

The  
**Circle of Leadership**  
2015

**Maurice Axelrad**

**Anne Feinberg**

**Mike Gurevich**

**Lynn Kanowitz**

**Marilyn Ripin**

**Earl Simons**

**Pamela Wilcox**





# The Circle of Leadership 2015

## Maurice Axelrad

When Maurice Axelrad retired in 1996, he became involved in community service. His volunteer service took the form of many Temple Shalom leadership positions, and somehow each spanned four years: four years as Financial Secretary, four years as a Vice-President and then four years as Brotherhood President. He is particularly pleased that during his time in Brotherhood leadership, membership and participation increased. He introduced such programs as the popular Hal Bruno Memorial Brunch and brought back the Brotherhood Lifetime Achievement Award. However, he claims that his “smartest move” in leadership was convincing Peter Wolk to succeed him as Brotherhood President. In between these various leadership positions, Maurice has been an innovator of programs. As one of the Renaissance Group founders, he served for many years (beyond four) on its Steering Committee. He also served on the Financial Secretaries Committee, and today continues to be active on both the Finance and Membership Committees. Most recently he initiated News & Views, an innovative monthly current events discussion group at Temple Shalom.



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## Anne Feinberg

Anne Feinberg has been involved in the Temple from the very first year she joined in 1985. She served on the Religious Education Committee that year, becoming Chair the following year, and has chaired two search committees for the Director of Education. She also has worked in supporting Temple Shalom's various educational programs. Anne has been a madricha for B'nai Mitzvah students for 26 years, the Family Educator for three years, and now leads Shabbat morning Torah study once a month. Over the years, she also has facilitated three leadership training programs and innovated several long-running interfaith family programs. Thanks to her accounting background, she served on the capital campaign and tracked change orders and costs for both the downstairs addition and the renovation of the Sanctuary. Anne is also well known for her many presentations on financial matters to the Temple Shalom Board of Trustees. She served on the Board for 18 years and was President from 1998 to 2000. During her term, Anne established the Capital Projects Fund and budget, and the Fund for Torat Shalom.



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## Mike Gurevich

Mike Gurevich and his wife, Linda, joined Temple Shalom a little over 20 years ago, when it was time for their oldest daughter to attend Rachel Robinson's 3rd grade religious school class. At some point after they joined (and Mike is not quite sure when because it was so long ago), he began helping on the House and Grounds Committee with Carl Tretter and Steve Eisen z'l. He never left this committee and continues to co-chair the group's work. He has been involved in projects ranging from roofs to fences, boilers to bulbs, and many things in between. Each year on Mitzvah Day, he leads many volunteer activities such as painting, weeding, cleaning up the playground, and more.

Last year, he helped the youth group design and build a very special place behind the Temple Shalom building to play Gaga (Israeli dodge ball). Mike explains, "Helping the Temple Shalom community has been extremely gratifying, and anyone who is interested in cleaning the roof or pulling weeds should bring their gloves next Mitzvah Day!"



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## Lynn Kanowith

Lynn Kanowith has been a member for 43 years, raising two sons at Temple Shalom through Bar Mitzvah and Confirmation. Many people know Lynn's work as President of the Renaissance Group, which provides members with the opportunity to explore local sites of cultural and historical interest. Many of our Temple Shalom families know Lynn over the last four years as Financial Secretary, welcoming new families and helping existing members with questions about their dues. In addition to his work as an officer, Lynn has been active on many committees, including the Financial Futures Taskforce and the Financial Secretaries Committee, and he continues to take an active role in Brotherhood planning and scheduling. Lynn was an integral part of the reshaping of our yearly dues pledges, and helped develop our recent Gift of Membership Program. But what many people might not know is that decades ago, Lynn was involved in the Social Action Committee (as it was known then) and helped build "B'nai Mitzvah Twinning." This enabled our Temple Shalom students to share their B'nai Mitzvah with Soviet Jews who were not allowed to have ceremonies of their own.



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## Marilyn Ripin

Marilyn Ripin has held no fewer than seven leadership positions and served on or chaired no fewer than eight committees. Her endless energy for volunteer leadership includes her time as Secretary, Executive Vice-President and then President of the Board of Trustees. In addition to her many years on the Temple Shalom Board, Marilyn spent 13 years as a madricha, helping B'nai Mitzvah students to explore and write their D'var Torah speeches. She is also a Shiva Service Leader, having performed the mitzvah of leading in-home Shiva services for more years than she can remember. She was also B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator years ago when coordinators had to do everything, even tape the service on an "old reel-to-reel machine in the attic!" Most recently Marilyn led the committee that proposed our congregation's dues restructuring. Today, she continues to serve on such committees as the Worship Committee, the Capital Budget Committee, and the Bylaws Taskforce.



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## Earl Simons

Earl Simons joined Temple Shalom almost 50 years ago and has given so much to educate our children. He was a 7th grade teacher in the Religious School from 1968 until 1986. During this time, he developed a 7th grade retreat program that serves as a national model and is still part of the Temple's 7th grade curriculum. For this program, Earl was honored by the Delores Kohl Education Foundation as an "Outstanding Educator" in 1982. His work with young people continued as Chair of the Youth Committee from 1974-1978. During these four years, he worked with the Temple's Executive Committee to develop and fund a teen program for study in Israel. Later, Earl served on the Board of Trustees as Financial Secretary from 2003 to 2006. And from 2011 to 2014, he was Chair of the Special Purpose Funds, working with the Temple's staff and committee chairs to fund a variety of programs and special training activities. Today Earl is the Temple Shalom Religious School liaison to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. He plans and coordinates docent-led tours of the Museum's permanent exhibition for 7th grade students and parents.



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## Pamela Wilcox

Pamela Wilcox is one of our newest members to be honored in the Circle of Leadership. Almost three years ago, she literally wandered into a Shabbat summer service and, as Pamela explains, “just fell in love with the diversity and love Shalom is known for.” In Pamela’s short time with the congregation, she has been the 1st grade Sunday school teacher since 2012. She is in her second year of youth group advising, responsible for increasing our student ruach (spirit) and participation. She is in her first year as Beit Din Chief Justice, helping our Sunday morning students understand social justice issues. And this year she started teaching Tuesday Hebrew School. And when she is not spending increasing amounts of time with our students from 1st to 12th grade, she is active in community-supported agriculture. As a Ruth Fellow for Jews United for Justice, in 2013 she developed a sliding-scale program to support the local community with healthful produce at fair prices and paid local farmers for their goods.



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