

**Peninsula Temple Sholom**  
**61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Congregation**  
**May 15, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by President, April Glatt at 9:30 AM.

Cantor Barry Reich led the community in an opening song, which was followed by a D'var Torah by Rabbi Lisa Delson. A motion was made by David Silberman and seconded by Kristine Berman to approve the minutes of the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Congregation of May 20, 2015. Motion passed.

President April Glatt acknowledged the past presidents and trustees in attendance. She thanked the current board of trustees for “picking up the can,” moving forward on a number of initiatives. Her report included lessons she had learned from her service on the Board of Trustees, including goal setting, collaborating, flexibility, and trust. (See June 2016 Bulletin for a full write-up.) Highlights are below:

- April announced that we raised \$41,500 for camps and Israel and over \$70,000 for financial sustainability. (Amounts have since been updated.)
- April acknowledged Sholom Women, Caring Community, Kolot and other volunteers for a variety of services to the community. She encouraged congregants to complete the Caring Community survey.
- April shared that we are working towards “financial freedom” to eliminate the mortgage and build an endowment and that we recently hired Morgan Stanley to manage the congregation’s funds.
- She acknowledged the strong working relationship among staff of the board, and that trust is at the foundation of being able to get things done.

Rabbi Molly Plotnik reported that she appreciates that *embracing change* is a value of PTS, as it is allowing her to make innovative improvements to the curriculum and the school. This first year has been a year of exploration. She highlighted the following aspects from this year that will be expanded next year.

- Prayer curriculum
- Expansion of 5<sup>th</sup> grade pilot program, including Hebrew lessons in small groups in private homes.
- Incorporating Mitzvah Garden into the school program
- Expanded *madrichim* program, including more substantive responsibilities; adding *madrichim* specialists (prayer, photography, gardening)
- Incorporating youth activities with religious school, such as Moving Traditions, an 8<sup>th</sup> grade, monthly, offsite program that allows young teens to discuss issues that are important to them.

- Rabbi Plotnik reported that we will re-introduce a Pre-K program, introduce a new 11/12<sup>th</sup> grade philanthropy program, and will significant changes in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade to incorporate Shabbat into the bar/bat mitzvah year.
- Rabbi Plotnik invited the entire congregation to the Congregational Retreat on October 28-30.

Rabbi Dan Feder remembered those who have died since our last annual meeting. Rabbi Feder spoke about PTS' journey as a congregation and thanked the congregation for bringing us to this place. He reported on exciting staff changes in the last 5 years, including Rabbi Lisa Delson, Rabbi Molly Plotnik, our first rabbi educator, Karen Wisialowski as chief community officer, and Max Ruzi as director of youth engagement. Rabbi acknowledged President April Glatt for her excellence in this role. He asked that congregants give PTS the best of our energy and put relationships first.

Lauren Schlezinger, President Elect, reported on PTS's core values, which were determined in numerous conversations with congregants: Human Connection, Commitment to Community, Inclusivity, Caring & Kindness, and Embracing Change.

Allison Steckley, Director of Early Childhood Education, reported on the extreme growth of the preschool, such that the school is 100% full. The preschool has been committed to increasing connection and engagement along with its growth in numbers. Allison gave several examples of school projects, including identity panels, classroom blogging, outdoor classroom, and softer/more natural classroom habitat. Allison also shared that family engagement remains a high priority for the school, which is made possible by having a Jewish Resource Specialist, Bambi Feinberg, on staff.

David Silberman, Treasurer, reported on the robust process of the budget and acknowledged the hard work of the Finance Committee. He reported that the state of the synagogue is strong. PTS has approved a balanced budget that is in line with our vision, mission and values. The key drivers of our budget are the preschool and membership commitment. The largest expense line is salaries, which was increased by cost of living adjustments for this year. David shared that the coming budget includes \$138 thousand in excess funds that will be set aside for facilities as dictated by our new facilities reserve study and, otherwise, for financial freedom. He challenged the community to increase membership commitment for the long-term health of the congregation.

April Glatt presented the following slate of nominees on behalf of Brian Hafter, Chairperson of the Board Nominating Committee.

**Motion:** To approve the current Trustees nominated for additional two-year terms: Nathaniel Bergson-Michelson, Kristine Berman, Ware Kushner, Heidi Schell, Lauren Schlezinger, Yash Snider. Motion made by Len Rosenberg, seconded by Yash Snider.

**Motion:** To approve the following appointed Trustee nominated for an initial two-year term: Arlene Rosenberg. Motion made by Len Rosenberg, seconded by Yash Snider.

**Motion:** To approve the following individuals nominated for initial two-year terms: Marilyn Hollinger, Matt Mandel, Eugene Podkaminer, Betsy Rosen, Adam Steinberger. Motion made by Sharon Silverman, seconded by Lauren Schlezinger.

Motions passed.

April introduced the Ner Tamid Award to Marjory Luxenberg.

Karen Wisialowski introduced the Volunteer of the Year Award to Eric Schlezinger.

April presented the Trustee of the Year Award to David Silberman.

Marc Engel honored retiring elected trustees: Michael Fried, Linda Korth, Habib Lichaa, Reid Liebhaber, were acknowledgment for their service.

April Glatt passed the gavel to Lauren Schlezinger, PTS's incoming president, and Lauren presented April with a gift from the current Board of Trustees.

Public comment.

- Bill Glatt commented on April being an absolutely terrific president.
- Marjory Luxenberg asked to meet Max.

Cantor Barry Reich closed the meeting with a song. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Respectively Submitted,

Karen Wisialowski  
Chief Community Officer