

2019-2020 Committee Reports

Adult Education Committee

Committee Chairperson: Christine Dietz

Committee Members: Christine Dietz
Mike Kuperman
Eliahna Siepmann

General Responsibilities:

In consultation with the Rabbi, plan and implement Adult Learning activities for the synagogue.

Report of Activities during Past Fiscal Year:

Ongoing weekly classes:

- Lunch and Learns with Rabbi Barton – weekly after Shabbat Café. This year focused on Pirke Avot, Mishnah and Talmud.
- STEP program moderated by Mike Kuperman – weekly on Sundays 10:00 – 12:00. Topics included discussion of Genesis, Exodus, A Short History of the Jewish People by Raymond Sheindlin and Moses, by Avivah Zornberg.
- Chavruta program, facilitated by Julianna Dubin, offers opportunities for adults to study in pairs.

Other events:

- Shavuot, June 8, 2019 including worship service, family and adult learning activities, facilitated by Robin Karney, Eliahna Siepmann, and Mike Kuperman, with dairy snacks.
- Beginner's Hebrew taught by Anna Zavell, Summer 2019.
- Introduction to Biblical Hebrew taught by Rabbi Barton, Summer 2019
- Introduction to Rabbinic Literature, taught by Rabbi Barton, Summer 2019.
- Tisha B'Av, August 11, service and film, Waltz with Bashir.
- Entryways into Elul, September 6-8: Family activity on Friday evening, Shabbat Lunch and Learn (Rabbi Barton) and Cheshbon HaNefesh class (Christine Dietz).
- Selichot Ma'ariv and Selichot services followed by film, Dough, September 29.
- Yom Kippur Side Trips led by David Friedgood: *Hebrew poetry for Yom Kippur*; Christine Dietz: *The Akedah: Its Meanings for Contemporary Jews*; Robin Karney: *Close Encounters of a Jewish Kind*, October 8.
- November 17, International Halakhic Day of Study, discussion of "Women and Mitzvot," led by Rabbi Barton.
- November 21, Jewish Book Month discussion of If All the Seas Were Ink by Ilana Kurshan, led by Sabrina Silva.
- December 5, discussion of How to Fight Anti-Semitism, by Bari Weiss, led by Rabbi Barton.
- February 2, Jewish Film Day, Hunting Elephants.
- February 6, discussion of We Stand Divided, by Daniel Gordis, facilitated by Rabbi Barton.

Adult Education Committee – continued

- March 8, Purim for Grownups, Mike Kuperman, *Jews of Western Europe and Purim and Chanukah: Antisemitism in the Modern Age*; Christine Dietz, *Finding Adult Meaning in the Megillah*.
- March 26-April 30, Psalms for Comfort and During Stress, led by Rabbi Barton.
- March 29, Talmud Study, “The Kashrut of Cultured Meat,” led by Rabbi Barton.
- April 2, book discussion of Like Dreamers, by Yossi Klein HaLevi, facilitated by Rabbi Barton (via Zoom).
- April 26, International Seminar for Halakhic Study, discussion of “Providing References for Schools and Jobs,” led by Rabbi Barton (via Zoom).
- April 23 book discussion event with Avivah Zornberg took place within STEP class via Zoom during April and May.
- May 10 and May 17 discussions of The Band’s Visit postponed.

The Committee wants to thank Rabbi Barton for stepping up to the plate and offering so much adult learning during this challenging and stressful time! We are working on events for Summer and Fall 2020 and welcome new members.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine A. Dietz, Adult Education Committee chair

Building & Grounds Committee

Committee Chairperson: Jacob Lederman and Will Rogers

General Responsibilities: Building and Grounds

General Maintenance and Repairs:
Lawn care and snow removal

Major Projects:

1. Removed damaged sidewalk at SW corner of building at the direction of our insurance company.
2. Removed shale chips from front island and installed sod and 3 new planters from Des Moines Iron Works.
3. Installed humidifier in sanctuary in order to protect our Torahs.
4. We had a large work day where members came to pull weeds and more to help keep TI beautiful

In addition to major project lots of big and small maintenance happened:

1. A number of roof top units required repair, 1 needed a new compressor
2. The kitchen sink was repaired and new sprayers installed
3. Our walk-in refrigerator received a new motor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jacob Lederman

Cemetery Committee

Committee Chairperson: Josh Engman

General Responsibilities:

Meet with congregants at cemetery for the purchase of graves. When notified of a death, assure that the grave is located and prepared for burial of the deceased. Coordinate with appropriate contractors for cemetery upkeep (mowing, pruning, weed control and snow removal.)

Report of Activities during Past Fiscal Year:

Siegel Lawn Care handled the sodding of new graves in the spring and fall. They also are handling the fertilization and weed control.

Respectfully Submitted,
Josh Engman

Chesed Committee

Committee Chairperson: Dory Goodman

Committee Members: Rose Sloven
Ann Blumberg

General Responsibilities:

The Hebrew word "Chesed" generally translates to mean loving kindness. In keeping with that virtue, the Chesed committee has historically delivered treats for Rosh Hashanah, Hanukkah and Purim to approximately two dozen Synagogue members who are ill, elderly, or shut in. Cards for those holidays also are sent to members who have moved out of town or live too far for delivered goodies. The list is updated prior to each holiday so that new names can be added or removed as needed.

The committee would like to expand its scope to include other acts of loving kindness to members when they are in need, such as meals to families following the birth or adoption of a new baby, or following surgery. To accomplish this, new members would be needed. If you are interested, please contact me.

Respectfully submitted,
Dory Goodman

**Tifereth Israel Synagogue Foundation
Annual Report
For Fiscal Year 2019-2020**

The Tifereth Israel Foundation is a separate legal entity from the Synagogue and controls funds given for the benefit of Tifereth. The Foundation currently manages two fund accounts: (1) a Restricted Fund, which includes the Bookey Rabbinic Fund that provides funds to the Synagogue to subsidize the Rabbi's salary and the Tim & Toni Urban Endowment Fund which is restricted to non-capital improvement support to the Synagogue and (2) an Unrestricted Fund that provides other financial support to the Synagogue as needed.

The Restricted Fund started the year with a balance of \$1,065,046.59 (\$1,002,532.56 in the Bookey Rabbinic Fund and \$62,514.03 in the Urban Fund). The Foundation distributed \$50,200.00 from the Bookey Rabbinic Fund to subsidize the Rabbi's salary in the 2019-2020 fiscal year. No distributions have yet been made from the Urban Fund. The Restricted Fund ended the fiscal year with total assets of \$1,086,201.78 (\$1,022,464.05 in the Bookey Rabbinic Fund and \$63,737.73 in the Urban Fund). A new restricted fund – the Elizabeth Sherman/Maddie Schoen Shabbat Café Fund was funded with its initial funds May 1, 2020, and will be included in next year's report.

The Unrestricted Fund started the year with a balance of \$726,073.32 and ended the year with total assets of \$695,657.18. No discretionary distributions were made to the synagogue in the past fiscal year. The Foundation Board voted to transfer \$50,000.00 to the Restricted Fund and added to the Bookey Rabbinic Fund to help keep its principal balance above its required minimum amount.

The Foundation has pledges to the Endowment Fund totaling \$11,838.40 outstanding as of April 30, 2020. The Board of the Foundation continues to actively solicit future gifts such as bequests and gifts of life insurance to ensure that the Restricted and Unrestricted Funds will grow and be able to benefit the Synagogue for many years to come.

Current members of the Foundation Board are: Don Schoen, Frank Marcovis, Harry Bookey, Jim Marcovis, Judy Flapan, Shelley Brody, Marvin Winick, Tim Urban, and Phil Bear.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Schoen, President

Frank Marcovis, Treasurer

Fundraising - Calendar Committee

Committee Chairperson: Frank Marcovis

General Responsibilities:

To sell and layout ads for the Tifereth calendar. To solicit calendar listings (birthdays, yahrzeits, etc.) and donations as Patrons, Sponsors, and Friends from congregation members. To work with the office staff to put the calendar together, contract the printer and work with their graphic artist.

Report of Activities during Past Fiscal Year:

This year the calendar had 31 advertisers, 2 fewer than last year. Patrons (\$100) were down by 1, Sponsors (\$75) were down by 5, and Friends (\$50) were down by 5.

Financials:	Calendar Income	\$10,877.01 (\$1,411.96 increase)
	Calendar Expense	<u>\$ 2,621.62</u> (\$ 488.43 increase)
	Net Income	\$ 8,255.39 (net \$923.53 increase)

We are always looking for more committee members so that we can reach out to new potential advertisers.

Frank Marcovis
Calendar Chair

Fundraising – Mah Jongg Tournament Committee

Committee Chairperson: Maddie Schoen

Committee Members:	Barbara Leventhal-Beckerman	
Gloria Bernstein	Louise Kaufmann	Hannah Rogers
Judy Blank	Bobbi Khalastchi	Will Rogers
Karen Engman	Susie Kimelman	Gloria Rovner
Vicki Givant	Jacob Lederman	Jami Schnoebelen
Dory Goodman	Barb Letween	Toni Urban
Jody Jacklin	Gail Pearl	Robbie Winick

General Responsibilities: To raise money for Tifereth.

Report of Activities During the Past Fiscal Year:

On September 15, 2019, Tifereth sponsored its third Annual Tournament of the Tiles. We had 60 participants (and 2 no shows) all paying \$40 each. This was 6 less players than last year. We held a raffle of 99 separate items, though they were often grouped together in different packages. Raffle ticket sales totaled \$1206. Cash donations were \$120. A unique expense this year was the purchase of card tables for \$399.79. A delicious buffet lunch was enjoyed by all. A complete mah jongg set was again donated by Yellow Mountain Imports. Our profit was \$2,575.68.

Membership Committee

Committee Chairperson: Justin Schoen

Committee Members:	Jacob Lederman	Will Rogers
Jody Jacklin	Lil Bernstein	Marni Duitch
Maggie Matijevich	Louise Kaufmann	Ann Blumberg
Robin Bear	Rabbi Barton	

General Responsibilities:

- Recruit, retain, and reinstate membership
- Develop and maintain membership application
- Work with the Executive Committee, Board of Directors and Staff and establish yearly goals for membership recruitment, retention and reinstatement
- Make person calls to prospective members
- Review applications
- Contribute to development of marketing materials and strategies for recruiting new members
- Welcome new members to the TIS community and arrange mentorship
- Organize a new member luncheon [bi-annually]
- Provide a new member orientation that includes tour of the synagogue and information packet
- Contact delinquent members and encourage them to continue their membership
- Develop a membership satisfaction plan

During 2019 – 2020: 7 Families joined Tifereth, 4 Families resigned, 6 Members passed

Respectfully Submitted,
Justin Schoen

Ritual Committee

Committee Chairperson: Andy Goodman

General Responsibilities:

The Torah Shomrim subcommittee reviews the Torahs and makes recommendations for repairs.

Report of Activities during Past Fiscal Year:

In 2019, the Torah Shomrim subcommittee met on numerous occasions and continues to review and maintain our Torahs. A humidification system was added to the sanctuary to help maintain the parchment as well as woodwork in the room. We have reviewed the three Megillot and have had the silver encased Megillah completely restored.

Respectfully Submitted,
Andy Goodman

Pomerantz Library Committee

Committee Chairperson: MaryPaul Even and Rita Weinberg

General Responsibilities:

Rita and MaryPaul are at the library most Wednesday mornings. During this time, we tidy the library, catalog and cover books, evaluate donations, write any Bulletin articles as needed and assist users.

Report of Activities during Past Fiscal Year:

We continue to assess and accession new and donated materials. We have accessioned a number of books during the past year. Duplicate donations are placed in our free book exchange area. Books are selected each month for Tot Shabbat from our children's area. The library is available whenever the building is open.

We have received many generous donations this year including adding to our collections of the beautiful Koren Talmud Bavli. Kristin created a box in the sanctuary for the donated PJ library book which children can use and take home.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rita Weinberg and MaryPaul Even

Tikkun Olam Committee

Committee Chairperson: Michael Mintzer

General Responsibilities:

Give leadership to the congregation's efforts of social action in the broader community and encourage congregants' involvement. Give leadership to environmental projects at Tifereth.

Report of Activities during Past Fiscal Year:

Our primary activity was preparing meals for the New Directions Shelter. Meals were prepared at Tifereth Israel Synagogue on four different dates in 2019 and then delivered to the shelter for families in need. This activity faltered in 2020 due to a decline in interest and is now on hold because of COVID-19. We hope to restart this when it is safe to congregate.

We prepared food packages at Meals for the Heartland on February 27th which was attending by a large number of Tifereth congregants.

We had scheduled a DMARC food sorting activity in May 2020 however this was cancelled due to COVID-19.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mike Mintzer

Tikkun Olam Garden Subcommittee

Committee Chairperson: MaryPaul Even

Committee Members:	Lilliana Bernstein	Scott Birkett
Larry Blumberg	Adam Egberman	Bev Ellis
MaryPaul Even	Avilah Getzler	Margie Koslow
Mike Kuperman	Mike Mintzer	Mary Reavely
Cynthia Schulman		

Report of Activities during Past Fiscal Year:

- Gardening Committee members continued the raised bed vegetable and herb gardens for the eighth year.
- Members planted, watered, maintained and harvested.
- We had bountiful crops of herbs and greens with a great deal of kale, mustard, Swiss chard, lettuce and Malabar spinach.
- Later in the season we also harvested tomatoes, cucumbers and both summer and winter squash.
- Besides enjoying the "vegetables of our labors" we had the satisfaction of sharing the harvest with our Tifereth Community for various events.
- This season we also instituted the practice of having Produce Available For Harvesting listed in the Weekly News Brief and quite a few members took advantage of that.
- Committee members continued to maintain the Pollinator Garden and Prairie Area. Both attracted an astounding number of bees and butterflies.
- In addition we maintain the entire surrounding area and provide interest and beauty with roses, annual flowers and blackberries.
- Spring of 2020 finds us making plans to have the raised beds moved west beyond the Prairie Area in preparation for the planned addition to Tifereth.

Respectfully submitted,
MaryPaul Even

Tikkun Olam – Hunger Hike Subcommittee

Committee Chairperson: Bev Ellis

Report of Activities during Past Fiscal Year:

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Hunger Hike. We did it! This year we combined and made our contributions under Des Moines Area Jewish Communities which included Tifereth Israel Synagogue, Temple B'nai Jeshurun, and the Jewish Federation School. We beat our goal of \$1,600 with your amazingly generous contributions of \$1,825.61!

Please join us in recognizing and celebrating this year's recipients of Hunger Hike donations: Young Children - Priority One d/b/a Nutrition 4 Young Children,

Tikkun Olam – Hunger Hike Subcommittee - continued

EMBARC, Hawthorn Hill, New Horizons Adult Day Center, WesleyLife Meals on Wheels, Bidwell Riverside Center, Catholic Council for Social Concern, Inc. DBA Catholic Charities, Children & Families of Iowa, Children and Family Urban Movement, Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC), Epworth Community Dinners, Haitian Artisans for Peace International, Harbor of Hope Mission, Hope Ministries, IMPACT Community Action Partnership, The Connection Café, Zion Lutheran Church, Church World Service, Iowa Chapter, Iowa-Yucatan Partners of the Americas, Mary's Meals USA, Meals from the Heartland, Seed Programs International, and Self-Help International.

The Hunger Hike makes a big impact in our community. 59,000 Iowans at Risk of Losing Access to Food Assistance. New analysis out from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation provides state-level estimates of the impact of the USDA's change to broad-based categorical eligibility for SNAP, known in Iowa as Food Assistance.

In Iowa, an estimated 59,615 individuals would lose access to SNAP, 16% of all those currently receiving benefits in the state.

Respectfully Submitted,
Beverly Ellis

Women's League Committee

Committee Chairperson: Samantha Johnson and Barbara Leventhal Beckerman

Board Representative: Barbara Leventhal Beckerman

Committee Members:

Kathy Bassman, Secretary	Judy Taylor, Treasurer
Gwen Griger, Torah Fund Chair	Rose Sloven, Membership Chair
Andi Duitch, Gift Shop Manager	
Jody Jacklin, 100th Anniversary Committee Chair	

At large board members:

Gloria Bernstein, Beverly Ellis, Louise Kaufmann, Rebecca Shaffer

General Responsibilities:

Women's League has been an important part of Tifereth Israel since it was first organized as The Ladies Auxiliary in 1901. Through the years it has supported the Synagogue in numerous ways including contributing to the General Fund, and running the Gift Shop. Women's League is a loyal supporter of USY and through the annual Torah Fund Campaign, contributes to the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York and the American Jewish University in California.

Women's League Committee - continued

Report of Activities during Past Fiscal Year:

Women's League supported the Tifereth Israel Mah Jongg fundraiser in September by preparing a soup and salad bar lunch and by assembling the welcome bags given to each participant. We prepared a Kiddush lunch that was sponsored by Jacob Lederman in October, which led us into our annual latke sale in November and December, when we sponsored a Chanukah- themed Shabbat Cafe featuring our delicious latkes. February was a busy month in which we hosted a wine, cheese, chocolate and travel program which featured Ann Blumberg as our speaker. Also in February women's league hosted, participated in all phases of the Shabbat morning services, and prepared a very special Kiddush lunch. Our final project that we began in February was the record-breaking 200 dozen plus of hamentashen that we baked for the community. We were invited again to sell our hamentashen to the public at the Windsor Heights Hy-Vee store, which we used to share information about Purim and our projects.

Our planned programs involving social action issues and women's history month were necessarily cancelled due to health safety concerns. We anticipate resuming these programs in the next fiscal year.

Virtual programs were still in effect in May, so we re-structured our annual May fashion show that we partner with Cindy's Boutique in Valley Junction so that it could be seen virtually.

Finally, we were forced to postpone our major program of the year, which was our 100th anniversary dinner and gala which had originally been scheduled for June 7th. The gala will be postponed until 2021, at which time we will proceed with this very special celebration.

The Tifereth Israel chapter of WLCJ (Women's League for Conservative Judaism) has just received word that we've been awarded a very prestigious award, which is called the Jewels in the Crown award.

This is awarded to sisterhoods who meet the criteria of a wide range of activities and programs which are developed by the local chapters as well as National Women's league.

Our chapter has been acknowledged as a "glittering jewel" in the Women's league crown by achieving this goal, which we also were awarded in the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

The Tifereth Israel women's league chapter is very proud and honored to receive this award. It represents the culmination of effort and teamwork that is involved by our members to achieve this level of excellence.

Respectfully Submitted,
Samantha Johnson and Barbara Leventhal Beckerman

YAD Committee

Committee Chairperson: Maggie Matijevich and Jill Cantor

Committee Members: Jennifer Blumberg
Inbal Mazar
Tasha Hausmann

General Responsibilities:

Programming for the community with a focus on making children, families and all feel welcome. Emphasis on helping our children build a strong Jewish identity and find a home within their synagogue. Working to build lifelong friendships and community connection.

Report of Activities during Past Fiscal Year:

June 14, 2019 - Mishpacha Shabbat

July 12, 2019 - Mishpacha Shabbat

July 27, 2019 - Tot Shabbat

August 18, 2019 - Community barbecue at Caspe Terrace

August 31, 2019 - Tot Shabbat

October 13, 2019 - Decorate Tifereth's Sukkah (new tradition - silly string!)

October 21, 2019 - Simchat Torah

October 26, 2019 - Tot Shabbat

November 8, 2019 - Mishpacha Shabbat and Consecration

November 23, 2019 - Children's service with author Dori Weinstein

November – December 1st - YAD Hanukkah Project – helping families with gifts and food for Hanukkah

December 28, 2019 - Havdalah / Hanukkah Party

January 25, 2020 - Community "Disco Party" and Dinner

February 21, 2020 - Mishpacha Shabbat

Respectfully Submitted,
Maggie Matijevich