

**Temple Ahavat Shalom
Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2017**

“The community is too heavy for one person to carry.” – Pirke Avot

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Temple Ahavat Shalom was held at Temple Ahavat Shalom, located at 18200 Rinaldi Place, Northridge, California, on February 15, 2017 at 7:15 p.m.

ATTENDEES: Pam Kramer, Dave Breuer, Stephen Hyam, Jennifer Bennett, Igor Mikhaylov, Jeremy Minsky, Ellen Pollack, Jill McAnear, Karen Goldman, Tyree Wieder, Jackie Zev, Jerry Hilecher, Diane Levine, Debbie Weiss, Frank Soronow, Michael Rabin, Debby Lieber, Dori Hoffman, Mike Doner, Barry Krowne, Fran Krimston, Barb Gelb, Aaron Solomon, Cantor Cohen, and Rabbi Lutz.

Additional Attendees: Rebecca Denny (TASTY President)

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m.

The D'var Torah was given by Dave Breuer.

Corrections were made to January 2017 Meeting Minutes. Dorothy Hoffman motioned to approve January minutes. Karen Goldman seconded. The January minutes were approved.

TASTY Report – Rebecca Denny

A scavenger hunt at City Walk took place on Saturday, February 11, 2017. TASTY held a fundraiser at Menchies where 20% of the funds went to TASTY. TASTY has scheduled a retreat for March 2017 at Camp Alonim. TASTY is having a car wash fundraiser, a portion of the proceeds from which will be donated to Children's Hospital.

President's Report – Fran Krimston

On Sunday, February 12, 2017, TAS, in connection with HIAS, held a rally to discuss refugees. Fran expressed appreciation and thanks to the TAS Social Action team, Ben Tenn and Judy Stehr, Aaron Solomon, Barb Gelb, and the TAS staff for their help. She also thanked Cantor Ken for participating in the event and Rabbi Lutz for his recorded message, as he was attending a congregant-related event that could not be rescheduled. Fran thanked Igor Mikhaylov for sharing his personal story.

Fran provided a lunch for all the staff on February 14, 2017 to show appreciation for their hard work.

Fran reminded everyone that, as we make our way through these politically turbulent times, we need to be sympathetic and lend a listening ear.

Fran discussed the need for a Nominating Committee to be created for Board positions for 2017-2018. **Debby Lieber moved to approve Ava Silver as chair of nominating**

committee with Jill McAnear and Karen Schnee as members on the committee. Tyree Wieder seconded. The motion was approved.

Rabbi's Report

Rabbi Lutz thanked Fran for providing lunch for the staff.

Rabbi Lutz discussed the Social Action Committee's recent activities, reviewing some of Judy Stehr's list of activities in which Social Action is involved:

- MEND is having Project Glamour, which collects prom dresses for those who cannot afford dresses. They have a whole day helping young women with makeup and hair.
- On February 5, 2017, the committee held a Bags of Hope event. This event was inspired by Sally Vogel, who thought of the idea to create bags that could be kept in cars and given to the homeless people in need of help.
- They are creating a Social Justice team. They are having individual conversations with those interested in participating. There is a meeting on March 1, 2017. Social Action addresses the symptom. Social Justice finds a cure for the disease. Social Justice is more difficult.

Rabbi Lutz reported that he has received a couple of emails wondering why we (the Temple) are "siding with his preference of politics". Rabbi Lutz has addressed these inquiries by explaining that his beliefs are based on Jewish values from teachings in the Torah. "My politics are Torah." Rabbi Lutz reminded those in attendance that the Torah states 36 times to "Welcome the stranger".

Addressing the HIAS event, Ben Tenn emailed Rabbi Lutz requesting that we do something to address the refugee situation, so Rabbi Lutz informed him about HIAS. Ben organized the event in 5 days. All of this has to do with *empathy*. We need to remember that we were the ones freed from Egypt and we need to empathize with those who are in the situation we were in.

Cantor's Report

Cantor Cohen discussed the inspiring music they have been sharing. At the Cantor's Concert, February 4, 2017, 325 people attended. Cantor Cohen is working to create more inspiring programs that will create the same kind of energy from the night of the Cantor's Concert.

It is Jewish Music season, so the next month will highlight Jewish music. On Friday, February 17 all the choirs will be singing at the Early Erev Shabbat service. On March 10, 2017, the adult choir is pairing up with teen choir for an Erev Shabbat service that hopes to bridge the generations. Cantor Cohen is working with Laraine Miller for the April 6, 2017 Sisterhood Women's Seder.

Cantor Ken is meeting with new B'nai Mitzvah families.

Cantor Ken is working with Cantor Friedman from TRZ on the programming for Purim.

The Men of Reform Judaism Man of the Year dinner will be here at TAS. Cantor Ken is working with Brian Hatkoff to plan a havdalah service.

Cantor's Concert – Aaron Solomon

The event satisfied the expectations for the budget. Ticket sales were \$11,973. Expenses were \$8,696, included printing, promotion, and dessert reception. The event netted \$3,277.

Financial Report – Mike Doner

Mike reviewed the financial statements for the period ending January 31, 2017.

Director of Religious School Search Update – Barb Gelb

The Association of Reform Jewish Educators (ARJE) commented on our positing for a Director of Lifelong Learning. We are now considering proceeding with a Religious School Director. Since the Religious School Director is a different type of position, we may be able to post on more websites in addition to the ARJE website. The goal is to have the appropriate candidate fill the position by July 1, 2017.

Havurah Report – Debby Lieber

Carol Bizar-Morton and Carol Stern are trying to rejuvenate the havurah program. They held a well-attended get together to encourage forming new havuraot.

Marketing/Menorah Proposal – Debby Lieber

The proposal was made that, starting July 1, 2017, the Menorah should be published quarterly and presented in a more streamlined format. We publish a Menorah every month, which is sent to 1,300 individual email addresses. Statistic reveal that about 300 people click on the email to get to the Menorah and only 150 people click on the link to read the Menorah. A lot of the content is already in the Weekly E-news. It is a lot of work to publish the Menorah on a monthly basis. Further discussion is needed.

Just Say Shalom Committee

A sub-committee of Membership, the Just Say Shalom Committee is intended to develop ways to keep members involved and to get our new members involved. Todd Reznik will chair the committee.

Purim Carnival Update – Mike Doner

A joint carnival with Temple Ramat Zion, at their facility, will be held March 12, 2017 beginning at 10:45 a.m. The theme is Dr. Seuss.

Religious School Update – Barb Gelb

The Religious School will be pairing one of the graduating seniors with a Board member as a way to provide another form of support system for the young adults.

Bylaws Committee Review – Jeremy Minsky, Karen Goldman

The committee has finalized Articles 4 and 5. Two-and-a-half pages have been eliminated during the rewriting process. The committee would like the final product to be clear, without ambiguous or conflicting provisions, and not redundant. Heidi Lauer has joined the committee and has been a great help. The next meeting is March 2, 2017. The committee hopes to have one more meeting.

Sisterhood – Jackie Zev

February's meeting will be held Thursday, February 16, 2017. Phyllis Bass will give a presentation about Ellis Island. February 25, 2017 is Bingotini. Flyers for the Sisterhood Seder have been sent out.

Men of TAS – Frank Soronow

A "Dining Does Good" fundraiser will take place on Monday, February 20, 2017 at Marie Callender's. The MRJ Dinner will be at TAS on Saturday, March 5, 2017. The TAS Golf Tournament will take place at Sunset Hills in Thousand Oaks.

New Business

The invitations for the March 26, 2017 ECEC Luncheon are going out. General tickets are \$55.

Ellen Pollack motioned to adjourn meeting to Executive Session. Michael Rabin seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m. and the Board entered Executive Session.

Minutes scribed by Leanne Lansang.

Respectfully submitted by Stephen Hyam,
Board Secretary