

# Board of Trustees Meeting

## February 13, 2019

### Minutes

Chair: Heidi Schell ♦ Minutes: Arlene Rosenberg ♦ Timekeeper: Andy Oliff

*Don't be timid and squeamish about your actions. All life is an experiment.*

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

#### **Attendees**

##### **Board**

Nathaniel Bergson-Michelson  
Julie Feuchtwang  
Scott Haber  
Marilyn Hollinger  
Ware Kuschner  
Jeff Lerner  
Matt Mandel  
Andy Oliff  
Gene Podkaminer  
Betsy Rosen

Arlene Rosenberg  
Heidi Schell  
Eric Schlezinger  
Mary Ann Waterman  
Maria Yarmolinsky

##### **Absent**

Jenna Fisher  
Jon Herstein  
Sharon Silverman  
Adam Steinberger

##### **Staff**

Rabbi Dan Feder  
Rabbi Lisa Delson  
Rabbi Molly Plotnik  
Cantor Alexandra Fox  
Jonathan Harris  
Ayelet Shapiro  
Allison Steckley  
Madeleine Steckley  
Karen Wisialowski

##### **Guest**

Sophie Saddik

#### **General Trustee Action Items:**

1. Trustees should give Betsy the names of three people or families to whom she should send emails promoting the purchase of Mishloach Manot baskets, using the Trustee as the sender.
2. Trustees should sign up to help deliver Mishloach Manot baskets.
3. Trustees who have not already done so should contact Rabbi Delson and let her know whether you would like to be a conversation leader, conversation host, or participant in the upcoming House Meeting campaign.

Heidi called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

1. Welcome, Blessing for Community Service 5 min
2. D'var Torah (*Eric Schlezinger*) 5 min
3. Remarks from Rabbi Feder
- Rabbi Feder welcomed Rabbi Molly back from her parental leave. He complimented and thanked her for making thorough preparations to keep everything running smoothly during her leave, and thanked everyone who stepped up to fill her roles while she was away.
4. Priorities for Trustee Nominating Committee (*Heidi Schell*) 25 min Discussion

- Heidi announced that there are three current Trustees who will not be returning to the Board next year: Jeff Lerner, Matt Mandel, and Sharon Silverman.
- Heidi announced that Lauren Schlezinger will chair the Nominating Committee this year.
- Heidi gathered input from the Board about the characteristics we feel are most needed in our new Trustees in terms of: (i) demographics; (ii) personal style/leadership qualities; and (iii) skills/areas of expertise.
- Heidi circulated a form on which Trustees were invited to suggest specific names of potential new Trustees.
- Heidi will give the information gathered to the Nominating Committee to assist in its deliberations.

5. Youth Engagement Update (*Madeleine Steckley, Sophie Saddik*) 10 min Presentation

- Sophie updated the Board on past and upcoming PARTY events. Sophie noted that PARTY is focusing on getting more people involved, particularly in younger grades, and on doing more social justice activities.
- Madeleine described the grade-level Shalom in the Home events that have been occurring this year to increase connections among Religious School families. Madeleine hopes that families will be inspired to plan more grade-level events. Madeleine also described the new 11<sup>th</sup> grade class on "Jewish Adulthood."

6. Membership and Community Engagement (*Matt Mandel*) 10 min Presentation

- Matt invited Trustees to share examples of things we are doing in the congregation to promote connection.
- Matt informed the Board that the Kehillah Kedoshah Steering Committee has been refining its purpose and discussing possible measure of success, both qualitative and quantitative.
- Matt announced that new members have been added to the Belonging & Engagement Team, but that the Membership & Engagement group is still seeking additional members for all of its subcommittees. Matt distributed an updated chart of Membership & Engagement team members.
- Ayelet updated the Board on upcoming social events that are planned for the Baby Boomer cohort.
- Karen announced that she and Ayelet have begun working with Erica Carmel to generate ideas for engaging new members.

7. Mishloach Manot Purim Project (*Betsy Rosen*) 5 min Presentation

- Betsy announced that we have sold enough Mishloach Manot baskets to cover our expenses, and that we need everyone's support, participation, and encouragement of friends' participation to meet our fundraising goal.
- Betsy has been sending targeted emails to promote sales. She requested that each Trustee send her the names of three people or families to whom she should send personal emails using the Trustee as the sender. **Action Item:** Trustees should give Betsy the names of three people or families to whom she should send emails promoting the purchase of Mishloach Manot baskets, using the Trustee as the sender.
- Betsy also asked Trustees to volunteer to help deliver the baskets to seniors and others. **Action Item:** Trustees should sign up to help deliver Mishloach Manot baskets.

8. Tikkun Olam and House Meetings (*Rabbi Delson, Arlene Rosenberg, Nathaniel Bergson-Michelson, Eric Schlezinger*) 20 min Activity/Presentation

- Rabbi Delson explained that the social justice team will be conducting House Meetings in March and April. House Meetings are small group conversations in congregants' homes that are facilitated by trained Conversation Leaders who help the participants share stories from their lives. The purposes of the House Meetings will be (i) to build

community; (ii) to identify areas in which to focus our social justice efforts for the next 18 months; and (iii) to engage more congregants in social justice work.

- Rabbi Delson led the Board in a brief story-telling exercise to illustrate the type of conversations that will take place at the House Meetings.
- Arlene stated that our goal is to engage 100-120 congregants in these House Meetings.
- Eric described PTS' participation in the Industrial Areas Foundation's Broad Based Organization (BBO) for San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties. PTS will host a BBO House Meeting on Sunday, March 24 from 3-5pm, which will include not only PTS congregants, but also members of neighboring faith-based and secular institutions. At this meeting, attendees will break into small groups to have House Meeting-style conversations.
- Rabbi Feder noted that social justice is integral to our mission at PTS. He also noted that the Kolot House Meetings did much to increase connections at PTS. He urged Trustees to participate and to encourage others to participate in the upcoming House Meeting campaign.
- Nathaniel urged every Trustee to sign up to be a conversation leader, conversation host, or participant. **Action Item:** Trustees who have not already done so should contact Rabbi Delson and let her know whether you would like to be a conversation leader, conversation host, or participant in the upcoming House Meeting campaign.
- Rabbi Delson announced that Rabbi Julie Saxe-Taller from the California Religious Action Center will conduct a training for Conversation Leaders at PTS on Monday, February 25 from 6:30-8:30pm.

9. Story of the Month (*Andy Oliff*) 5 min Personal Reflection

10. LGBTQ Audacious Hospitality Presentation Part II (*Marilyn Hollinger*) 20 min Presentation

- Marilyn presented more information from the URJ's course on Audacious Hospitality for the LGBTQ community, focusing on (i) use of non-gendered language for God; (ii) creation of LGBTQ-inclusive life cycle events (including name change, coming out, and transition ceremonies); and (iii) creation and publication/distribution of inclusion statements.
- Marilyn emphasized that it is important for the synagogue to be a place where people can find acceptance and receive positive messages about who they are.

11. Governance (*Heidi Schell*) 10 min Vote

- a. **Motion:** To elect Heidi Schell as President of Peninsula Temple Sholom for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020. (*Scott Haber*)

**Background:** Per Bylaws Article VII, Section 2(a): "Selection of President. At the January meeting of the Trustees, the Trustees shall elect a committee of three (3) Trustees who shall nominate a Trustee for the position of President. At the February meeting of the Trustees, the committee shall present their nominee. Other nominations may be made from the floor. The Trustees shall then elect a President. The newly elected President shall take office at the beginning of the ensuing fiscal year."

At last month's meeting, Scott Haber, Marilyn Hollinger, and Gene Podkaminer were elected as Nominating Committee for President.

- Scott made the motion. Julie seconded. Heidi excused herself from the room during the vote. Motion passed.

- b. **Motion:** To allocate approximately \$6,500 plus travel and expenses to bring Rabbi Noam Katz to PTS as musician-in-residence for the weekend of Sukkot 2019 as part of the Cantor Barry Reich Music Series, with funding from the Cantor Barry Reich Tribute Fund.

**Background:** Rabbi Noam Katz is the Dean of Jewish Living at Leo Baeck Day School in Toronto. He is a musician, composer, storyteller, and Jewish educator who inspires Jewish and interfaith communities with his timeless melodies of peace, hope, and unity. You may know his song *Roll Into Dark* because we often sing it at PTS Shabbat worship services. Visit <http://www.noamkatz.com/> to learn more.

The current balance of the Cantor Barry Reich Tribute Fund is \$47,156 as of December 31, 2018. Note that \$5,000 plus travel and expenses was previously committed for Elana Arian musician-in-residence for Sukkot 2020.

- Betsy made the motion. Nathaniel seconded. Motion passed.

- c. **Motion:** To establish the Lorry Lokey Security Endowment and Lorry Lokey Security Fund, with the following purposes:

*Lorry Lokey Security Endowment, 35xx-xx  
Established by Lorry Lokey, beginning with a \$240,000 gift that will be built upon to reach a goal of \$490,000 by mid-2019. Half the interest/dividends received from this fund is transferred to the Lorry Lokey Security Fund. While investing is at the discretion of Peninsula Temple Sholom, it is the intention of the donor that these funds are invested more aggressively than PTS's standard investment policy allows, with the hope of achieving greater financial returns.*

*\*Lorry Lokey Security Fund, 3135-xx (Operational Fund)  
Established with a \$10,000 gift so that PTS can tap into its resources immediately. Going forward, this fund receives interest from the Lorry Lokey Security Endowment. The purpose of this fund is to offset the cost of security at Peninsula Temple Sholom. Possible uses include security guards, technology purchases, and/or training for staff and lay leaders.*

- Ware made the motion. Jeff seconded. Motion passed.

- Mary Ann urged Trustees to attend the Sholom Women fundraiser on Saturday, March 2 and to participate in the Sholom Women Shabbat service on Friday, March 29.

13. Consent Agenda

2 min Vote

Includes last month's Board minutes and approval of new members

- Consent agenda passed.

14. Concluding Prayer

Meeting adjourned at 8:43pm.