

MEET OUR BOARD!

PRO TEM CHAIR: Rabbi ElizaBeth Beyer is the founding rabbi of Temple Beth Or of Reno, Nevada. It is dedicated to being a spiritually engaging shul with an emphasis on "experiencing G-d" through Jewish texts and practice. We strive to truly make everyone feel welcome. She is a registered nurse who mostly worked in intensive care and attorney who practiced health care law in private practice.

She taught health care ethics at the University of Nevada, Reno and was the past chair in the Nevada Center of Ethics & Health Policy at the University of Nevada, Reno. In 2006, Rabbi Beyer was ordained by the Academy for Jewish Religion in LA, CA. She received a Master's Degree in Jewish Studies from Spertus College in Chicago and a Master's Degree in Psychiatric Nursing from University of Maryland. She is married to Dr. Tom Beyer, DC, a chiropractor.

SECRETARY: Diane Black was born in the City of Lights but arrived in the Truckee Meadows when she was five years old. Having lived here the majority of her life she calls it home. Bachelor Degree in Social Work that she obtained as a nontraditional student in 1998, she has just recently liquidated her bookstore and is looking for the next step in life. A lifelong passion has been exploring man's place in the imaginal world. Imagine her surprise as she began learning the Kabbalah and discovered the rich traditions in Jewish Mysticism.

TREASURER: Barbara Ries was born and raised in Philadelphia, PA, and moved to the west coast when she was 18 to attend school. Her major at college was graphic design, but she always loved math, and her first job while in school was as a bookkeeper. She found that she had a talent for it, and kept working in the field while attending college. It became clear that this was the place to create her career.

Barbara has two teenage children, son Benjamin and daughter Natalie from her first marriage. Barbara recently married Steven, who has three small children of his own, making a noisy, warm, blended family.

Barbara has a passion for music, both singing and playing the guitar. She is involved in a couple of local rock bands, and also attends open mic jam nights when she is able. In addition, she works with Rabbi Beyer on the music for the Healing Services, and will be singing and playing with the Rabbi at the upcoming High Holiday Services.

Barbara is excited about the new Temple Beth Or, and looks forward to finding a Jewish community and family that she can work with, learn with, and serve as best she can.

MEMBERSHIP:

Susannah Skyer Gupta was born and raised in suburban Chicago, unaffiliated growing up, then briefly part of USY, a regular at Hillel, and a resident of University of Illinois

at Urbana-Champaign's "the Bayit" Jewish housing cooperative. Graduating with a BS, a MA, and a soon-to-be Mrs., she and her future husband, Vipin Gupta, moved to London, where he studied applied physics and she worked as a software technical writer.

Returning to the US, they resided in downtown San José, where they were proud to be part of that vibrant city's urban renewal. Congregation Shir Hadash in Los Gatos, under the inspiring leadership of Rabbi Melanie Aron, was their Jewish home during their years in the South San Francisco Bay. Although her children, Ari (now 14) and Maya (now 11), were tiny at the time, this is where Susannah began actively volunteering in congregational life, serving on Shir Hadash's adult education committee, as well as studying Hebrew with Vipin, and enjoying the Israeli-led Mommy-and-Me preschool program at San José's Congregation Sinai.

The Guptas' Jewish connection developed further after their move to the small Southern New Mexico city of Las Cruces ("the crossroads"). They were delighted to find a warm, welcoming community in Cruces's Temple Beth-El (led by now-emeritus Rabbi Gerald M. Kane, a rabbi whom we're convinced really does know everyone and is happy to make introductions). All four Guptas were deeply involved in Temple Beth-El. Susannah's involvement over the years included chairing the membership committee, chairing the religious school committee, leading the religious school, and serving on the Board of Trustees. Ari celebrated his bar mitzvah at Temple Beth-El on Shabbat Sukkot 5770, an event for which he was privileged to study with Rabbi Paul Citrin, the congregation's current spiritual leader.

In August of last year, the Guptas relocated to Reno, bringing them closer to Vipin's family and enabling the children to pursue better educational opportunities. They are members of both Temple Sinai and Temple Beth-Or. In her work on the Temple Beth-Or board, Susannah hopes to support Rabbi ElizaBeth Beyer to continue to provide Northern Nevada with a warmly welcoming, accepting, *ruach*-laden community where Jews of all ages can connect to a path of lifelong learning.

OMBUDSMAN: Don Kurzman was born and raised in NYC. He attended Rabbi Jacob Joseph Yeshiva thru elementary and high school. He attended City College of New York and graduated with a BEE in Electrical Engineering. For most of his career, he worked in microelectronics which were primarily used in spacecraft. Don came to Reno in 2000 and after consulting for 2 years, he settled into retirement. Don is also a Master Gardener. He and his wife Marilyn have been involved in the Jewish community in various capacities.

MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Dr. Tom Beyer, DC is a Reno chiropractor. He is also the hubbitzin (a play on the word rebbitzin which is used to describe women who are married to rabbis). Dr. Beyer has been married to the Rabbi for over 20 years. He takes his job as hubbitzin seriously - and is often found getting food out, or packed up after the dairy oneg after our Friday evening Shabbat services. What you don't see are the hours he works on TBOR projects. That includes all the hours of cleaning and

preparation time before services and after services. He previously worked as a marine engineer transporting liquid natural gas between Indonesia and Japan. Fishing, mountain biking and cross country skiing are his favorite hobbies.

MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Richard Mermin retired in Carson City with his wife Nurit after having lived in Berkeley California. Myer Bat Nechama, April 1988; Miriam Bat Rina, November 1986. He is a musician who plays the clarinet and alto sax. Reb Richard tells stories of his rich musical history playing for Jewish weddings and other simchas. He has a close association with Rabbi Zalman Schacter Shalomi and Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach. Most importantly Reb Richard has a passionate love for Hashem, Torah, and acknowledging sacred blessings with a joyous "Amen." He has become a beacon for Jewish presence in Carson City where he resides and is active in creating strong unity in the community.