

Community outreach has continued to grow during this past year. We began the year with Mitzvah day. For those in the community who do not know what it takes to prepare for mitzvah day, it is truly a community wide effort. My wonderful directors, committee members and community of caring director are the anchors. With over 25 additional volunteers who assist during the day, this is an event has become one of the highest attended events at Temple Aliyah during the course of the year. With new attractions, such as the green corner, the blood mobile, bone marrow matching, opening and closing shofar blowing as well as much more, Mitzvah day was once again a major success with hundreds of congregants attending. Both on site and off site afternoon events were well attended by our community.

After Mitzvah day and the effort put in by the committee, it is a difficult task to get back on your feet and start planning again. The committee did so with great enthusiasm. The committee planned additional events such as our annual participation in the sova food bank which was attended by over 30 temple members, as well as our first participation in Big Sunday at the Calabasas creek clean up and participation in the annual walk for Darfur. One other special event which I am proud of, which our committee as a whole had very little to do with was an event which was planned and created by committee member Gabrielle Clayman. She hosted a well attended event which she labeled the social giving project. Her idea was to provide ECE parents who may not be involved in community outreach the opportunity to participate. She hosted an event with over 25 attendees. This was event she took upon herself and created, giving us all inspiration that the sky is the limit on the impact one can make at Temple Aliyah.

Jeff Bernhardt, our community of caring director, never missed a meeting, always gave input and effort for which the committee and myself are forever grateful. Not only does Jeff assist our committee during the course of the year, he tirelessly runs the community of caring committee. With this committee's efforts, our Temple reaches out of members of our community with illness or have had tragedy in their lives. With programs like "thinking of you bags", rides given to those that require transportation, interfaith dialogue and meals for those who cannot care for themselves; Jeff is always working in the background to make sure our congregants are never forgotten and well cared for. We should all be proud that he is a part of our community. Community outreach is a committee which is open to all. If you have an idea, a thought or would like to participate, it is a fulfilling way to be a part of our community and do good for others at the same time.

I would like to thank my directors on the committee, David Cohan, Sloane Sevrans, Rick Shumacher (our new men's club president☺) committee members, Gabrielle Clayman, Sheri Elbaum, Paula Rauchman, and Debbie Strom. Working with you all has inspired and shown me how much positive energy there is in our community.

I would like to thank Temple Aliyah for giving me the privilege of serving on the board and being a part of the incredible group of people I have had the opportunity to work with. May you all go from strength the strength.

Respectfully submitted, Jonathan Burstein EVP of community outreach