

July - Shabbat Across Charlotte: Swimsuits and Flip Flops

September - Shabbat and Sukkot Service with Installation of Rabbi Beth Nichols

December

- Chanukah Shabbat and Congregational Dinner
- TriBE Shabbat Dinner

January - Justice Shabbat Featuring Rev. Mia McClain

February - Shabbat with Dan Nichols

May - Shabbat Honoring Rabbi Dusty Klass

KEHILLAT SHABBAT

In January, we piloted a new model for our Shabbat evening services. Once a month (typically the first Friday of the month) at 6:00pm we can all enjoy Kehillat Shabbat: Shabbat for All, a service designed for our entire community, from the youngest to the oldest. As always, the most up-to-date information can be found on our calendar at: www.templebethel.org/calendar.

we learn together

Throughout the year, TBE's offerings of lifelong Jewish learning have continued, including...

WEEKLY TORAH STUDY

UPTOWN STUDY

ROSH CHODESH

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS

SPICE LEARNING EVENTS

CLERGY-LED CLASSES

BROTHERHOOD LEARNING SESSIONS

HEBREW HIGH AND CONFIRMATION

TRIBE EDUCATION SESSIONS

WE PLAY TOGETHER

WE CREATE FUN SOCIAL SETTINGS
WHERE WE CAN RELAX, LAUGH, AND
BE OURSELVES.

SPICE GIRLS TRIBE HOSTS A SWEET PASSOVER SEDER

by Beth Lewis

In April, the Spice Girls TriBE hosted a Women's Chocolate Seder. With an updated Haggadah and homemade chocolate treats as Seder plate items, this event was unlike any other.

The event, attended by 65 women from Temple Beth El and the greater Charlotte Jewish community, was an amazing success that will continue to grow in years to come.

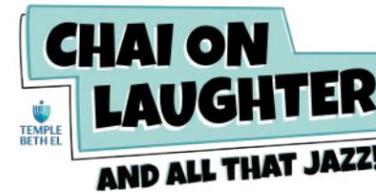
Some event highlights included individual seder plates for every attendee with items such as chocolate-dipped apples coated in coconut (charoset), chili-infused chocolate (bitter herb), and a chocolate-dipped strawberry topped in sea salt (parsley in saltwater). All attendees were also treated to a delicious lunch from Izzy's Catering and homemade macaroons, dipped in chocolate, of course! There was wine and chocolate milk aplenty and even some green chocolate frogs to nibble on while we read from our haggadot. There was singing, laughing, and chatting with friends that we have not seen in a while. A fun addition to the event was a photo booth where guests could pose as their most dreaded plague and save a memory from the time spent with their friends.



SMALL GROUPS BRING OUR CONGREGANTS TOGETHER

by Peter Benjamin

The best part of our TriBE has been the many new friendships that continue to grow and solidify within this subset of our Temple Beth El family, most particularly during the pandemic. Whether on Zoom or at a live get-together at someone's home, our TriBE has truly become a group of close friends who treasure one another's company. We have learned, laughed, and cried together...and that is the true value of the sustainability and stability that the Geography & Wine TriBE continues to offer.



CHAI ON LAUGHTER & ALL THAT JAZZ HONORS LARRY FARBER

Through music and faith, Larry Farber has devoted his life to the cause of building harmony. As Rabbi Knight puts it, "Larry is synonymous with music, friendship, laughter, and community leadership." On November 6th, we honored Larry with the Blumenthal Lifetime Achievement Award, our way of saying thank you for a life of mitzvot.

Larry served as president of Temple Beth El from 2002 to 2004. He created a vision for a community fundraiser – One For All Ball – that has raised some \$2 million to benefit the Jewish community. He helped create Chai On Laughter in 2019, when we bestowed this same honor on Larry and Dale Polsky. He launched an initiative to recruit and train future lay leaders. The Robyn Farber Leadership Development Program honors his late sister. Larry was also on the committees that helped bring us Rabbis Judy Schindler and Asher Knight.

The 2021 Chai on Laughter & All That Jazz event raised more than \$200,000 for Temple Beth El. Thank you to the committee who made the event possible: Mickey Gold, Dawn Gold, Kelly Wilson, Paige Cohen, Fred Dumas, Jonathan Howard, Mitch Rifkin, Tonda Rifkin, Sara Schreibman, John Small, and Doug Wilson.



The Purim Shpiel was back in person in 2022, and Totally '90s!



LIBERTY teens headed to NFTY-SAR Spring Kallah at Camp Coleman in style.



Who says we can't have fun during High Holy Days?

WE ACT TOGETHER

WE LEAD SIGNIFICANT ACTS OF LOVING KINDNESS AND WORLD REPAIR. WE VALUE BEING AN INTEGRAL PART OF AND CONTRIBUTOR TO THE GREATER CHARLOTTE COMMUNITY.

WE OPEN OUR DOORS TO ALL, WE VALUE AND SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER IN TIMES OF JOY AND SORROW, CONNECTED TO JEWS IN GREATER CHARLOTTE, ISRAEL, AND ACROSS THE WORLD. WE BELIEVE THAT EACH PERSON IS VALUED AND HAS UNIQUE CONTRIBUTIONS.

WE CARE FOR EACH OTHER & ARE ACCOUNTABLE TO ONE ANOTHER

OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH STERLING ELEMENTARY

Student Support: Congregants volunteer regularly at Sterling Elementary by working one-on-one with students and volunteering at the school to help as needed.

Teacher Support: From beginning of the year staff lunches to end of the year coffee trucks and snacks in between, SPICE and other congregants support hard-working staff and teachers.

Giving Tree and Brotherhood Coat Drive: Together we donated 75 books, 70 winter coats, 90 toys, 5 bikes with helmets, baby clothes, school supplies, and \$875 in gift cards.

SPICE Partnership: SPICE has raised funds to provide clothes, books, and bilingual readers for students in need.



WORKING WITH OUR UNHOUSED NEIGHBORS

Together with our partners on Shalom Park we hosted Abraham's Tent on the campus of Queens University. Donating clothes, food, and time, we provided shelter and comfort to our unhoused neighbors. We hosted a screening of Call Me by My Name, a documentary made by and about the unhoused in Charlotte. This event brought together community members, the film makers, and some of the subjects of the film for a viewing followed by a thoughtful and impactful discussion. In connection with this evening, our congregants donated approximately 150 items to Roof Above to support their work helping the unhoused.

TBE RESPONSE TO THE AFGHAN REFUGEE CRISIS

Partnering with the Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency and the Jewish Community Refugee Initiative, our congregants have donated money and household goods, assisted in setting up over 100 homes, and helped new arrivals to this country shop, register for schools, and get to doctor's appointments.

TBE partnered with the Muslim Community Center of Charlotte to collect toiletries and other necessities for refugee families.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

After last year's listening campaign, our issues teams, made up of over 40 congregants, many of whom did not know each other prior to the listening campaign have formed friendships, learned how to harness their collective power and continue to work to realize their Jewish values of Tikkun Olam.

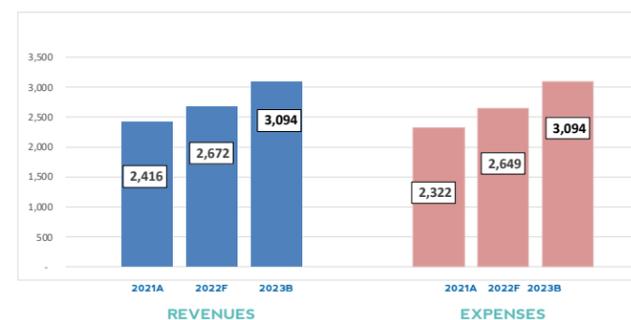
HELPING OTHERS DURING CRISIS

Through Temple Beth El's Disaster Relief Fund, we sent money to support Jewish communities and relief efforts in Haiti and Louisiana after each suffered natural disasters in 2021.

Social Justice at Temple Beth El is growing and expanding! Join us in the coming year as we bring Social Justice to our TriBEs initiative and involve even more congregants in our work changing the world. Want to get involved? **Contact our Social Justice Outreach Coordinator, Nicole Sidman, at nsidman@templebethel.org.**

As stakeholders, we financially support the congregation and make sound governance decisions that serve our best strategic interests, reflect shared Reform Jewish values, and uphold our mission.

TRENDS (IN THOUSANDS)



CURRENT FISCAL YEAR 2022 (FORECASTED THRU JUNE 30)

- Temple YoY revenue up \$256k due to increases in revenue from Fundraising (up \$25k), B'nei Mitzvah (up \$50k), Facility rent and other fees (up \$53k), and School revenues up \$87k or 58% due to increase enrollment and returning to in person activities.
- Temple expenses up \$327k due to increased compensation (new hires), school expenses, and building and contract labor.

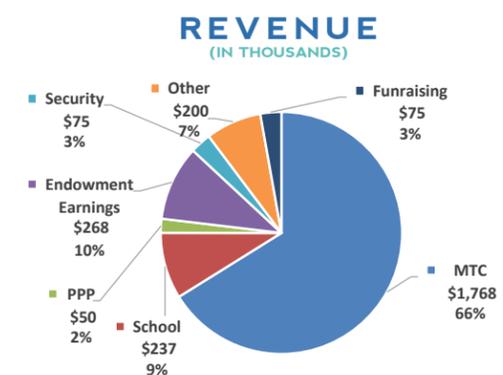
NEXT FISCAL YEAR 2023 (PROPOSED BUDGET)

- Assumes Temple revenue up 14% or \$372k due to increases in program revenues, religious school, programming, MTC and security revenues.
- Assumes \$445k increase in expenses or 17% due to budgeting to increased programming, increased expenses for onsite/building operations all year and the hiring of a COO.

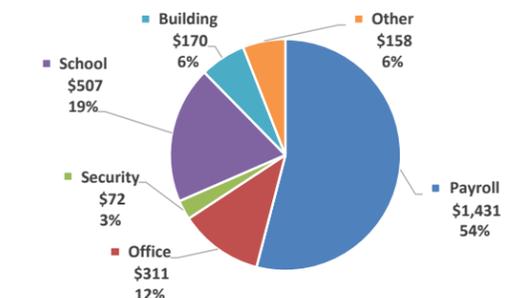
BREAKDOWN OF FY 21/22 FORECAST

TOTAL REVENUE FORECAST
\$2,670,000

TOTAL EXPENSE FORECAST
\$2,650,000



EXPENSES (IN THOUSANDS)

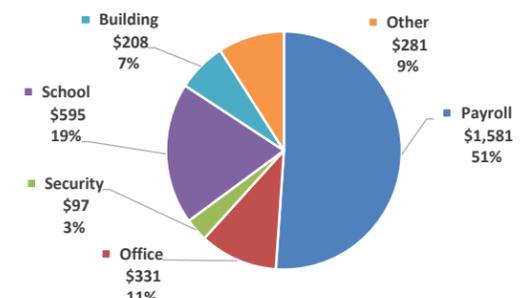
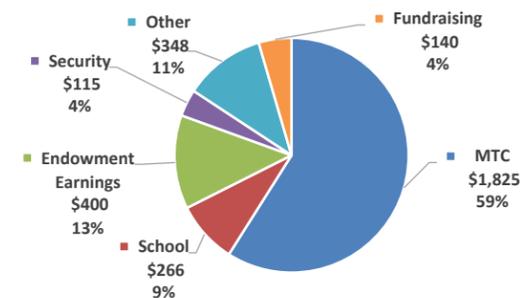


School compensation and security are included in school expenses.

BREAKDOWN OF FY 22/23 PROPOSED BUDGET

TOTAL REVENUE FORECAST
\$3,090,000

TOTAL EXPENSE FORECAST
\$3,090,000



School compensation and security are included in school expenses.

2022-2023 PREVIEW

MY TEMPLE COMMITMENT 2022-2023



- If you have made your Temple Commitment already – thank you!
- If you are enrolled in auto-renewal – thank you!
- If you still need to make your Commitment for the coming year – please do so by Friday, July 15!

In response to the uncertainty many face as we emerge into a new era of the pandemic, **our Board of Directors has voted to make no changes to the Base Commitment for the coming year.**

While our Base Commitment has not increased this year, operational costs have increased, especially due to inflation. **If you are able, we encourage you to consider a 4% increase in your Commitment to help us meet our budgetary goals.**

SECURITY FEES FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR

As a public-facing Jewish institution, security is of the utmost importance. While Temple Beth El has not asked congregants to pay the full cost of security in previous years, this year we are. The fee has increased from \$72 to \$144 per family for 2022-2023 to reflect the true costs of security spread across each of our households. Your increased contribution will allow us to put the safety and security of our congregants at the forefront of our values.

COMMITMENT REVIEW

If you are unable to contribute the Base Commitment amount, or need assistance with Religious School, Hebrew High, or B'nei Mitzvah fees, please request a Commitment Review. The form is available to fill out online at www.templebethel.org/membership.

TEMPLE BETH EL

We are here for life's JOYs and OYs

Make Your Temple Commitment Today

Please contact Edén Gobuty, Director of Development and Member Services with any questions at 704.749.3068 or egobuty@templebethel.org.



CELEBRATING 80 YEARS

The coming fiscal year is an exciting one, as we kick off our 80th anniversary celebrations in January 2023. More information is forthcoming regarding commemorative events and sponsorship opportunities. We look forward to celebrating our congregation's past, present, and future together during this special occasion.

PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING RABBI LEXI ERDHEIM



Temple Beth El's Board has appointed Rabbi Lexi Erdheim to become our next Associate Rabbi on July 1, 2022. Rabbi Erdheim's energy, vision, and dynamism distinguished her from among 23 excellent candidates. Rabbi Erdheim was the unanimous recommendation of our search committee, staff, clergy, and leaders. She is bright, talented, and creative, with a strong social justice, young adult, and youth programming background, and a wide breadth of experience with Southern Jewish life. There will be numerous opportunities to meet Rabbi Erdheim throughout the summer and fall.

HAVE YOU FOUND YOUR TRIBE?

The expanded rollout of TriBEs (small groups at Temple Beth El) continues! TriBEs have been a focal point of community and Jewish identity for many congregants, and we want you to be part of one too. If you have any questions about TriBEs or if you are interested in starting your own, please visit www.templebethel.org/tribes or contact Andy Harkavy via email at aharkavy@templebethel.org.



COMING SOON TO YOUR INBOX HIGH HOLY DAYS 5783 & RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Stay tuned for more information about in-person and online High Holy Days services! Religious School enrollment should have already hit your inbox. If you have any questions about Religious School, please contact Rabbi Nichols at rabbnichols@templebethel.org.



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Subscribe to JewTuBE Charlotte:
www.youtube.com/jewtubecharlotte

Questions?

Contact our Director of Development and Member Services Edén Gobuty

egobuty@templebethel.org or 704.749.3068