



# LIFE & LEGACY CASE STATEMENT

## Temple Beth Shalom: Joyful, Personal, Accessible

Temple Beth Shalom (TBS) is a community of all ages, with diverse backgrounds, and a wide range of interests and passions. What we have in common is a deep commitment to promoting an inclusive and responsive connection to Judaism that is actively Joyful, intentionally Personal, and Accessible to all who wish to join us.

**Joyful.** Whether we are virtual or in-person, TBS is a place of joyful connection. Joy is a message that sustains us and helps guide us through the everyday adventures of life. Our services are unique and inspiring, featuring toe-tapping musical performances and insightful speakers. TBS' dynamic Kehillat Torah Religious School provides a lasting foundation of Jewish life for over 250 students, fostering strong peer bonds and friendships that last a lifetime.



**Personal.** At TBS, Personal is a verb. We find God and godliness in our connections to one another: In every meal brought to someone recovering from an illness, in every laugh around a Shabbat dinner table. Many arrivals to Columbus quickly find that TBS is the perfect place to call their new Jewish home.

**Accessible.** We are guided by the holy standard from the Book of Isaiah, "My house shall be a house of prayer for ALL people." TBS is a Jewish home to anyone who is searching, however they may be searching. We welcome those who are "twice blessed" in the LGBTQ community; those from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds; interfaith households; those who are Shabbat and program regulars; and, those who might occasionally participate. People of all faiths—or no faith—are always encouraged to come celebrate with TBS.



The values of Joyful, Personal, and Accessible have never been more important. During COVID-19, TBS was the first synagogue in Columbus to offer a Drive-In Shabbat, and the Temple staff worked tirelessly to provide innovative, daily virtual programming. As we move forward as a world and society, your legacy gift will ensure that all who seek a warm and inclusive Jewish home will have one for generations to come.



## Rabbi Benjy Bar-Lev



As we approach the congregation's 44th anniversary later this Fall, we continue to celebrate the values that have made Temple Beth Shalom a warm and inclusive place since the beginning. We celebrate the joy in Jewish tradition. We support one another and care for each other. Together we enable the wisdom, humanity, and beauty of Judaism to be accessible to anyone who is seeking. When our founding families launched this improbable congregation all those years ago, they worked not only for themselves, but for future generations. They built the foundation for a congregation that would flourish and serve the Jewish community for many years to come. And now it is our turn to become a link in this holy chain, to ensure that this special congregation, Temple Beth Shalom, will be here for many more generations, L'dor Vador.

## Rabbi Lenette Herzog



The liturgy and rituals throughout the High Holy Days remind us that even though we never know how much time we have on this earth, we can imbue each day with meaning, love and value, so that we may leave our community and our world a better place than when we found it. This time of year presents an opportunity to consider long-lasting legacies and impacts we can leave behind. Even though I hope that, God willing, I have many more years ahead of me, committing to the Life and Legacy program is personally meaningful. I can help to ensure that Temple Beth Shalom - this joyful, inclusive community that has given me so much - continues to live on long after me.

## Rabbi Howard Apothaker



Insuring the Future through Life and Legacy, for me, reflects this story from the Talmud: A journeying mystic in the first century BCE saw a man planting a carob tree. He asked, "How long does it take for this tree to bear fruit?" The man: "70 years." Honi: "Are you certain that you will live another 70 years?" The man: "I found [already grown] carob trees in the world; as my ancestors planted those for me, so I too plant these for my children."