

Temple Emanuel Annual Congregational Meeting
May 13, 2018
28 Iyar 5778

*Certified that a quorum was present

Call to Order and opening Prayer – Al Tanenbaum, Immediate Past President (9:40am)

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam, guide us in promoting the Temple's mission of sustaining Judaism. Help us to emulate the qualities of wisdom, vision, ethics, and compassion. Support our pursuit of a warm, caring and welcoming Temple. Strengthen our community through love of Torah, Israel, and Tikkun Olam.

Al Tanenbaum presented brief remarks about the importance of the annual meeting, reflections on the past year, and a thank you to temple volunteers.

Approval of Minutes – Annual Meeting of May 21, 2017 (9:48am)

Ellen Karch motioned to approve the 2017 Annual Meeting minutes; Rhonda Rich seconded; the motion passed.

Brief Remarks (9:50pm)

Rabbi Stone remarked that it was a year of transition, in which we welcomed Cantor Lindsay Kanter and supported Rabbi Mark Levine's first year as formal Director of Congregational Learning. Cantor Lindsay has been involved in all dimensions of temple life, including two choirs and the TEECC. Rabbi Mark has strengthened our religious school in many ways, including the Machaneh Musar (ethical wisdom camp). Other highlights include the 7th grade resolution on gun violence; conducting Shabbat University; teaching at the URJ Biennial in Boston; enjoying grade-level family dinners and bar/bat mitzvahs; and teaching 10th grade confirmation classes.

TEECC celebrated its 10th anniversary, and is well known and respected in the community. We wish Madeline Lowitz-Gold well in her retirement, and Gary Mayes success as he becomes the Director.

The Global Mitzvah program also celebrated 10 years with a concert last week. They have worked on 24 projects in 15 countries, and recently published a brochure and video to highlight the program.

The Board voted to be a Brit Olam congregation – one of the first 100 to be part of this covenant. Temple Emanuel is consistently on the forefront of social justice, including supporting a new refugee family and attending forums on social equity and immigration.

This is Rabbi Stone's 29th year at Temple Emanuel. He recognized the outstanding lay leadership, including Diane Raynes-Miller, and excellent staff, led by Dianne Neiman. He noted the role of the Brotherhood (Monte Mallin) and WRJ (Michele Parsonnet and Linda Wolpert) leaders, as well as the critical support from Norma Smith, Freddy Turim, and Merv Husbands. Rabbi Stone is looking forward to his 30th year – to keeping the community alive and well, and continuing our work on social justice.

Cantor Lindsay Kanter shared a song (Hinei Matov), and described the past year as a whirlwind of activities and “truly remarkable.” She is grateful to be a part of the congregation and is inspired by it every day. Cantor Lindsay looks forward to what’s coming down the pike – including one-on-one tutoring for students, attending a conference of cantors, and bringing dynamic, new programming and special concerts to the temple. She is also looking forward to strengthening connections with the TEECC.

Rabbi Mark Levine noted a very successful year in the religious school. The school is set up on three pillars – authenticity, creativity, and moral courage. Students learn material relevant to their lives – how to be Jewish outside of temple, too. Machaneh Musar focused on four key Jewish values: Shuva – becoming your best self; Sameach – being content with what you have; Bal Taschit – not wasting the environment; and Koach – the power of speech. Next year, the focus will be on six different Jewish values. It was a full year of project-based and experiential learning in which:

- The Confirmation class developed derech erez (an ethical/responsible way to live).
- The 8th graders learned about comparative religions and had community trips/visits.
- The 5th graders created a first-ever Israel fair.
- The 4th Graders wrote an original Haggadah, with commentary and poetry.
- The 3rd graders and parents embarked on a new family education program in which they ventured through the prayer book.
- The 1st and 2nd graders made online videos about Shabbat.

Madeline Lowitz-Gold, Director of Early Childhood, remarked on the strong relationships between Temple Emanuel and the Early Childhood Center. The ECC recently welcomed 300+ people who came together to celebrate the ECC. The ECC has focused on rituals that form and shape our identity at TE. One of the most significant is the subject of traces. A four-year-old defined it well – a memory, always with you, something you never forget. Madeline noted that the walls of the ECC are filled with traces. She is proud to turn things over to Gary Mayes. TE has been Madeline’s home, and she hopes that she leaves many traces behind.

Lillian Feldman-Hill is finishing her 4th year as the newly titled Associate Director of Experiential Learning. This year, at the behest of Miriam Lorber, KESTY moved from a teen-directed to teen-led program. The teens selected a social action theme – interfaith relations. They gathered together for a social event with people of other faiths, and generated questions to spark discussion. KESTY also drafted and ratified its first youth group constitution, which includes written values. KESTY-J and KESTY-45 welcomed Sedona Rosenberg as junior youth group advisor. The 9th graders created a podcast to continue their experiential learning. They realized that they like to talk and debate, so having a public forum (the podcast) serves them well. The podcast (available on the temple website) is called “Shin before Sin”, and addresses a variety of topics (e.g., gun violence, Jewish scientists, Israeli inventions, pop culture) within the context of Judaism. A group came together to discuss a possible 8th and 9th grade retreat, potentially focused on Jewish values, making good choices, etc. There was also a celebration of seniors at Shabbat services on May 4th. Lillian’s wish for next year is to see even more growth and development.

Diane Raynes-Miller (outgoing President) and Dianne Neiman (Executive Director) shared remarks via a pre-recorded video, as they were out of town. They thanked all the volunteer leaders in the temple, and spoke about the identity and legacy of Temple Emanuel, and how it is respected for social justice, early

education, experiential learning, and being a testbed of new ideas. They remarked on the broad range of events and activities associated with the Temple, and highlighted three areas of strength:

1. Faith – justice and resistance in Jewish culture, exemplified by Shabbat University.
2. Ethnicity – the universal theme of teaching Judaism, offered from the earliest years in the TEECC.
3. Tikkun Olam – our relationship to the larger world, and repairing it, exemplified by the more than 100 volunteers who came together to support a refugee family's transition to our community.

Dianne Neiman remarked on the many transitions over the past year. Rabbi Mark has invigorated the education program and youth programming, we welcomed Cantor Lindsay Kanter, we said goodbye to Diane Raphael, and we are preparing to say goodbye to Lillian Feldman-Hill and Madeline Lowitz-Gold. Dianne thanked outgoing President Diane Raynes-Miller, and they both welcomed incoming President Bill Epstein.

Following the video message, Al conveyed thanks to numerous community leaders and committee members on behalf of Diane Raynes-Miller.

Budget Discussion (10:40am) - Steven Jacobs

The FY19 budget was sent to the congregation electronically, and is available today in hard copy. Treasurer Steven Jacobs explained format, and highlighted the success of TEECC and religious school contributions to the current budget surplus. He also noted that we realized cost savings from refinancing the mortgage and from a decline in URJ dues.

The budget is developed through a collaborative process with the Treasurer, President, and Finance Committee. A draft budget is brought to the Board for input, and again in April for final approval. There are no significant changes in the FY19 budget compared to FY18. The increased expenses are due to an increase in TEECC enrollment, which will result in higher revenue as well. If you remove TEECC from the budget, expenses are going up about 3%. However, the Membership commitment is not increasing at a 3% rate. Steven recommended that the temple strive to increase the membership commitment through increased household commitments and increasing the number of members. Religious School expenses reflect some changes in the n b'nai mitzvah program payment structure, and RS revenues have been budgeted conservatively.

An important part of the budget in recent years has been to build the fund for capital improvements (the Marion Glass fund). For the last few years we have contributed about 40K per year. For FY19, we are budgeting 50K. The goal is to get this to a higher level. We want to keep the programming up, so it will require increasing member contributions to increase the funding for capital reserves.

Paul Berman motioned to pass the FY19 budget; Rhonda Rich seconded. Before the vote took place, there was additional Q&A and discussion.

- Line 6110 is the “reserve” fund that Steven described.
- Are interest and principal payments the same as last year?
 - The total is the same but the split is changing.
- Do we still have a balloon payment?

- Yes, at 10 years, but we will most likely refinance at that time.
- Line 5605 (custodial services) is \$124K. Can we bring this cost down?
 - The custodial service contract was renegotiated last year through a competitive bidding process; we selected the lowest bid, and they provided a further discount. It covers staffing for before/after activities. We have only one TE staff custodial position; the rest are under the contract. Using the contract is a more cost-effective way to staff events.
- Where is the funding for the parking lot?
 - It is not on this budget, as we do not budget for expenses that are not an approved operating cost. We will get approval to use the Marion Glass fund when the time arises.

Following the discussion, Al Tanenbaum called for a vote on the motion cited above.

The congregation voted on the motion to approve the FY19 budget. The motion passed, with one nay and no abstentions.

7th Grade Presentation (10:55am)

Adam Bobrow, a 7th grade RS teacher, described the project based learning in the classroom this year. One option was focused on gun control/gun violence, and eight students chose to work on that topic.

Several students joined the Annual Meeting today to describe the work they undertook. They explained the motivation for the project, the process for developing the resolution (including consulting with a researcher and reviewing the Mishnah), what they wanted to accomplish, why the issue was important to them (including the connection to Jewish values), and the next steps they plan to take to share the resolution more widely. The students read their final resolution aloud to the congregation (see attached).

Several attendees remarked on the good work done by the 7th graders. Adam Bobrow also recognized the assistance of Chris Calhoun, a parent who was there for the entire process.

Al Tanenbaum motioned to adopt the 7th grade gun violence resolution; Sunil Dasgupta seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation of Elected Officers (11:05am)

The slate of candidates was posted online 30 days ago, distributed to community, and is available today. Al thanked the Nominating Committee, comprised of Suzanne Borden, Jessica Bernstein, Mollie Katz, and Jules LeBoyer. He also recognized Board members who are finishing their terms and not continuing, Becki Epstein and Rob Katz.

Today, we are electing officers for 1 year terms, and trustees for 2 years.

- President: Bill Epstein
- 1st VP: Debra Moses
- 2nd VP: Zelda McBride
- 3rd VP: Kenny Karbeling
- 4th VP: Matthew Joseph
- Treasurer: Steven Jacobs

- Financial Secretary: Susan Harris
- Secretary: Caryn Nagler
- Trustees: Paul Berman, Jennifer Mann Fields, Susan Finkelppearl, David Greeley, Rhonda Rich, Sara Rosen-Gallun, Steve Weiss (Continuing Trustees: Suzanne Borden, Stan Fagen, David Fishback, Martha Hirschfield, Adam Landsman, Sharon Marcus-Kurn, Barbara Sacks Singer)

Al Tanenbaum motioned for the congregation to approve the slate of Board members; Joe Berkowitz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Rabbi Stone’s Presentation (11:09am)

Rabbi Stone thanked Madeline Lowitz-Gold for her passion and dedication to the success of the TEECC for 10 years. On behalf of the temple, Rabbi Stone provided a gift to Madeline for a “getaway weekend”.

Al Tanenbaum entered the following motion:

Whereas Madeline Lowitz-Gold has devoted a decade of her illustrious 30-year career in early childhood education to establishing the Temple Emanuel Early Childhood Center connecting our Jewish values with the pedagogy of the Reggio Emilia approach to early childhood; and,

Whereas under her leadership, the Temple Emanuel Early Childhood Center is recognized by all as one of the premier preschools in our area; and,

Whereas, she is retiring as Temple Emanuel’s Director of Early Childhood in August 2018;

Be it proclaimed that the Board of Trustees and the Members of Temple Emanuel express our sincerest Thanks and Gratitude through the gift of a Lifetime Family Membership to the Temple for Madeline and Martin Gold.

The congregation voted on the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Q & A (11:14am)

Caryn Nagler and David Greely thanked the lay leadership/Board for a good year.

Cantor Lindsay’s closing song (11:15am)

Final remarks from Al Tanenbaum (11:19am)

Al Tanenbaum invited all to join in the congregational picnic, and to stop by the table to purchase plants in support of the Community Social Action Council.

The Annual Meeting adjourned at 11:20am.