

I've long struggled with the concept of "Continuity" in the Jewish context. Too often, it's used as shorthand for "don't marry a non-Jew," which as the daughter of a committed, but later in life convert was alienating for me. But the power of being a fourth generation member of a community that has thrived for 100 years because of the strength of its members is inspiring to me, and has helped me reclaim how important that continuity is for me.

Two Temple experiences have been especially meaningful for me in this regard. The first was leading the TBI youth group with my husband Jordan as a young adult just a few years out of college. I had been a proud BISTY leader in high school, and cemented some of my strongest friendships through my involvement – two of my Temple friends were even bridesmaids at my wedding. But getting to know and support a new generation of young people at such a pivotal time in both their Jewish and secular lifewas incredibly rewarding. I loved facilitating Temple as a home base for engagement with the hard questions around Judaism and life, as well as exposing the kids to things that I love, like Zoo Lights, hiking in Starved Rock, and even Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind – even if it was a little more risqué than I remembered. Still, I'm proud that we helped create the kind of environment that forges deep bonds with the Temple community and beyond.

The second, more recent experience is my new role as Membership recruitment chair. This is not a Temple role I was looking for, nor is it one I'm particularly comfortable in – the "sales" aspect of the role is hard for me. But I'm proud to be a part of insuring the strength of our community for the next 100 years, and helping others find a Jewish home here. I hope as I speak to potential members I'm able to impart the power of being part of a diverse and thriving Jewish community that works together to support its members and create a home for the next generation and beyond.

Shabbat Shalom