

**PENINSULA TEMPLE SHOLOM**  
**60<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION**  
**May 20, 2015**

The meeting was called to order by President, April Glatt, at 7:00 p.m.

Cantor Barry Reich led the community in an opening song, which was followed by the D'var Torah by Rabbi Lisa Delson. Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 59th Annual Meeting of the Congregation of May 21, 2014. The minutes were approved unanimously.

April's report highlighted the following ideas that can help harness the extraordinary power of the PTS community, to collectively work towards making all of us together, simply extraordinary:

- discover a shared vision we can rally around
- continue to develop sincere relationships with each other
- make known to each other our commitments so we can hold each other accountable when it's appropriate
- encourage open, unrestricted but respectful dialogue
- evaluate our progress together . . . and often
- commit to realizing our vision

Rabbi Daniel Feder stated that we can see what PTS is by getting involved, by joining in, by uncovering new groups, new ideas, and new people that the full richness of what we are and have to offer will reveal itself. One of the ways our richness will reveal its depth in the coming year is through our expanded vision of being a caring community. We now will be seeing a deeper notion of what it means to be a caring community emerge. The idea is that this notion of caring is something that will touch everything we do at PTS from services to oneg shabbats, from helping those in acute need to reaching out over and over to those with chronic needs - and it will be the responsibility not of a committee but of every congregant.

Our Kolot process over the last year has continued to result in deeper connections among our congregants and now is moving into an exciting phase. After many wonderful small group conversations our Kolot committee members will be undertaking one-on-one conversations around the issue that we found emerged from our group conversations – mental health. These one-on-one conversations are designed to help us move in the direction of having a social justice impact on this important issue, which touches so many lives.

Lauren Schlezinger reported on the work of the PTS Visioning Committee. She expressed her gratitude to the committee members.

The following Purpose/Vision Statement and Mission Statement has been adopted:

### **Purpose/Vision Statement**

PTS is an inclusive Jewish community where everyone can find peace, inspiration, and their own connection to Judaism.

### **Mission Statement**

Whether in the synagogue, each other's homes, or the world beyond, Peninsula Temple Sholom creates a sacred space for those who are part of it.

*We live Jewish values and apply the wisdom of our teachings to modern life through prayer, study and action.*

*We sustain Jewish culture through communal engagement in lifecycle events, the celebration of Shabbat and holidays, and the pleasure of laughing and learning together.*

*We strengthen our community by caring for one another and the world around us.*

*We honor our heritage and build a strong future by fostering connections with the Jewish people in the U.S., in Israel and around the world.*

Now it's time to embark on the final two steps of the process. By June, the Committee will define the values that convey our community's culture and how we approach our mission. In July, a task force, led by Karen Wisialowski (PTS' new Chief Community Officer), will evaluate where the Purpose/Vision, Mission and Values align with PTS' operations, and where there are opportunities to improve this connection.

Heidi Schell and Eric Schlezinger spoke about Kolot:

- Kolot is a process (not an activity or program) that creates opportunities for us to connect with each other, share our stories, deepen our relationships and act together
- Kolot has become part of PTS' culture and how we engage with one another in ways that are both obvious and subtle
- One of our primary goals for the Kolot initiative has always been that the initiative would lead our congregation to engage in social justice work.
- Once we started having conversations with congregants, we saw that we needed to first spend time building and strengthening connections within our congregation before we were ready to tackle a social justice project.
- While we will continue to work on building and strengthening connections among congregants, we are now ready to do social justice work.
- You heard from Rabbi Feder that many congregants have shared stories of challenges and struggles with mental health and mental illness. Our goal is to explore how we as a congregation can identify and work on

social justice issues related to mental health/mental illness in ways that are meaningful and achievable.

- We have assembled and trained a team of congregants who will be conducting one-on-one conversations with other congregants about this topic over the next few months. We will initially be calling congregants who participated in Kolot conversations, however, if you are interested in participating, please let us know.
- We encourage you to engage in this process and welcome your participation. Contact Eric or Heidi to find out how you can help make a difference in our corner of the world.

David Silberman, Treasurer announced that the Board has approved a \$3,649,000 annual budget. It is a balanced budget as required by our by-laws. During the budget development there was a gap which could only be bridged by transferring money from the Operating Reserve Restricted Fund—a Board restricted fund. David observed that the mortgage falls due in April, 2016. If fundraising efforts result in paying off the mortgage the annual debt service is approximately equal to the amount being transferred from the Operating Reserve. David thanked the members of the Finance Committee.

Allison Steckley and Eran Vaisben each presented a video featuring the children in our Preschool and Religious School. Each video was well received.

April announced that Linda Korth and Lauren Schlezinger have been named as co-Trustees of the Year by a vote of the Board of Trustees.

Sandy Silverstein announced the recipient of the Volunteer of the Year Award. Kathleen Shugar is the honoree for her leadership in areas including Sholom Women and Kolot—especially Sholom in the Home.

Lottie Miklos was honored with this year's Ner Tamid Award, honoring a congregant who has provided long-standing and outstanding service to PTS.

April Glatt, President, presented the following slate for election on behalf of Brian Hafter, Chair of the Board Nominating Committee:

Current Trustees Nominated for an Additional Two-Year Term: *Marc Engel, Michael Fried, Scott Haber, Reid Liebhaber, David Silberman, Sharon Silverman and Andrea Sobel.*

New Trustees Nominated for an Initial Two-Year Term: *Jeffrey Lerner and Jonathan Herstein.*

The slate was elected by unanimous vote.

April opened the meeting to public comments from any congregant wishing to make any remarks.

The meeting closed with a song led by Cantor Barry Reich, following which the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively Submitted,

Sandy Silverstein  
Executive Director