

Senior Rabbi Position Description

Temple Israel of Boston

www.tisrael.org

“May Your Gates Be Open Always”

Isaiah 60:11



Innovative, pluralistic, and beloved – Temple Israel is a community of communities, united in a commitment to learning, relationships, worship, and social action. These communities are both distinct and overlapping, including the children and families in our preschool; religious school students and Monday night high schoolers; the 20 and 30-somethings in our Riverway Project; the activists in *Ohel Tzedek*; the adult students in Torah study; all the way to members of our peer-led lifelong learning initiative, TILLI. Some are in the building several times every week; others are happiest occasionally attending Friday night Qabbalat and High Holy Day services – while we’d like to see them more often, they too are valued members of our spiritual and ethical community.

Temple Israel, the largest Reform congregation in New England, currently seeks a new Senior Rabbi with the personal, intellectual, and collaborative leadership skills to inspire our individual and communal engagement with Judaism and with one another.

I. OUR TEMPLE, YESTERDAY AND TODAY

In both its [history](#) and its physical embodiment on the Riverway, Temple Israel is an august institution. Founded in 1854 by immigrant German Jews, Temple Israel soon became the leading Jewish institution in Boston and achieved prominence in the civic and religious circles of the city. For decades, successive Senior Rabbis of Temple Israel held a coveted seat on the Boston School Committee, religious services were often attended by Jews and non-Jews alike, and in the 1920’s, the Senior Rabbi’s sermon was broadcast on the radio. Membership conveyed stature within the Jewish community and Temple Israel entered the vanguard of the Reform Movement with a reputation for grandeur and intellectual and spiritual innovation consistent with the evolving principles of Reform Judaism. **Innovation has been at the core of our temple since its inception.**



Like the rest of America, Temple Israel dramatically changed after the Second World War. The birth of the baby boomers, the move to the suburbs, and the social disruptions of the 1960's challenged many traditional principles. Adroit rabbinic leadership eventually facilitated the shift from "traditional" Classical Reform to a Reform Judaism of greater intimacy, personal expression, and spirituality.

Today, Temple Israel continues to play a [prominent role](#) within the City of Boston. When President Obama attended a memorial service for the victims of the Boston Marathon bombing, Rabbi Ronne Friedman [represented the Jewish community](#) at the multi-faith service. More recently, at Temple Israel's Shabbat celebration of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, the Mayor of Boston ascended the *bimah* of Temple Israel to address a packed sanctuary that included members of the Jewish and African-American communities. The pulpit of Temple Israel still stands out within the city.

In Boston, as in many American cities, once-abandoned neighborhoods are being rejuvenated, empty-nesters are returning from the suburbs, and young professional Jews are choosing to raise their children in the city rather than the suburbs. Standing at the crossroads of tradition and evolution in the Reform movement, Temple Israel is the urban focus of Boston's Jewish community.

Collectively, our backgrounds and experiences with Judaism are diverse. While many of our congregants were raised in the Classical Reform tradition of Temple Israel's past, substantial numbers grew up in the Conservative, Orthodox, and Reconstructionist movements. As a result of cutting edge outreach programs to interfaith families beginning in the 1980's, for many members of our temple community, Judaism was not the religion of their families of origin nor of their youth.

Not surprisingly our politics are equally diverse, from the right to the left.

A Demographic Profile of the Congregation

While homogeneity marked the first decades of our existence, the hallmark of Temple Israel today is diversity. Membership ranges across the socio-economic spectrum. Family constellations reflect contemporary American society and include people of many races, ethnic background, and all expressions of gender identity. [Our demographic is broad](#), ranging from tiny tots to elders. Currently, there are nearly 1,400 membership units drawn from Boston and many surrounding communities. Roughly 68% of our members are over 50, with 25% being over 75.

It is an enormous source of pride that in 1987, Temple Israel offered same sex couples membership in the congregation as a single family unit. Soon thereafter, our clergy performed the first commitment ceremony at Temple Israel for a same sex couple. In the mid-1990's, Temple Israel amended its by-laws granting non-Jewish spouses the right to vote in congregational matters. Our clergy have taken national leadership positions within the Reform movement on issues of inclusion.



Prayer, Study, Community and Social Justice

We take the following paragraph from the introduction to *Becoming American Jews*, a history of our congregation:

“For more than 150 years, Temple Israel has helped devise strategies for being Jewish in the United States that synthesize and balance Americanization and Judaism. The forms and accommodations that “synthesis” has taken have varied over the years as the challenges and environment have changed. The goals, however, have been consistent: to provide a welcoming community (that offers) comfortable ways to practice Judaism, find fellowship, seek inspiration, and work to repair the world today. Today Temple Israel is a Beit Tefilah (a house of worship and prayer), a Beit Midrash (a house of study and Torah) and a Beit Knesset (a house of gathering, caring and action) for Boston’s continually changing and evolving Jewish community.”

1. *Beit Tefilah: A House of Worship and Prayer*

Join us as we gather for Friday evening services. People stream through the doors on Nessel Way, some coming from home, others straight from work. There are singles and families, mourners and wedding couples, young married couples with infants who will be named in the course of the service. At a welcome desk they complete nametags and pick up *siddurim*, then enter the Levi Auditorium where the cantor and early arrivals set the mood for Shabbat with song, while our rabbis move through the semi-circle of chairs, welcoming new arrivals.

From Sunday services to Qabbalat Shabbat, from organ to guitar, worship services have evolved and been reinvented. In the course of 160 years, our clergy have consistently embraced liturgical change and challenged the congregants.

No single model defines our celebration of [Shabbat](#). Any given Shabbat can include:

- [Qabbalat Shabbat](#), a congregation-wide, family friendly celebration of Shabbat with music
- [Soul Food Fridays](#), monthly services for young professionals in their 20’s and 30’s including a full live band that attracts 150-200 participants on any given Shabbat
- [Tiny Tot Shabbat](#) for families with pre-pre-school children
- [Thank Goodness It’s Shabbat](#) for young children and their parents
- [Walking Through The Door](#), a gathering of women interested in spiritual exploration
- [Torah Study](#), a rabbi-led, hour long text study with a half-hour prayer *minyan*
- [Bar or Bat Mitzvah](#) held in the main Sanctuary

Our High Holy Day schedule reveals both the diversity of our worship experiences and the energy of the clergy, reflecting their individual interests as well as the congregation’s yearning for spiritual options. Services in the main Sanctuary reflect a contemporary expression of the dignified reverence reminiscent of Classical Reform; the family service incorporates the themes of the holidays in a manner that is



developmentally appropriate for religious school families; and to meet popular demand, a service for tiny tots has recently been created and is filled to capacity.



The Sanctuary during Sukkot

Our beloved “Purple Service” (this refers to the color of the tickets) is an innovative alternative adult service that has evolved over the past two decades. It includes significant individual participation and offers opportunities for creative spiritual engagement. Purple Service attendance now nearly equals attendance in the main Sanctuary.

Focused always on attracting and engaging the next generation, Temple Israel, in partnership with the Federation, has opened its doors to the entire Jewish young adult community of Boston with free High Holy Day services, which are attended by hundreds.

2. Beit Midrash: A House of Study and Torah

On Sunday morning, the building buzzes with energy as two sessions of religious school follow each other in quick succession. Youngsters attend class and learn from innovative curricula; committees meet, deliberate, and plan; parents read newspapers and eat bagels at tables set in the atrium. Monday Night School, the special province of our teens, generates another level of activity and buzz, while adult education classes follow a more orderly course. TILLI (Temple Israel’s Lifelong Learning Initiative) fills the classrooms on Thursday, followed by religious school. Learning is everywhere.

The Frances Jacobson Early Childhood Center (FJECC)

The [FJECC](#) serves children from 21 months to 5 years old during the school year. The award winning program provides a safe and nurturing environment where inquiry, exploration, and discovery are encouraged. The school fosters respect for self and others, autonomy, competence in all areas of development, and a love of learning, all in a rich Jewish environment.

Religious School

Our two day a week religious school serves youngsters in [grades K-7](#), with the goal of developing students as critical readers of text in Hebrew, social justice activists, reflective ritual practitioners, and Zionists in America. **Uniquely, Temple Israel does not assess families tuition for the religious school. Recently, the congregation affirmed its**



support for the longstanding policy that the entire congregation bears the responsibility to support the education of our children. We are very proud of this re-statement of our values.



Second Grade Qabbalat Siddur

Teen Program

Our teens, grades 8-12, participate in Jewish educational experiences that are relevant to their day-to-day lives. The cornerstone of our program is [Monday Night School](#) which extends the learning program begun in religious school and allows the students to play a role in directing their education. The *Madrichim* program creates a student-teacher experience for teens, and RFYTI, our temple's senior youth group, rounds out the program with social and educational offerings. Most recently, Temple Israel received its second Irving J. Fain award from the Religious Action Center, this time for its teen social justice program.



Temple Israel teens at the State House as part of the Fain award-winning program "TIKKUN: To Take on the World"



Adult Education

Courses, endowed lectures, guest speakers, travel, and the *Meah* Program, 100 hours of Jewish Learning, contribute to the rich fabric of [educational opportunity](#) at TI.

Temple Israel's Lifelong Learning Institute (TILLI)

[TILLI](#) is a peer-led learning program that meets for Spring and Fall sessions and offers study groups as diverse as *Gay, Lesbian and Jewish Films* and *Jewish Stories from Latin America*. TILLI offers trips to cultural locations throughout the year. Approximately 200 members participate in TILLI.



Temple Israel Lifelong Learning Initiative (TILLI) group discussion

3. *Beit Knesset*: A House of Gathering, Caring and Action

Social Justice

"The Ohel Tzedek Team brought me back to the Temple by giving me space to act Jewish in a way that I want to act Jewish - building community for social justice."

Commitment to social justice is baked into the DNA of our community. In its earliest years, members of Temple Israel led the effort to coordinate philanthropic support for poor Jewish immigrants, thereby giving rise to the federation system, and today's [Combined Jewish Philanthropies](#).

Our rabbis and members marched in Selma, welcomed Dr. Martin Luther King to speak, vocally opposed the war in Vietnam, organized relief efforts for refugees from Vietnam and Cambodia, vigorously supported the rights of Russian Refuseniks, and actively organized for full acceptance of our LGBTQ brothers and sisters, including marriage equality. As a leading member of the [Greater Boston Interfaith Organization \(GBIO\)](#), we work closely with Christian and Muslim organizations on issues of social justice.

[Ohel Tzedek](#), the programming vehicle for our social justice activities, undertakes grassroots organizing to address root causes of injustice through building relationships within and outside of the congregation and engaging in a variety of issues which reflect our values and our stories. Through *Ohel Tzedek*, our teens and adult members have



lobbied for health care reform, marriage equality, anti-bullying legislation, easier access to resources for seniors, helped bring financial education to immigrant communities, and more.

Riverway Project

Fourteen years ago, Temple Israel launched a ground-breaking initiative to connect young Jews in their 20's and 30's to Judaism through Temple Israel. Many of these programs take place outside of the "walls" of Temple Israel; in apartments, bars, and restaurants throughout the neighborhoods of Boston. The [Riverway Project](#) has received national acclaim for its creativity and innovation and maintains a database including approximately 2,000 young Jews in the Boston area.



Riverway Project Havdalah service

Caring Community

Caring is contagious. By offering our presence to one another in times of celebration or sorrow, we create a more compassionate community. Upon a birth or adoption of a baby, or the death of a loved one, our [Caring Community](#) ensures that we reach out with a human, Jewish touch: a phone call, a note, a hand-delivered challah, or a Jewish baby book. We are there for one another. College students receive Chanukah packages, the elderly receive Purim gift baskets, and through [Lotsa Helping Hands](#), we provide meals to those who are struck by illness or are sitting *shiva*.



The Caring Community team packs Purim gift baskets



Families with Young Children

[Families with young children](#) ages 0 -5 experience Jewish life through Jewish holiday celebrations, parenting groups, story times, and weekly drop in meet ups held in many locations in the Boston area and at Temple Israel. Temple membership is not required to attend this innovative program, which is a collaboration between Temple Israel, the Frances Jacobson Early Childhood Center (FJECC), and Combined Jewish Philanthropies. LGBTQ, interfaith, adopting, and single parents are welcome.



Families with Young Children Mother's Day brunch

477 Initiative

Creating and fostering community among mid-life members of the congregation (empty nesters, singles, and others who identify with the category) is the goal of our [477 Initiative](#). Programs as varied as movies, museum tours, Shabbat pot-luck dinners, bike rides, and Sunday salons offer the opportunity to extend the network of congregational relationships and keep Temple Israel members connected to the community long after their children have graduated from high school and moved on.

Tent Talks

Borrowing and modifying the community organizing techniques of *Ohel Tzedek*, the congregation has embarked upon a community-wide process of engaging in intimate, small scale conversations among the members. The [conversations](#) begin with a seemingly simple question: "where are you at in life?" and then proceeds to, "what are you looking for here at Temple Israel?" To date, over 375 people have participated in 60 conversations (including anywhere from 4-10 participants). The results are profound. Members have responded with authenticity, vulnerability, and honesty. Through these conversations we are beginning to understand and chart our future.

Beacon Academy

Since 2004, Temple Israel has been home to [Beacon Academy](#), a 14-month school between 8th and 9th grades designed to prepare motivated and promising urban students for success in competitive independent high schools and beyond. It is the only school of its kind in the country. The Beacon experience changes the trajectory of the students' lives: they continue on to independent schools and then to college. School activities frequently intersect with those at Temple Israel, particularly when Beacon students read to the pre-school and members serve as student mentors.



Professional Team

In addition to the [clergy team](#), our [professional staff](#) includes a full time librarian, directors and faculties of the Early Childhood Center, the religious school, and teen program. In addition, Temple Israel employs four programming associates. The administrative activities of Temple Israel are overseen by a full time Executive Director.

Governance Structure

Temple Israel's [volunteer leadership](#) comprises three officers, a fifteen member Board of Trustees, and a Leadership Council that includes Committee Chairs, elected members, past Presidents, and honorary members. Congregational [by-laws](#) are posted on our website.



Members of the Board of Trustees and Leadership Council at the Annual Gathering

Our Challenges

Venerable yet vibrant, Temple Israel is not immune to the challenges facing most liberal Jewish institutions as identified by the recent Pew Study. In 2015, we remain a very large congregation, but smaller than we once were. The 2007 financial meltdown and ensuing economic crisis triggered a decline in membership that is beginning to reverse. While we remain vitally aware of our history and legacy, we must now address the specific challenges of a new era for all of American Judaism:

Diversity and Size. Our greatest strength also brings vulnerability. Significant diversity raises the challenge of forging a community of shared vision and purpose. Often, congregants can find their individual [cohorts](#) but do not feel that they are part of a larger community. Given its size, some congregants feel that they are not even able to find their cohort. Temple Israel has all the advantages and disadvantages of a large institution. We need to develop intimate portals of entry allowing members to feel part of the community based upon their own aspirations and needs.

Membership. Temple Israel has experienced a decline in membership from the years just before the financial crisis. This past year reflects a respectable increase from the



prior year, but we are still trying to recover lost ground. Millennials are inherently leery of institutional affiliation. At the same time, many empty-nesters abandoned their membership once their children left for college. We are not attracting as many young families to our religious school as we have in the past.

Finances. Membership dues at Temple Israel are graduated by age, starting with an introductory rate of \$72 for couples under 40, but climbing to \$3,250 and \$4,195 for 1-adult and 2 adult families, respectively. A significant number of congregants pay abated dues. Temple Israel's total budget is \$5 million, roughly supported 50% from dues, 20% from rental income derived from the adjacent parking lot, and 27% from endowment and annual fundraising. The Riverway Program is provided **free** to its participants. While free access certainly encourages programmatic participation, the financial model of the Riverway Project poses a significant challenge, particularly as participants age, marry, and have children. Eventually, a financial commitment must become part of community engagement, or alternative funding sources must be developed.

Each year, Temple Israel operates under a balanced budget. We are blessed by the foresight of our forebears who have provided us with an endowment of \$16 million. The pre-school budget is separate from the Temple Israel budget, and the pre-school has its own endowment.

Israel. Opinion about, and engagement with, Israel is sharply divided and contentious. There is no consensus. For years, Israel was the "third rail" at Temple Israel, avoided at all costs. However, a concerted three-year effort led by the Rabbinic team and volunteers has nurtured a more sophisticated and nuanced understanding of the complexities posed by Israel and has established an environment of mutual respect concerning the varied views and opinions held by our congregants.

II. THE POSITION

The Senior Rabbi of Temple Israel must have the competence and passion to assert leadership skills in a variety of different contexts: spiritual, educational, supervisory, and community (both within the Jewish community and Boston-at-large). There are multiple constituencies to which the Rabbi must respond.

Through Tent Talks, we have learned much about the hopes and aspirations of our members, including their expectations related to a future Senior Rabbi. Our discoveries are at once predictable and surprising. We anticipated and found a shared wish for a figure of great accomplishment and intellectual prowess, but we also found a profound human yearning for connection and community, for close and supportive relationships not only with clergy (though most certainly that), but also with other congregants. Robert Putnam's *Bowling Alone* was published fifteen years ago, but the reality he described then persists today.

If "relational" is an overused term, it nonetheless describes exactly the personal and deeply empathic quality our congregants seek in a rabbi, and in their community. Our new Senior Rabbi must embody that, and must model, foster, and encourage it within the clergy team and the community in a genuine and authentic manner. Our survey, interviews with key stakeholders,



and multiple congregational meetings have identified a number of essential roles for our Senior Rabbi:

- **Team Builder.** The Senior Rabbi must lead a clergy team, a professional staff, and engage lay leadership.
- **Pastoral Counselor.** The diversity of Temple Israel requires deft and mature pastoral and inter-personal skills across a broad demographic spectrum. Congregants crave a personal and intimate relationship with their rabbi consisting of warmth, authenticity, and empathy.
- **Teacher.** The congregation looks to its Senior Rabbi for intellectual rigor in his or her teaching, sermons, and writings.
- **Social Entrepreneur.** The challenges facing Temple Israel require bold vision and the skills necessary to effect potentially significant organizational and institutional changes.
- **Advocate for Social Justice and Community Builder.** The traditional prophetic vision of Reform Judaism and social action remains a central value of the congregation and commands a significant following of Temple Israel members. The Senior Rabbi of Temple Israel has been at the vanguard of the Reform Movement and a key leader of interfaith initiatives within the City of Boston.
- **Spiritual Guide.** Curiosity and competence around issues of Jewish spirituality are percolating throughout the Temple Israel community, and the yearning for a spiritual leader is gaining greater energy.

III. THE INDIVIDUAL

Candidates for the position of Senior Rabbi must apply for the position through the Rabbinic Placement Commission of the Reform movement. The candidate should either have served as the Senior Rabbi of a smaller congregation, as an Associate/Assistant Rabbi at a larger congregation, or have assumed a leadership position in a similar Jewish organization having developed significant experience with liturgical (life cycle events and holidays), programming innovation and implementation, and supervisory and administrative responsibilities.

The successful candidate for this position will present a career history that would enable the candidate to point to specific examples, including quantitative data, where appropriate, supporting the following:

- **Inspirational leadership and community building:** the ability to develop authentic and meaningful relationships with our diverse membership and inspire and engage with the Temple Israel community through spirituality, education, social justice, purely social, and activities not yet conceived.
- **A history of innovation and creativity in ritual practice:** the ability to address a deep yearning for spirituality in worship that motivates the engagement of many Temple Israel members.
- **Collaborative leadership of professional clergy peers:** the skills to respectfully motivate and support, and where necessary, mentor clergy colleagues. This includes the ability to allow others to flourish as they follow their own passions and the temperament not to be threatened or diminished by the success of others.



- **Distinguished scholarship with a love of teaching:** teaching and learning must be core passions of the candidate.
- **Social entrepreneurship and organizational innovation:** identifying challenges, formulating strategic solutions, developing stakeholder support and engagement, and implementation of visionary changes.
- **Strategic partnering for social justice:** the ability to work effectively within the Temple Israel community, the Boston Jewish and interfaith communities, and the Reform movement.

Given the challenges and complexities facing Temple Israel, the Congregation seeks a Senior Rabbi who aspires to the wisdom of Solomon, the realpolitik of David Ben Gurion, the scholarship of the Rambam, and the joyous celebratory expression of Miriam. **The success of those who have held this position in the recent past lies, in large part, with their strength of character in acknowledging that the future of Temple Israel lies not solely in the hands of a Senior Rabbi, but rather with a clergy team engaged with one another and with the congregation, all in common purpose.**

Consistent with our Reform forebears, at Temple Israel we recognize that American and Jewish culture continue to experience dynamic change, and we are looking for a Senior Rabbi with the insight and adaptability to harness this evolving energy in a way that strengthens Temple Israel and the experiences of our members. Baby boomers are transforming the aging process (and ancillary institutions) while millennials question the need for institutional affiliation, hierarchical structures, and allegiance to old conventions. Technology continues to shape and re-define our environments, and has even created a vast new form of relationships in the form of social networking.

The position of Senior Rabbi at Temple Israel affords an experienced professional an exceptional opportunity. The congregation looks forward to a Senior Rabbi who faces challenges with realism and creativity, and who can inspire colleagues and congregants to collaborate in creating a community of meaning and purpose consistent with the highest ideals of Reform Judaism.

This search is an open and national search for the best candidate who can lead Temple Israel into an exciting and dynamic future. All applicants will be treated on an equal basis with the appropriate dignity and confidentiality incumbent upon the search for a Senior Rabbi. We look forward to getting to know each applicant and sharing our history and aspirations in order to find the best Senior Rabbi for Temple Israel.





Temple Israel Rabbinic Search Committee

Calling upon a multitude of experiences, perspectives and accomplishments in the Temple Israel community and their respective personal and professional lives, the members of our Rabbinic Search Committee represent the diversity of the TI congregation at large during this vital process.

Dean Richlin, Committee Chair, and his wife, Pamela, and have been members of TI for 30 years. TI has played a centering role in their lives and the lives of their three children, now grown. Dean has participated in Temple governance in a variety of ways, including as the Temple President 10 years ago. Recently, he chaired the search committee that resulted in Dan Deutsch becoming the Temple's Executive Director. He is a partner with the law firm of Foley Hoag and participates as a board member of a number of civic and community organizations.

Susan Ebert has been a member of Temple Israel for more than 35 years and is a past and current member of the Board. She has worked with many TI committees, including Development, Public Relations, Caring Community and Education. Her three daughters celebrated their B'not Mitzvah in our beautiful sanctuary. Now retired, she was the founding director of the Boston Jewish Community Women's Fund at CJP.

Alison Freedman joined the Temple Israel community 10 years ago as part of the Riverway Project. She then began teaching at the TI Religious School where she taught Holocaust History to 7th graders. Alison's current involvement with the temple is primarily through Families with Young Children (FYC) through which her 2-year old daughter Talia and 6-month old son Zev are exploring their own Jewish identities. Alison is a corporate trainer and coach, specializing in executive presence, public speaking and other communication skills. She is also an adjunct professor at UMass Boston where she teaches writing and oral communication skills. Alison lives with her husband, Ezra, and two children in Roslindale.

Naomi Gordon and her husband, Mel (z'l), joined Temple Israel twelve years ago, interested in connecting with an activist, diverse synagogue community after many unaffiliated years. Naomi has been part of Temple Israel's Lifelong Learning Initiative (TILLI) since its inception and is currently the Core Committee's Chair. She enjoys Saturday morning Torah study as well as a range of adult learning programs. Since retiring from the Brookline Public Schools as a teacher and Curriculum Coordinator, she has taught and consulted at local colleges and was program administrator with Teachers as Scholars, a non-profit offering seminars to K-12 teachers led by university faculty.

Aaron Lapat, his wife, Lauren, and children, Sophie and Sammy, live in Jamaica Plain. Aaron and his family have been Temple Israel members since 2004. They were inspired to become so by their daughter Sophie's experience as a FJECC student in the Toddler Room. Sophie continued through Temple Israel religious school and became a Bat Mitzvah at the Temple in March of 2013. She now attends Monday Night School. Sammy followed his sister's path and is currently a sixth grader in the religious school and will become a Bar Mitzvah in October of 2015. Aaron is managing partner of Park Square Executive

Search, an executive search firm in Boston and San Francisco. He is on the board of Israel & Co, a not-for-profit that funds non-denominational MBA trips to Israel for students and their teachers. He also actively involved in the Boston headquartered not-for-profit The Center for Teen Empowerment, of which his wife, Lauren, is Board Chair.

Jill Medvedow has been a member of Temple Israel for 20 years. Married to Richard Kazis, their now grown children, Noah and Sophie, attended religious school and Monday Night School at the Temple. For the past year and a half, Jill has been a member of the Board of Trustees. Jill is the Ellen Matilda Poss Director of the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston.

Carol Michael was President of Temple Israel from 2007 to 2009. After moving to Brookline from New York in 1989, she and her late husband, Michael, and their children, Rachel and Joshua, joined Temple Israel in 1991. While finding a place for herself and her family at Temple Israel, she collaborated with the clergy and other congregants to create Heneinu – the caring community - where Carol led shivah minyans and instituted a daily minyan, among other mitzvot. She also worked on the intergenerational Women’s Kallah as part of a membership initiative and was one of the “4Tops,” co-chairs of Temple Israel’s Sesquicentennial Celebration.

Mitchell Shames, a lawyer, lives in Newton with his wife, Jane, and two sons, Will (22) and Nate (19). They have been members of Temple Israel since 1990 and both boys attended pre-school and religious school at the Temple. Previously, Mitchell served both on the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee of Temple Israel. Upon Rabbi Mehlman's announced retirement, Mitchell was a member of the last rabbinic search committee and chaired the transition committee for the commencement of Rabbi Friedman's appointment as Senior Rabbi. Currently, Mitchell is on the Board of Overseers of the NY Campus of Hebrew Union College and is Chairman of the Jewish Outreach Institute after serving a term as its President. Mitchell was also President of Hillel Council of Greater Boston, served on both the Board and Executive Committee of Combined Jewish Philanthropies, and was a member of the Young Leadership Cabinet of the UJA. In 1994, Mitchell received the Young Leadership Award from Combined Jewish Philanthropies.

Bram Shapiro has been a member of Temple Israel for more than 40 years, going back to his days attending the religious school. He became a Bar Mitzvah at TI and was confirmed here. He was a member of the RYFTI Board. More recently, Bram served on the Finance Committee and the Temple’s Board of Trustees. He also co-chaired the nominating committee and the Temple’s first annual Stepping Out fundraiser. Bram is a former Board member of The Rashi School and Jewish Vocational Service. He is also a graduate of CJP’s Acharai Leadership Program and has held a variety of roles within CJP. In his professional life, Bram practices law in the corporate and securities group at Mintz Levin. Bram’s two children are actively involved with the Temple, as is his wife, Jennifer. He is also a committed member of the Temple Israel softball team.

Judith Sydney was raised in Brookline and married into the Temple Israel community nearly two decades ago. Her father-in-law was the very first TI Bar Mitzvah nearly 73 years ago, and her wife, Aviva, has been one of the main shofar blowers at the holiday services for the past 40 years. Judith was a PTO co-chair for the FJECC, has worked with the Temple's Development Office on the Stepping Out committee member and on building a stronger culture of philanthropy within the school families. Outside TI, she has lately shifted her focus from her family's real estate management and development company to raising her sons, who both attend The Rashi School. She also serves as a member of the Jewish National Fund Executive Board, and The Families First Parenting Program Board, and is active with CJP Women's Philanthropy, The Rashi School and The Second Step.

Bea Wilderman is a current member of the Board of Trustees of American Jewish World Service (AJWS), the leading Jewish human rights and development organization working to realize human rights and end poverty in the developing world. Bea has been a member of Temple Israel for over eight years. She is a past President of the Board of Trustees of the Frances Jacobson Early Childhood Center (FJECC). Bea was a board member of TI for six years, where she served on the nominating, engagement and strategy committees and as co-chair of Stepping Out (the annual fundraising gala). Bea received her BA from Yale University and received her MBA from Stanford Graduate School of Business. Bea was also a Fulbright Scholar in London, where she worked as a research fellow with the British Communicable Disease Surveillance Center. Bea's family is very involved at TI. Her husband Sam is the pitcher of the championship winning TI softball team. Her sons, Nathan (age 9) and Jonas (age 6) are graduates of the FJECC, and are current students in the religious school.

Kathy Weinman is the current president of Temple Israel. She and her husband, Cam Kerry, joined Temple Israel when Cam converted to Judaism before they married 31 years ago and their young adult daughters, Jessica and Laura, were students in the religious school and participated in the youth choir. Kathy joined the Board of Trustees in 2005, became Vice President in 2011, and previously served as co-chair of the Temple Committee and a member of the Nominating Committee. She is a founding partner of the law firm of Collora LLP, a litigation boutique in Boston. During 2008-2009, Kathy was president of the Boston Bar Association and now serves on the United States District Court Criminal Justice Act Board and the Boston Bar Foundation's grants committee.

Chris Noe (Ex Officio Member) is the current Vice President of Temple Israel. He and his wife, Shari, joined the Temple in 2001 through their participation in the newly created Riverway Project young person outreach program. Chris served two terms as Treasurer beginning in 2010 before becoming Vice President in 2014. He had previously served on the Board of Trustees and as chair of the Strategic Planning Group. Chris is a professor at the MIT Sloan School of Management, where he teaches courses in financial accounting. When he is not at MIT or Temple, Chris spends much of his time driving his two sons, Benjamin and Jacob, to various hockey rinks around the state. Chris and his family live in South Brookline.