

PENINSULA TEMPLE SHOLOM

Annual Meeting Minutes June 4, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Lauren Schlezinger at 9:30am.

Welcome	
Opening Remarks	Lauren Schlezinger, Board President
Lauren welcomed congregants, acknowledged clergy, lay leaders (past and present) and administrative staff. Lauren underscored the importance of our core values, including commitment to community demonstrated by attendees and expressed gratitude for the sacred partnership we enjoy with our clergy.	
D'var Torah	Rabbi Lisa Delson
Reflections	
Approve 2016 minutes	Heidi Schell, Board Secretary
Heidi moved to approve the 2016 Annual Meeting minutes. Marc Engel seconded. Motion passed.	
Senior Rabbi's Remarks	Rabbi Dan Feder
<p>One of our core values, Commitment to Community is found in Torah. The way we engage each other to build something holy. Takes entire community to create meaningful relationships and sense of belonging.</p> <p>Highights from past year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panim-el-Panim – teen and young adult mental health initiative; multi-faith Day of Learning • First ever congregational retreat at Camp Newman with Dan Nichols • Rosh Chodesh group for teen girls • Muslim-Jewish dialogue – PTS is founding sponsor of new community-wide Muslim-Jewish partnership • Revived Social Action committee – spring Hunger Awareness project • Thriving preschool community operating at full capacity, engaging Jewish and non-Jewish parents • Bambi Feinberg – 3rd year as Jewish Resource Specialist • Family Shabbat Services in Klein Spiritual Center – 45 minute interactive, musical experience for families with young children • Main Shabbat Services – featuring opportunity to share words about loved ones for whom they are saying Kaddish • Lifelong Learning: 5 different areas of study – Sacred Texts, Judaism in Modern World, Judaism 101, Spirituality, Cultural Arts; next year focusing on learning through music 	
Panel Discussion—Living PTS Values	Marc Engel, Trustee

	Rabbi Lisa Delson Rabbi Molly Plotnik, Director of Education Karen Wisialowski, Chief Community Officer
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Marc pointed out the work that was done a couple years ago to create PTS' Core Values, Vision and Mission that reflect who we are as a community. Marc moderated a discussion.

How are we living our Core Values?

Rabbi Molly: Embracing Change – embracing what works and not being afraid to innovate and try new things. This year made structural changes to programs and have tried new events, etc. Look at embracing change relevant to the other four values. For example, in doing our first retreat – did it help create community? YES! Change in Hebrew groups – now doing Hebrew instruction in smaller pods either at PTS or in people’s homes. Continually evaluating such as did it build connections? Are we being inclusive?

Karen Wisialowski: Value of Human Connection – Hineinu – software relationship building tool that enables clergy to monitor, share information about and conduct and personalize pastoral care. Also enables us to mobilize our Caring Community volunteers to help congregants in need. New Members: get multiple points of outreach (Karen, Board, Sholom Women, Preschool or Religious School if relevant, buddy, etc.)

Rabbi Delson: Commitment to Community – have built a strong Caring Community (thanks to Linda Korth and team) that is able to foster care in our community including sending a note, bringing a meal, providing a ride to services or appointments, etc. Playdates in the Park for PTS member Preschool families to help engage them in the broader PTS community. Newly invigorated Social Action Committee – thank you Arlene Rosenberg, our new SA Chair, and Nathaniel Bergson-Michelson)

Are there some values that have been harder to put into action?

Rabbi Delson: Human Connection – easy to send an email to 40 people to come to an event but more time consuming to reach out individually to people to connect, meet for coffee, find out what energizes them and if they would like to engage in our community.

Karen: Inclusivity can be hard – can mean different things for different people e.g., creating gender neutral bathrooms or how we talk to one another.

Rabbi Molly: Commitment to Community – focused a lot on Sunday morning programming to create connections among the kids. Encouraging opportunities to build connections among the families and kids beyond the classroom.

What has changed since we adopted the values?

Karen: values have evolved. She keeps them visible in her office and uses them as an anchor and a guide when

talking to congregants, engaging in her work, etc.

Any particular focus for the coming year in terms of our values?

Karen: Human Connection – have had a lot of conversation about how we make human connection central to everything that we do and not its own separate thing.

Our Financial Future	
2017/18 Budget	Adam Steinberger, Treasurer
<p>Adam reported that the state of the synagogue is strong. Board approved a balanced budget for FY 2017-18 in line with our Vision, Mission and Values. Adam reviewed the robust annual budget process. Adam acknowledged and thanked the members of the Finance Committee: former Treasurer David Silberman, Maria Yarmolinsky, Gary Fishtrom, Jeff Savitz, David Monasch, Matt Mintz and Roger Lazarus as well as Karen and Shari who are heavily involved in the Committee. Largest expenses are salary and facilities related. Mortgage payment is currently \$103K per year. Costs of living and health care costs continue to rise. We are not passive in dealing with these costs. Karen and team have actively looked at cost saving opportunities from how we use contractors to more effective use of technology. Have reduced costs by tens of thousands of dollars. Completed and updated facilities reserve study to help plan for ongoing maintenance. We will contribute \$150K to this reserve in FY 2018 and expect to contribute a slightly increased amount in each future year to pay for anticipated costs. Adam gratefully acknowledged Gary Fishtrom for his time and expertise. FY 2018 – approximately \$4M in costs. Preschool tuition and membership commitment are primary revenue sources. Preschool is full (180 students), summer camp was extended by 2 weeks (from 8-10 weeks), after care now provided until 6pm, etc. Also planning for long-term financial health of PTS. Betsy Rosen is leading long-term financial sustainability effort. A fundamental piece of this is the Financial Freedom campaign. Thanks to the 60-50-10 gala and targeted pledges from 13 families, we will be able to retire more than half of our current \$1.1M mortgage. You will be hearing more about the broader campaign to ensure our long-term financial health and how you can be a part of this effort.</p>	
Awards	
Trustee of the Year Arlene Rosenberg	Lauren Schlezinger
Volunteer of the Year Mary Lesser	Linda Korth, Caring Community Chair and Past Trustee
Ner Tamid: Lifetime of Excellence Sandy Oberstein	David Monasch, Past President

Transitions	
Remembering Congregants	Rabbi Dan Feder
Rabbi Feder remembered those who have died since our last annual meeting.	
Acknowledgment of Retiring Trustees Marc Engel and David Silberman	Lauren Schlezinger
Lauren acknowledged and thanked Marc and David for their service on the PTS Board of Trustees.	
Introduction of New Trustees and Approve Slate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Trustees nominated for an additional two-year term <i>Scott Haber, Jonathan Herstein, Jeffrey Lerner, Sharon Silverman</i> • Appointed Trustee nominated for a two-year term <i>Julie Feuchtwang</i> • New Trustees nominated for a two-year term <i>Jenna Fisher and Andrew Oliff</i> 	April Glatt, Nominating Committee Chair and Immediate Past President
<p>April made the following motions:</p> <p>Motion made to approve the following current trustees for an additional two-year term: Scott Haber (2nd 2-year term), Jonathan Herstein (2nd 2-year term), Jeffrey Lerner (2nd 2-year term), Sharon Silverman (4th 2-year term); Lois Fried seconded, motion passed.</p> <p>Motion made to approve appointed trustee Julie Feuchtwang for a two-year term (1st 2-year term) – Lauren Schlezinger seconded, motion passed.</p> <p>Motion made to nominate new trustees Jenna Fisher and Andrew Oliff – (1st 2-year term) – Sharon Silverman, seconded, motion passed.</p>	
Special Announcement	Lauren Schlezinger
<p>Lauren shared that Cantor Barry recently decided to retire as Cantor of PTS as of June 30, 2018 and transition to role of Cantor Emeritus. Lauren acknowledged that this will be a big change for PTS, recognizing the depth of the relationship our PTS community has with Cantor. Clergy, senior staff and lay leaders are committed to ensuring a smooth and orderly transition. Music is always a vital part of PTS. This is an amazing opportunity to celebrate and honor Cantor Barry over the next year. Save the date for a special Gala on May 5, 2018. We will be sharing updates as plans take shape.</p> <p>Cantor Barry shared some remarks and reflections: this is his 50th year at PTS. He has dreamt of reaching this moment and of having more time with and for family. He will continue to serve PTS as Cantor Emeritus</p>	

beginning July 1, 2018. Cantor expressed deep gratitude to the PTS community for its support and love.	
Congregational Questions and Comments	
<p>Sandy Monasch reflected on the years in the volunteer choir with Cantor Barry. Shared that many children benefited from learning and planning their b'nai mitzvahs with Cantor Barry and acknowledged him for the support and guidance he gave to the students.</p> <p>Diane Goldman asked if there was a list of confirmants published this year. Josh confirmed that it was in the last Bulletin.</p> <p>David Monasch noted that both he and Cantor Barry started on same day June 1, 1967 and expressed gratitude to Cantor Barry.</p> <p>Monette Meredith expressed disappointment about missing the old Bulletin format and articles. Lauren advised that the shorter format would be coming out monthly but a richer magazine-type Bulletin with substantive articles will be coming out 3-4 times a year.</p> <p>Lisa Rosenthal expressed love for Cantor Barry; announced that she and Pam Kaufmann, in the spirit of commitment to community are organizing Sholom in the Home events this summer and asked congregants to consider hosting an event this summer to help foster connections. Let Lisa know if you would like to host or attend a Sholom in the Home event.</p> <p>Matt Mintz shared reflections and gratitude about Cantor Barry. He inquired about the status of PTS' membership recalling that there had been a decline in membership in recent years. Karen shared that membership has been flat over the last year. In analyzing the membership base, there were a number of families on the books who really hadn't been active or paying members. What looked like a recent decline in members is partly a reflection of these inactive families and cleaning up the books. Given economics of Peninsula and reality of downward affiliation trends nation-wide and in Bay Area, it's not realistic to set goals based on previous numbers but rather on fostering a vibrant membership and membership engagement so PTS is as big as it should be.</p>	
Closing Song	Cantor Barry Reich
Cantor Barry closed the meeting with a song.	

Lauren adjourned the meeting at 11:15am.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Schell
Secretary