

President's Report for year-end 2018-2019

Fellow Isaians

As we all know, there's a lot that goes on at Temple Isaiah during the course of a year, and as I wind down my second (and final) year as Temple Isaiah President, please permit me to say these words: 'The state of our Temple is very sound (and wonderful)'! That felt good, especially because it's true.

Accompanying this document are the reports of our Treasurer (with the proposed Budget for 2019-2020), our VPs of Education, Development, Membership and Community Affairs, the fruits of the work of our Nominating Committee, with the slate of officers and new Board members for next year, and a few proposed amendments to our Temple Bylaws brought forward by our Executive VP and the work of our Leadership Committee and Executive Committee. And, what is contained in these pages, for better or for worse, doesn't even tell the whole story of everything that has transpired at our Temple over the last year, i.e. there's a lot of really good stuff going on!

In addition to the reports referenced above, here are a few other areas that warrant comment:

Clergy Restructure and Transition

Part of this last year was spent working with our Clergy, Rabbinic Restructure Lay Committee, Executive Committee and Board making sure that our transition to the Co-Senior Rabbi structure was smooth and successful. That process caused us to undertake much self-reflection with respect to several of our most critical areas of service and operation, including Membership, Personnel, Budget, Development, Communication and Mission and Vision, and as a result, it gave us a framework for assessing the 'success' of our Clergy structure and more important our overall success.

The departure of Rabbi Nickerson caused us to focus on a somewhat new subset of transition issues; however, the work done, as described in the preceding paragraph, facilitated our development and implementation of several valuable new practices, processes and ideas that will continue to serve us well moving forward with our Senior Rabbi Dara Frimmer and Rabbi Zoe Klein Miles, Cantor Tifani Coyot and Cantorial Soloist Rabbi Jaclyn Cohen. As we move into our next year, under the leadership of Rabbi Frimmer and our next Temple President Mike Diamond (subject to the approving vote of our Congregation), we will be reevaluating our needs and determining whether to add an Assistant Rabbi to our already incredible Clergy team and/or other complementing professional staff.

Leadership

Under the leadership of our Executive VP, Jessica Dabney, our Leadership committee developed and held a useful and effective new Board member orientation, reviewed, analyzed and reported regarding our Board and Committee structures, including reviewing our Bylaws and making recommendations for practical amendments which will be considered at our upcoming annual meeting.

Nominating

Our Nominating Committee, under the leadership of new co-Chairs Honey Kessler Amado and Matt Hedges implemented a new and successful method for inviting nominations to our Board of Trustees and identifying new volunteers and lay leaders which contributed to an outstanding slate of new Board members for our coming year and for years ahead.

Finance

Our Finance Committee, under the leadership of Chuck Hurewitz, researched and secured two new lines of credit which will give us flexibility, operationally and should we decide to undertake capital improvements or expansion.

Facilities

We considered improvements to and expansion of our facilities, and those considerations are ongoing.

Our Executive Committee and our Board of Trustees conceived, discussed, analyzed and improved many practices, plans and initiatives, old and new, and consulted regarding some urgent and many non-urgent issues, all of which facilitated our acting or not acting deliberately, strategically, ethically and for the good of our Temple Isaiah community and the greater community.

Thank you very much to those two groups of people and each person on them, who undertook a great deal of work, individually and together.

For the success of this last year, I also want to offer big thanks to:

Our outstanding Clergy, Rabbi Dara Frimmer, Rabbi Joel Nickerson, Rabbi Zoe Klein Miles, Cantor Tifani Coyot, Cantorial Soloist Rabbi Jaclyn Cohen, Rabbi Emeritus Robert Gan, Cantor Emeritus Evan Kent; our Executive Director, Michael Cantor; our Director of Development, Seth Rosenzweig; our Director of Membership Engagement, Sheri Vinnecour Gerrman; our Communications Manager, Tara Berger; our Administrative Team, Facilities Manager Chris Falone, Controller Barbara Levine, Member Accounts Manager Renee Winkler, Administrative Assistant Claire Austin, Administrative Assistant Julie Moldo, Receptionist Nancy Morton, Administrative Assistant Lenore Rosen, Administrative Assistant David Sabel, Temple Librarian Ellen Cole; Director of Chai Village LA Devorah Servi; our Preschool Team, Director Tamar Andrews, Associate Director Avital Etehad, Admissions Coordinator Peggy Engman, Curriculum Coordinator Carol Noguera, Office Manager Rivkie Blau; our Religious School Team, Director Rabbi Zoe Klein Miles, Educator Carla Kopf, Educator Stephanie Schwartz, Director of Youth and Camps Lisa Rostaing, Administrative Assistant Jenn Shabani; our Song leader Danny Rubenstein; our Custodial Team, Sergio Martinez, Tony Calderon, Carlos Espinola, Cesar Lucero, Martha Sanches, Veronica Bonilla, Carolina Deras; our Security Team, Robert Tilley, Jose Contreras, Moses Dykes, Mohammad Kamara, Wilbur Kirakosian; and all of our incredible Preschool and Religious school teachers, aides and staff.

Last, but not least, thank you as well to our many member volunteers who also have an important impact on who we are, what we do and our overall success, and thank you to all our members for supporting our community in each way that you do.

Mazal Tov to all of us on a great past year and many years to come!

David Leichenger, Temple Isaiah President