

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – 2018-2019

Submitted by

Sharon Eshaghoff, Vice President of Membership, and
Sheri Gerrman, Director of Membership Engagement

The membership committee started the year with a new Director of Membership Engagement, Sheri Gerrman and a new vice president Sharon Eshaghoff. This year a big priority of this department was to build a foundation internally to address all aspects of the membership process. Being intentional in connecting to congregants through engagement and outreach is always at the forefront of everything we do.

Temple Isaiah has approximately 920 households. These households consist of preschool families, religious school families and non-school families. Many of our non-school families participate in ChaiVillageLA.

Membership has 4 subcommittees:

Isaiah Women offer a multitude of engagement opportunities focused around education, social action, friendship and ritual. This year, the president is Ginny Solomon with upcoming slated president Beth Raanan. This group hosted IW Book Group, "Cover to Cover" (monthly), Lilith Salon (Quarterly), "Sacred Resistance" at Jewish Women's Theater, Fifties Café #3: Watercolor Workshop, Summer Mah Jongg Tournament, Sukkot Dinner, NAMI Walk, Rosh Hodesh, International Wine Tasting, Frederick Weissman Foundation tour, Hanukkah Celebration (Trivia Game), RGB Exhibit at Skirball, Secret Stairs Walk, Fashion and Freedom Event, Photography Slideshow/Talk with Dotan Saguy, "The Art of Three Faiths" at Getty Museum, Escape Room, Medicinal Cannabis Speaker, Essential Oils Workshop, Hamantaschen Making, Annie Leibovitz Exhibit at Hauser & Wirth, IW Women's Seder, Urban "Hike", Spring Mah Jongg Tournament, Chocolate Factory Tour & Tasting

Isaiah Men's Group. led by Navid Yadegar, Adam Asherson, Carlo Tabibi and Chad Eshaghoff, hosted several events focused on engaging the men of our community such as a poker tournament which raised money for new outdoor-play equipment and a golf tournament last month.

Caring Community is the way each of us can respond "Hineini," here I am, by responding to the calls of fellow Temple members. The Caring community writes cards to those in need of healing, delivers meals to bereaved families and delivers meals to those who are recovering from illness or surgery and to families of newborns.

Chai Village is a group for the senior members of our community. Some of the events they hosted consist of; Beginning Bridge, Intermediate Bridge, Walk with the Rabbi, Meet Me at the Movie, Understanding World News, Wise Aging Group, 80s Groups, Brown Bag Short Stories, Film Interest Group Discussion, The Headlines and the Law, and Conversations with Clergy Sunday Series (every other month)

This year the membership committee began the Jewish new year inviting new congregants to a dinner with the current Board of Trustees and past presidents of the synagogue. This dinner was an opportunity to welcome the newest members of our community and connect them with our lay

leadership. Our intention of connection continued by planning and executing a very well attended weekend of events for the co-senior rabbi installation. During Hanukkah new members received a special package consisting of “make your own Hanukkah candles,” a dreidel and blessings. Membership along with a committee (Ellen Canter, Wendy Plottel, Fern Karp, Kim Perry and Laurie Gantz) hosted the Chai Dinner in January. The Chai Dinner is an evening of music, food and speeches for our congregants who have been members for 18 years and more.

There are several long-term projects that the membership committee is working on. There is an annual review which highlights the programs and events from the year. A new renewal process is in place; there will be renewal packets which will be mailed to congregants’ homes next month with the intention of creating more engagement around the renewal process. .A restructuring of the Caring Community. Intimate engagement events centered around ritual.

The Membership committee is looking for new members to continue to support the efforts of Sheri and the current committee.