

## November 2017 Staff Reports:

### Clergy

Rabbi's Report

TI Board Meeting

19 November 2017 | 1 Kislev 5778

Rabbi Sharon Mars

### OVERVIEW

Since our last board meeting in October, I have devoted much of my time and energy to:  
establishing a "new normal" post-holidays  
balancing multiple areas of programming and organizational need, determining which areas require my attention most  
helping prepare for my installation

### WEEKLY

Planning for and leading Shabbat with Cantor Moses

Planning for Religious School and other educational activities with Beata Abraham and Cantor Moses

Participating in phone meetings with executive leadership

Preparing conversion students (Tara Shiman, Billie Dollinger, Nancy Nelson) for beit din and mikvah

Teaching b'nei mitzvah students and 7th graders

Visiting ill congregants and doing other pastoral counseling

Officiating at life cycle events, incl. one bris (Doug & Michelle Tenenbaum), one bar mitzvah (Liam Kauffman), one wedding (Sam & Gigi Fried's daughter Molly) and two funerals (Beverly Silberman, Jeff Heiser z"l)

Nurturing good communication and relationship with JCC as location partner

### ONGOING

Taking first steps with new Membership Team (mtg. Nov. 1)

Taking first steps with new Social Justice Team (mtg. Nov. 8)

Helping determine next steps with Civil Discourse Team

Helping envision Adult Education classes starting up in January

Helping welcome new members through phone calls

Participating in webinars with Reform Ohio and Community of Practice (Moving Justice to the Center of Our Congregation)

Cultivating next steps with Tom & Nancy Lurie and Karen Jones re. Lurie Micro Grant program

### SPECIAL EVENTS

This month, in addition to the ultra-special event of my installation (!!), I engaged in events and meetings in the community, including:

Reform Ohio Lobby Day (Reform rabbis and congregants from around the state lobbied on sentencing reform)

Jewish Women's Philanthropy event at CMA, through CJF

Interfaith Clergy Group (monthly gathering incl. Revs. Tim Ahrens, Amy Miracle, Rabbi Michael Ungar)

Visited Mt. Calvary Cemetery to see the TI section with Dr. Mark Levy to evaluate possible clean-up

Met with Past. Greg Ford of One Church in Gahanna re. community organizing tips for our congregation

## **Cantor's November Board Report**

### **TI Board Meeting**

**November 17, 2017**

### **Cantor Bat-Ami Moses**

#### **OVERVIEW**

As Cantor of Temple Israel, I have devoted much of my time and energy to:

- helping lead our congregation through Shabbat Friday and Saturday morning Services, Tot Shabbat, Neshama, Meditation and Programs
- Spearheading programming such as Rabbi Mars' Installation and outreach Gratitude Concert, Senior Concert, and Jewish Women's Retreat
- Organizing, setting up, maintaining and regulating our service and activity spaces at the JCC
- Being the lynchpin in clergy leadership focusing on continued program development and the renewal of Shabbat services and programs
- Spearheading the organization of long range Calendar planning
- Maintaining and developing relationships with new and current B'nai Mitzvah families
- Coordinating schedules of musicians and all musical programming including adult Choir
- Being responsible for the set up and break down of sound systems, securing instruments in current Shabbat Services locations
- Developing ideas for Reform Community Shabbat working with Rabbis and Musical Colleagues
- Visioning with Rabbi Mars, staff, and lay leaders to establish and maintain strong relationships with congregants, attract new members, and "rebrand" our congregation while respecting our history
- Being in contact with Artists in Residences starting to plan for next years 2017/18 Programming

#### **WEEKLY**

- Planning for Religious School and other educational activities with Beata Abraham and Rabbi Mars
- Teaching Hebrew school on Tuesday afternoons and teaching music and leading Tefilla at Sunday school
- Leading Friday night, Shabbat morning Neshama minyan, Tot Shabbat services
- Participating in meetings with executive leadership
- Acting as the liaison between the JCC and Temple Israel in designing set-up and optimal space for programs, services and B'nai Mitzvah
- Preparing and working with each B'nai mitzvah family and their needs
- Teaching b'nai mitzvah students
- Officiating at life cycle events, funerals and shiva minyanim
- Meeting with couples to officiate for two weddings one in December, one in February
- Connecting and checking in with congregants who are ill and/or going through challenging times
- \* Developing marketing materials and strategies for Tot Shabbat
- \* Writing a monthly article for our weekly email newsletter

#### **LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE:**

Micro: The setting up/managing and breaking down of the sound system each week at the JCC

Macro: Finding and keeping good/local B'nai Mitzvah tutors and keeping families engaged and satisfied

SAME QUESTION for the Board: If we want to continue promoting our new "brand" with special programming and services, inspirational music, and good Torah learning how will we create a much needed "Programming Budget?"

Education Director

**December Education Director's Report:**

**Education Committee** convened (new members, new position holders): Committee will make presence, mission known to RS families, set policies, review curriculum goals, develop fundraiser.

All school **Hanukkah** celebration will take place December 17th (this is an interactive, content driven event, reinforcing the meaning of this holiday).

November 4th- 5/6th grade **annual sleepover** event (this year at the JCC) took place. Event is designed to create and advance relationships between the students in this large grade, encouraging deeper investment in the School/Temple. Event was opened to the community and was attended by 27 students (majority from TI).

Executive Director

## **Executive Director's Report – November 16, 2017**

### **Facilities**

- Liz and I met with Mike Klapper and Jennie Cammeyer at the JCC on Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>. We had an extremely positive conversation and gave our partnership a tune-up.
- Zach and Liz continue to carefully audit the JCC invoices.
- Staff met for 90 minutes to carefully plan and explain our facilities needs from December through June 30, 2018.
- Cantor Moses and I met at the JCC to review adjustments to sound, and will continue to work with the JCC staff on this matter.
- Parking at our new office location continues to be a problem. I am working daily to try to resolve this issue.

### **Membership**

- We had a solid meeting of our Membership Committee in early November. Thank you to Debbie Belinky & Clemy Keidan for your continued efforts there.
- Zach compiled a list of 19 congregants that we have not heard from in two-years. Clergy is tackling a number of phone calls, as have I to connect with this families before a certified letter is sent in December.
- A Thanksgiving letter of gratitude has gone out in the mail.

### **Finance**

- Ongoing calls about membership.
- Insurance renewal

### **Programming/Marketing**

- Staff has been diligently working together to thoughtfully plan programming needs ahead of time. We believe this will help us get ahead on communications and marketing as well as our space needs for the event ahead of time.

- B’Nai Mitzvah – as a small staff team we have met to revise and repair our overwhelming packet of information. We believe we have streamlined this to a very succinct letter, timeline, a few web forms, a contact sheet and an FAQ. Hopefully, our families will find this approach to be more user friendly.
- We are doubling down in December to work on our website, and our e-comms. I hope that you will start to see some improvement in that realm.

### **Staff**

- Our staff has continued to collaborate in a really wonderful way. We have been tackling some difficult projects in the last three weeks, and I am proud of the hard work being put in every day.
- The cemetery transition happened this month. No hiccups, so far.

### **General**

Thank you to Lisa Goldsand who took time to meet with me the week I returned to work to give me some really sound advice. I am beginning to implement those tactics. A few stumbles, but so far so good.