

On June 30, 2024, our fiscal year 2023-2024 closes. This year Temple Isaiah has endured heartbreak and challenges but also has seen remarkable programs and responses to our individual and collective grief. Just three months into this fiscal year, our world changed on October 7, 2023, when Hamas terrorists savagely murdered more than 1200 Israelis and kidnapped more than 240, keeping them hostage in Gaza. In terms of the sheer loss of life and the continuing trauma, it was the worst day in Jewish history since the Shoah. The months following the attack have shown a huge increase globally and locally in antisemitic incidents: In Los Angeles, the Anti-Defamation League recorded 503 incidents in 2023, a marked 112 percent increase from 2022's 237 incidents.

As the war and antisemitism continued, I witnessed firsthand how the Temple Isaiah community of clergy, staff, lay leadership, and congregants have come together to ensure the safety of all and created opportunities for prayer, learning, discussion, and community-building. A few examples that illustrate our standing with the people of Israel and our support of this amazing congregation include:

- Member donations of \$120,000 for our increased numbers of armed guards to protect those who are present at any time on our campus,
- Weekly 5-6 pm pre-Shabbat service conversations about Israel with increased attendance led by Rabbi Klein Miles,
- Age-appropriate new programming around Israel for our religious school students and parents,
- Two clergy-led Israel Solidarity Missions in March and June of 2024,
- Interfaith events that build bridges with leaders from other faiths,
- Support of our college students on their campuses,
- Multiple programs to mark Yom HaAtzmaut,
- Kulanu (Synagogues in Action Against Antisemitism) events
- Social Justice events, such as emailing congress to urge action to support hostages and negotiate their release and letter-writing campaigns.

During the forty years that our family has belonged to Temple Isaiah, we have always referred to temple as “family” and more recently #BeingIsaian as the community thread that binds us together. In this most difficult of times, Temple Isaiah has truly functioned as a compassionate, connected family. We continue to embrace all generations with an abundant panorama of spiritual, social justice, community-building, and educational offerings. What we saw on our March Solidarity Mission to Israel, courage and resilience motivated by hope, will guide us as we carry out our projects and programs for 2024-2025 that are highlighted in the Executive Committee reports that follow.

I am so appreciative of the work done by the Executive Committee, four of whom are serving for the first time, and the Board of Trustees as we navigated some uncharted waters this year. Likewise, I am grateful to all of you who have volunteered time on committees and given back to our Isaiah Community in so many ways.