

PENINSULA TEMPLE SHOLOM
ANNULA CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
May 14, 2008

- I. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by President Karen Wisialowski at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **Attendees** – Please refer to sign-in sheet.
- III. **Opening Song** – Cantor Barry Reich led the congregation in Hine Ma Tovv.
- IV. **D’var Torah** – Rabbi Kim Ettlinger gave a Torah Commentary on Parashat Behar.
- V. **Approval of Minutes from 2007 Annual Meeting** – The minutes from the 2007 Annual Meeting were approved unanimously.
- VI. **President’s Comments** – Karen Wisialowski gave the following report:

Karen spoke about how our temple offers many good things for people at different stages of their lives at PTS. Karen used the example of a basketball which has unique significance to many people -- such as Brotherhood’s annual March Madness Poker Tournament, or the religious school’s *Nothing But Nets* program which raised \$10,000 to purchase anti-malarial nets to send to Darfur, and for Mr. Nigel, the basketball brings back memories of a long-ago youth basketball league at PTS.

Karen spoke about Rabbi Feder who came to PTS nearly two years ago and selected PTS to be his home. Rabbi Feder is caring, compassionate, and dedicated to our community, he touches our hearts on Shabbat, our intellects in study groups, and our sense of fun almost any time. Rabbi Feder is a rock of support for families who need him and challenges us to explore God and encourages us to live Jewishly every day. Karen reported that the Board of Trustees has authorized the Personnel Committee to extend a second contract through 2014 to Rabbi Feder.

Karen invited Rabbi Feder to the podium to help her acknowledge the many colleagues that make PTS a wonderful home.

Karen spoke about how at PTS there are many programs and activities for everyone. She highlighted two from this past year that will impact the future.

First, Mishkan T’filah. This winter and spring, our clergy jointly led a task force that studied historical prayer books and *Mishkan T’filah*, the new Reform Jewish prayer book. The group included a cross-section of our population: traditional and progressive; Shabbat regulars and periodic worshippers; young and old. Without exception, the group loved the new prayer book and enthusiastically endorsed it for PTS. Next month, the group will ask the Board to allocate funds, which have already been generously pledged, so that we can order *Mishkan T’filah* for our sanctuary.

Second, we formed a **PTS History Committee** to collect, organize, archive and write the history of our Temple. The committee has been working diligently, with its first project being the collection of oral histories from our earliest members. Karen encouraged everyone to get involved at this stage or at a future one. Together, we can preserve the legacy of our congregation for current and future generations.

This and other programming is made possible by a generous community. Our new membership commitment program is entering its second year. The Board believes that when congregants feel good about their community, they will support it as best they can. Under the old system, dues were dictated, and could not keep up with growing expenses. In this new environment, we have the power to make every year a strong year financially for PTS.

Besides support for ongoing programs, we are also in need of funds for the future. Karen spoke about three fundraising projects, each of which will benefit PTS for the long term.

- (1) **The kitchen project.** We have already raised \$330,000, which we hope covers most of what we need. A Kitchen Fundraising committee is actively seeking additional contributions. As soon as we have raised sufficient funds, we will tear down our outdated kitchen and build the one we want.
- (2) **Completing the Legacy.** While we raised an impressive \$8 million to build it, the project cost us \$10 million. Karen said that it is time to complete the legacy. This year, PTS will launch a second capital campaign so that we can finish what we so happily started eight years ago.
- (3) **The L'dor Vador Fund:** We have been working closely with financial advisors to develop an endowment with planned giving opportunities for congregants. Karen encouraged everyone to attend the workshop on May 28th.

Karen said that it has been an honor to serve as president these past two years. She spoke about the time she spent with hundreds of people that she would not otherwise have known. She also explored Judaism in newer and deeper ways and she thanked both of our rabbis for challenging her that way.

Karen concluded with her comments to Keith Tandowsky wishing him success as he continues to take PTS on a wonderful journey with the capable support of the new executive committee and Board.

VII. Rabbi Feder's Report – Rabbi Feder gave the following report:

Rabbi Feder thanked everyone for the wonderful news that his contract has been renewed. Rabbi Feder said that PTS is a House of Prayer, House of Study and House of Meeting. He spoke about the ruach at PTS and the love our congregation has for our membership and for the temple. Rabbi Feder thanked James Carlson for his support the past two years. He thanked Norma Grinfeld for taking the religious school to the next level and for making education a top priority. He thanked Kathy Battat and Jerry Newman for helping to create the Endowment Fund at PTS. He spoke about the blessing of working with Karen

Wisialowski and that he is excited to work with Keith Tandowsky. Rabbi Feder concluded his report with the reading of the names of temple members who have died the past year.

VIII. Treasurer's Report – Bill Feldbrill gave the following report:

Bill Feldbrill said that as treasurer of PTS for the past four years he has been fortunate to work with many wonderful hard working and enthusiastic individuals. Bill thanked Karen Wisialowski for her strong leadership, dedication and the endless amount of time she devoted in the past two years. As treasurer, Bill's responsibilities to report on a monthly basis and to work with the dues and various finance committees has been made easy through the hard work and support of our Executive Director, James Carlson, and our bookkeeper, Lawrence Villegas. Bill thanked James for his diligent efforts in making financial issues at PTS a number one priority.

At last year's congregational meeting, Bill presented the 2007-2008 annual budget of \$2,880,000. Bill announced that we will complete our fiscal year on June 30th with a balanced budget.

One of the areas we have been working on is the principal reduction of the mortgage debt. On July 1, 2007 the outstanding balance on the mortgage was \$1,825,000. The balance of the mortgage on April 30, 2008, was \$1,743,250. We reduced the mortgage debt this year by \$81,750.

Bill presented a pie chart. The 2008-2009 budget is in the amount of \$3,050,000. This budget was approved by the Board of Trustees. The process of creating the budget is a long and detailed process which many of our senior staff and committee heads are involved with. Bill thanked Neil Heller and his committee for their hard work and timeless efforts in the preparation of the budget.

Bill spoke about how the success of ending this year with a balanced budget lies in the hands of membership. The expectation that expenses will increase is inevitable. The pie chart shows that income is broken down into several categories. Bill pointed out the income gap of \$248,350. We receive income from the generous support of the High Holiday appeal, dues, donations and fundraising to name a few. These are areas where your support is greatly needed and appreciated in order for the temple to be able to run successful programs and balance a budget.

Our new membership program has been a success in reaching out to the community and increasing membership. Many of the new members have made financial commitments and continued beyond their one year trial period. In the past year, we have increased membership to 814 family units. This represents a net increase of 24 family units over the past year. Bill announced that the congregation received in the mail membership commitment forms regarding setting your own dues level for this coming year.

Bill said that it is bittersweet for him that at the end of the fiscal year June 30 he will be stepping down from the board after his tenure with the temple. Going into our next fiscal year, Bill is pleased with the leadership of Keith Tandowsky, as president, and Ed Fineman who will

be the new treasurer. Both Keith and Ed are dedicated individuals with wonderful ideas and a vision to lead PTS into the future.

IX. Preschool Director's Report -- Cindy Common gave the following report:

Cindy Common thanked Karen and the Temple Board of Trustees for giving her the opportunity to speak about the past year at PTS preschool.

We were at full capacity this year with 155 of the brightest and kindest preschoolers and we have a talented and dedicated staff of 22. 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.

We are completing the 26th year of our preschool, Cindy's 6th year as director, and our 4th year in our beautiful facility. This year we held our biannual gala event and the theme was "Silverary", celebrating 25 years of our school and Teacher JoJo. It was an honor to be part of a wonderful evening which included special guest, Bobbie Goldstein, Cindy's predecessor and founder of the preschool.

We also held our 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. Every Friday morning, we can all be found in the Sanctuary celebrating Shabbat with our wonderful clergy and preschool families.

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 completes our 3rd year of our Transitional Kindergarten Class. This very important class is geared for children who benefit from the gift of another year of preschool before entering Kindergarten and has proven to be a huge benefit to our community. As with all of our classes, this class is full with a Wait List for the coming school year. Camp Sholom begins its 8 week run on June 16th and we look forward to providing our preschoolers with a summer of fun.

Before closing, Cindy thanked some of the people who make her job a pleasure -- Preschool Parent Association Chairs, Rana Brown and Jenny Coleman, Preschool Committee Chair, Katie Levine, the Temple Board of Trustees, her secretary Kim Gotthardt, Assistant Director, Allison Steckley, the Temple office and custodial staff, Rabbi Feder, Rabbi Ettlinger

and Cantor Barry. Cindy thanked Karen for her dedicated leadership these past 2 years. She said a special thank you to James Carlson.

X. Religious School Report – Brian Hafter gave the following report:

The following are some of the highlights of the 2007-08 religious school year:

1. Double sessions - We implemented two sessions on Sunday mornings, which effectively reduced class size to a maximum of 21 students per class.
2. Mitzvah Mall – Our 7th graders led the mitzvah mall, a programs designed to teach our younger students and other community members about the value of tzedakah.
3. Family education – We revamped our family education programs, making them more interactive and achieving a higher attendance rate than in past years.
4. Textbooks – We ordered and used new, innovative textbooks for every grade in the religious school.
5. Zimriyah – We changed the meeting time for our Zimriyah youth choir to encourage more students to participate.
6. Administration – The administrative management of the religious school was significantly improved this year – which involved everything from maintaining more complete student records through the incorporation of new safety procedures.

Brian wished Norma Grinfeld success in her new position in Southern California. The search committee, co-chaired by Stacie Hershman and Davina Drabkin, has initiated the process of identifying and hiring a new Director of Education. We will keep the PTS community posted of the committee's progress.

XI. Cantor's Report -- Cantor Barry Reich gave the following report:

Cantor Barry Reich thanked everyone for the 40th anniversary celebration. He spoke of the most beautiful sound which is our PTS students singing the Shema during Tefillah sessions. Cantor Reich thanked Rabbi Feder and Rabbi Ettlinger for their support. He also thanked the teachers, Karen Wisialowski, temple board, James Carlson, Cindy Common and the office staff. Cantor Reich concluded with the song "Let There Be Peace on Earth."

XII. Executive Director – James Carlson gave the following report:

James said that the past five years working at PTS has been the best place to be. He thanked everyone who worked with him.

XIII. Announcement of Trustee of the Year – Keith Tandowsky gave the following report:

Alan Zeichick was voted the Trustee of the Year. Alan was thanked for his efforts and hard work on the publicity and communication committee and helping to launch the temple's new website.

XIV. Acknowledgement of Retiring Trustees, 2008 – Karen gave the following report:

Karen said that an excellent Board of Trustees is no accident. It is created by a team of individuals working together, collectively making decisions to benefit the whole. A successful board not only ensures the ongoing health of our congregation, but enables us to build a sacred community.

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

Bill Feldbrill. Bill has served as a trustee several different times, twice as Brotherhood president and most recently as Treasurer. We regularly count on Bill's strong financial skills to manage our fiscal obligations. Even more than that, Bill has big ideas and has been enormously helpful in thinking through long-term personnel and other issues. When Bill is not up on top, he is in the trenches serving Brotherhood's famous burgers or helping any event run smoothly.

Shari Carruthers. Karen said that Shari is one of the hardest working, most capable individuals she has ever met. Shari follows a long line of successful Sholom Women presidents, and still has taken that auxiliary to new heights. Shari pushes the envelope with new ideas and is a pro at getting congregants involved. As a Board member, Shari is diligent and helpful, always representing PTS as we strive to be. In particular, Karen appreciated how Shari reached out to every new female member of the congregation to make them feel welcome.

Joan Fox. Joan has served on the Board as Sholom Women President and, for the past 4 years, as Membership Committee Co-chairperson. Joan is dependable and hardworking. Under her tenure, we have welcomed in hundreds of new members, and have improved our ability to track them before and after they join. She and her committee boldly led the multi-year discussion and implementation of our new membership commitment program.

Milt Jacobs. Milt has been our wise advisor on the Board of Trustees. He has a lifetime of experience on non-profit boards, and has been very helpful in keeping us focused on board issues rather than committee details. Milt always asks smart questions and is able to distill an issue down to its primary parts. Milt, it has been an honor to serve on the Board of Trustees with you.

Jerry Newman. Jerry is knowledgeable and creative. After many years as a congregant, he joined the Board 4 years ago full of ideas. He has shared his expertise in complex financial transactions by working diligently to kick off the L'dor Vador Fund, our endowment for the future. Karen asked everyone to help honor Jerry by attending the kickoff L'dor Vador workshop later this month.

In honor of the departing Board members, Karen presented them new Torah Commentaries which will live in the sanctuary to commemorate their service, and will be used by the congregation for learning and worship. Karen also thanked Katie Levine for organizing the board's dinner the past year and Kathleen Shugar for taking the minutes of the meetings.

XV. New Business – Steve Abbott announced the proposed slate of Trustees. Shari Carruthers and David Monasch seconded the proposed below motion:

Motion 1: Approve the following slate of Trustees for two year terms, beginning July 1, 2008. This slate has been previously approved by the Board of Trustees.

<u>New</u>	<u>Returning</u>	<u>Years</u>
March Belsky	Brian Hafter	3 & 4
Greg Boro	Neil Heller	5 & 6
April Glatt	Katie Levine	3 & 4
Randi Wren	Gail Shak	3 & 4
	Fred Sturm	3 & 4
	Keith Tandowsky	9 & 10

The Motion passed unanimously.

XVI. Public Comments – No comments.

XVII. Closing Song – Cantor Barry Reich led the community in Am Israel Chai.

XVIII. Adjournment – Karen Wisialowski concluded the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Shugar
Secretary, Board of Trustees