

PENINSULA TEMPLE SHOLOM

ANNULA CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

May 26, 2010

1. Call to Order — The meeting was called to order by President Keith Tandowsky at 7:00 p.m.

2. Attendees — Please refer to sign-in sheet.

3. Opening Song — Cantor Barry Reich led the congregation in Hine Ma Tovv.

4. D'var Torah — Rabbi Kim Ettlinger gave the D'var Torah.

5. Approval of Minutes from 2009 Annual Meeting — The minutes from the 2009 Annual Meeting were approved unanimously.

6. President's Comments — Keith Tandowsky gave the following report:

Keith spoke about the Board of Trustees and what a wonderful team they have been and will be. He spoke about the outgoing Board members, as well as the incoming ones. He presented the outgoing Board members with a gift of a mezuzah.

He also spoke about it being a bittersweet moment, as it is time for us to say our goodbye to Rabbi Kim Ettlinger. He noted that we knew this time would come as her extended contract comes to a close in June of 2011. He mentioned we will be honoring her over the next year.

Keith spoke about Rabbi Feder and Cantor Barry and what a joy it has been to work with them. Some other accomplishments during the year have been the launch of the Strategic Plan led by Gail Shak, continuing to monitor the budget closely, expanding horizons within the Religious School by working closely with NESS. In addition, under the guidance of Debbie Kurzrock, our Social Action committee has been doing some wonderful and important community outreach-Home and hope, the greening of PTS, and the Souper project.

He spoke about the work of the Membership Committee led by April Glatt, assisted by Doris Abouav and Randi Wren and the new programs being created for integration and retention. He also spoke about the work of Karen Wisialowski and her contributions to Life Long Learning.

7. Rabbi Feder's Report — Rabbi Feder gave the following report: He mentioned the commitment to reaching out to interfaith families, as an outgrowth of the significant decision that was reached by him, Rabbi Ettlinger and Cantor Barry in 2009 to begin officiating at interfaith weddings under certain conditions.

He spoke about the collaborations from committees like strategic planning led by Gail Shak to our Outreach committee led by Bonnie and Scott Stokes. He mentioned the efforts of Michelle Tandowsky and Sheryl Goldman for Home and Hope to Debbie Kurzrock who has spearheaded an involved Social Action Committee.

As Rabbi Feder said he has endeavored along with Cantor Barry and Rabbi Ettlinger new meaningful ways of worship so that our services can be warm, intimate, spiritually uplifting, transformative and substantive. We have moved away from organ music to an electric keyboard to create a more informal feel.

He acknowledged the many good people it takes to create a meaningful and committed PTS. He thanked them along with outgoing past president Keith Tandowsky, He acknowledged Keith's hard work, collaborative spirit, sense of humor and moral strength.

He spoke about working with Rabbi Ettlinger over the past few years, and how he wishes her the best of everything as she continues on her journey. As well, Rabbi Feder spoke about working with Cantor Barry and what a beautiful soul he has.

He looks forward to continued collaboration for success as we grow our sacred enterprise.

Presentation of the first Ner Tamid award.

Rabbi Feder also presented our first recipient of the Ner Tamid award. It is awarded to a congregant who has devoted endless hours to helping PTS become a better place. This year the award goes to Gary Fishtrom. Gary has been chair of our House and Grounds committee for many years. There is no project too large or too small for him. He has cut trees, and fixed leaky toilets. He has been a source of guidance during the Kitchen renovation project. He is the head usher for the Holy Days and is dedicated to improving the Holy Days each year. Gary, As Rabbi Feder said, we thank you for all that you have done and will continue to do for PTS.

8. Treasurer's Report — Ed Fineman gave the following report: He shared the variance report, and said we fared well all things considered. The two largest sources of income come from membership dues and preschool revenue. YTD income is at 2.5 million and expenses at 2.3 million. Ed thanked the lay leadership along with the PTS staff who have helped him during his tenure as Treasurer. He mentioned he enjoyed his time as Treasurer and now is happy to turn it over to new the new treasurer, Marc Belsky. Ed wishes Marc much luck as we look to another challenging year ahead.

9. Preschool Director's Report — Cindy Common gave the following report:

Cindy mentioned how fortunate we are to have 150 Preschool children enrolled at PTS during these difficult economic times. She mentioned how blessed we are to have Rabbi Feder, Rabbi Ettlinger and Cantor Barry for leading us in Jewish holiday celebrations and Shabbat, along with a supportive Board of Trustees under the leadership of Keith Tandowsky. She also thanked Katie Levine who has so ably chaired the Preschool Committee during the past 4 years.

She mentioned the children who pass through our doors each day are a reflection not only of our preschool, but of their families and this synagogue community. It is the strength of this team that makes us successful. We are very grateful for the generosity of time, talent, and spirit of all of these people. The many events we hold over the year could not occur without the efforts of our tireless volunteers and dedicated staff.

She mentioned the Special Needs Initiative and Early Childhood Consultant Stephanie Agnew from Parents Place in San Mateo who has been on site every Monday consulting parents and children.

She spoke about the many annual family events this year like Breakfast with Daddy, Pizza with Mommy, and Grandparents Day, Jewish Holiday family celebrations, and fun, educational special programs for our preschoolers. We have daily afternoon enrichment programs including science, gardening, woodworking, cooking, and art, and music and creative movement for all preschoolers weekly. Still to come is our Annual Parent Volunteer Thank You Brunch, our End of Year Picnic, Pre-K Tea and our End of Year Pre-K and Transitional Kindergarten Celebration.

In addition she said, our teaching staff participated in various continuing education opportunities including in-service workshops, Board of Jewish Education workshops, and state and national conferences. Especially notable this year is our successful reaccreditation by the NAEYC, the National Academy for the Education of Young Children.

This year, Cindy said parents were invited to join Sandra Feder in a series of three Preschool Discussion Groups which focused on the importance of Jewish values in raising young children.

Camp Sholom begins its 8 week run on June 16th and we look forward to providing our preschoolers with a summer of fun.

10. Religious School Report — Eran Vaisben gave the following report.

He mentioned that there were over 350 students enrolled in Religious School. Many exciting programs have happened over the year, (Rosh Chodesh for girls), the NESS program, family Shabbat dinners and family education programs continue to be successful. A weekend Shabbaton in Livermore for sixth grade students was meaningful and he looks forward to next year to continue these programs.

He thanked his staff of dedicated teachers along with Stacie Hershman for their dedication and support. In addition he thanked the Herbst Foundation for their support to the Rosh Chodesh and Shabbaton programs throughout the year.

11. Cantor's Report — Cantor Barry Reich gave the following report:

Cantor Barry thanked all the teachers and staff who have run our religious school. He also thanked our clergy and lay leaders. He gave Rabbi Ettlinger a big thank you and mentioned that he will miss her presence and truly has enjoyed their partnership during the last few years.

12. Executive Director's Report — Amy Mallor gave the following report. From rags to riches, She spoke about her journey from going from the world of fabrics to the world of Jewish life. She praised PTS for the level of dedication and support and looks forward to a successful year ahead.

13. Announcement of the Trustee of the Year — Keith Tandowsky gave the following report:

Each spring the BOT choose among themselves an individual who stand out, someone who has devoted extraordinary effort and has accomplished a great deal. This year the recipient is someone who has spearheaded a major project in the life of PTS. She along with Linda Korth and Alan Zeichick launched the Strategic Project.

Over two years, Gail Shak has worked tirelessly in helping to bring PTS to new levels. AS a result of the study, PTS has embarked on new programming to help serve the needs of our population. Gail spent hours on the phone talking and listening, working with her committee in making sure our congregants were able to participate in focus groups. As a result of the focus groups, the committee brought suggestions to the Board. A copy of the Strategic plan is available for anyone who wants to read it. Keith asked Gail, please come up and accept a well deserved award.

14. Acknowledgement of Retiring Trustees — An excellent Board of Trustees is no accident. It is created by a team of individuals working together, who are able to focus on the long-term as well as meet the needs of today. We... have a fabulous board of trustees.

At the end of June, five of these awesome trustees will retire from the board.

Greg Boro. Greg has served as a trustee for the last 2 years. He was the chair of our Youth Committee and was devoted to our PARTY youth group. He was our leader working with Rabbi Ettlinger on hiring the Teen Director and putting focus on this important area of our youth development. I have really valued Greg's work on the Board and his direct feedback and, more than anything, he's fun to be around. Florence, you will be missed.

Neil Heller. Neil has also been on the Board for six years. In that time, Neil has led our budget committee in a very strong way. As the protégé of Henry Gold, Neil has taken on the role of ensuring the Board is always aware of the budget impact any decision might have. The last two years, because of the poor economy, has made the budget process even more difficult and Neil has handled it with care and aplomb. Neil has also been a valuable member of the Personnel Committee. Neil, the Board will miss you and hope you will continue to let us know your ideas.

Katie Levine. Katie has served on the Board for four years. Katie's key role has been as the Pre-School chair, working closely with Cindy Common. She also was a member of the Personnel Committee. Katie has been responsible for the Rosh Hashanah day reception and also kept the Board meetings full of food and birthday cakes. Katie provides insight, enthusiasm and outspokenness to the Board. Katie, your spirit will be sorely missed on the Board.

Gail Shak. Enough said — she was our trustee of the year!

Randi Wren. Randi has been on the Board for two years. Randi has spent this year as one of our membership/welcoming committee. Randi has spent a lot of her time connecting with new members, trying to get them connected to their interests at PTS. Randi has also played an integral role over the last two years on the Religious Practices committee, doing a lot of work preparing us for the High Holidays. Randi, your sweet spirit has been of real value to us all on the Board.

Greg, Neil, Katie, Gail and Randi, in honor of each of you, I have five mezzuzot that I hope will remind you how each of you has helped make our temple so much more of a home. Thank you for your time as a trustee. Please step forward so that we may honor you.

15. Motion: Approval of New and Returning Trustees for 2 year terms

Motion to nominate new and returning Board members:

The Nominating Committee this year included Davina Drabkin, Bill Feldbrill, Katie Levine, David Monasch III, Kathleen Shugar, Alan Zeichick, and me. Our goal was to maintain the diversity of the board in terms of age and geography, and add board members who were passionate and enthusiastic about contributing to our community. We are thrilled to present to you an excellent slate of board members, each nominated for two year terms beginning July 1, 2010.

The following trustees are nominated for renewal, each for their 3rd and 4th years or 5th and 6th years as trustees.

Brian Hafter, currently serving as 1st Vice President

Marc Belsky, currently serving as member of Finance and Budget Committees

Fred Sturm, currently serving as member of Social Action Committee

April Glatt, currently serving as co-chair of the Membership/Welcoming Committee

In addition, the following individuals are nominated for their first 2-year terms.

Rose Calander. Rose and her husband, Jerry, are long-time members of the Temple who have one college-aged daughter Sydney who went to the preschool and Jewish day school. Rose was born and raised in the Philippines and came to San Francisco after high school. Rose was active with the Preschool as room parent, organizing Shabbat dinners and fundraisers, then became active with the religious school committee and Sholom Women and currently is working on social action and has been working on the new senior group and organizing the new Senior Shabbat dinners.

Elias Emergui. Elias and his wife, Sharron, are long-time PTS members who have two adult children (Esther and Melissa) and two granddaughters (Elisha and Talia Gillette). Elias was born in Spanish Morocco and then moved to Madrid in his teens and lived in Barcelona. After meeting and marrying Sharron, they moved to the US and founded and ran a successful import business for many years. Elias has been very involved with the Sephardic Minyan and was previously on the PTS Board.

Linda Korth. Linda and her husband, David, are long-time PTS members who have two children (Leah and Daniel) who are young adults. Linda grew up at the Temple and most recently was an integral part of the Strategic Planning Committee. Her background is in Early Childhood education and Special Education and she has worked with Head Start. Linda and David raise puppies for Guide Dogs for the Blind and, probably less known; Linda was also a PTS preschool teacher many years ago.

Steve Monosson. Steve and his wife, Linda, have been at the Temple for many years and have two girls (Rachael in college and Zoe in high school) who both went to the preschool. Steve was born in France and then grew up outside of Boston and had a successful career in the investment management business. Steve has served on the Board of his alma mater, Amherst College, and for the last ten years on the Nueva School Board doing finance and development work. At the Temple, he was involved in the Endowment Committee.

Zoe Scheinman. Zoe and her husband, Dan, have three children (Matthew, Sophie and Reid) who all went to the preschool and the Jewish day school. Zoe converted to Judaism many years ago under the tutelage of Rabbi Raikin, of blessed memory. Zoe grew up in the Peak District in a national park in the middle of England and, despite being English, says can actually cook some good food. She has been on a few committees at PTS, including Membership and Fine Art and has worked most recently on the Club 56 and Chalutzim youth programs.

Lauren Schlezinger. Lauren and her husband, Eric have been members of the synagogue for three years, joining when their twin daughters, Kyra and Lainey, entered the Preschool. Lauren was born in New York City and was raised outside of Boston. She worked in the consulting business and then turned her focus to the Preschool where she developed a healthy snack program, chaired the Silversary Fundraiser and served on the Advisory Committee and her own small business.

Liz Gottfried. Liz and her husband Larry have been members about 15 years and have two girls, Rachel and Naomi. Liz grew up in Los Angeles and moved to the Bay Area after graduating from Stanford. Liz works at E*TRADE FINANCIAL managing the Long Term Investing Products Team. Liz has been very involved with the Sholom Women Board and is currently studying to become an adult Bat Mitzvah. She will be the SW President beginning in July.

Habib Lichaa. Habib and his wife, Stephanie, have been at the Temple for four years and have one boy (Maurice). Habib was born in Egypt, but grew up in Daly City. Habib is a software consultant and a basketball official. Habib has been very involved with the Brotherhood Board and now ascends to the Presidency.

16. Public Comments — No comments.

17. Closing Song — Cantor Barry Reich led the community in Am Yisrael Chai.

18. Adjournment — Keith Tandowsky adjourned the meeting at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Mallor, Executive Director
(Filling in for Stephen Abbott, Recording Secretary)