

Shir Ami Board of Directors Meeting



Board Minutes

September 12, 2023 26 Elul 5783

Attendance: Beth McAleese, Helen Berman, Rabbi Briskin, Jason Cohen, Rabbi Eric Goldberg, Stephanie Kravatz, Marc Luber, Phil Nordlinger, Ellen Rawicz, Meryl Reis, Andy Salsman, Ellie Short, Jon Stevens, Brandon Weiss, Cantor Berlin, Brett Cohen, Jeffrey Cohen, Michael Smolen, Jared Fingerman

Guests: NA

Absent: NA

Board meeting goal – Be strategic (Stay out of the weeds)

I. Welcome & Remarks

- Minutes from 8-8-2023 approved unanimously
 - Ellen made motion, Jason seconded
- Tzedekah collected
- Thank you to Andy Salsman for doing the D'var and Jon Stevens for sponsoring dinner
- Monthly Reports are on the ShirBoard drive under Shir Board 2023-24 September
- Board rep for upcoming B. Mitzvahs
 - (havdalah) on Saturday Oct 7, 2023 – Stephanie - Sophia Lapide
 - Sunday 10/15/23 at 10:30 Haley Navon – Ellen
- Jarad will cover board gift on 9/30
- Dinner sign-ups still pending for 4/16 and 5/21
- Shabbat sign-ups for October-December are open on the Drive and were circulated during the meeting
- WOSA meetings are the 3rd Tuesday either in person or online - sign up to attend on behalf of the Board
- Men's Club – need board member to attend
- Usher list for holidays was circulated
- 9/24 Kol Nidre with Torah procession
 - Please arrive at 6:45 to the FLC

- Wear a tallit if you have one.
- 12 board members for 8 Torahs, past presidents will bring Torahs in, current board will take Torahs and stand with them during chanting of Kol
- Save the dates: Dec 1-3 Cantor's Installation weekend
Dec 15-17 URJ 150 Celebration in Washington DC
- Dvar Torah – Andy Salsman spoke about the meaning of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur
- New member brunch – 10/1, Board members should try to attend

II. 501C Status:

- Non-discrimination statement for ELC - **Helen**
 - Michael made motion and Ellen seconded to allow 2 members to sign, rather than full Board, approved
 - Resolution updated and approved unanimously

III.

- Articles of Incorporation - **Phil**
 - “To worship God according to the faith, ritual and discipline of the Jewish religion and to promote the civic, educational, social and spiritual improvement of its members” remove "civic and social" to keep 501c status
 - Michael made motion and Andy seconded, vote was unanimous to approve

III. Circle of Giving Update: Meryl Reiss

- Office created its own donation page, lots of publicity
- Marc Luber will speak about it on Kol Nidre
- Successful to-date
 - 2x as many people have contributed, as last year at this time
 - last year \$30K was raised at this point vs \$70k this year so far, (without DiMedio very large donation)
- Making donation easy with pledge cards
- Funds will help enhance and improve the community and provide robust experiences
- Board members are expected to be leaders in fundraising
- To donate anonymously – contact Phil
- Phil said that over the last 5 years – there has been 100% participation by full-time staff
-

IV. Life and Legacy: Jon Stevens

- Endowment for future generations – help sustain Shir Ami
- Griswold foundation (?) – Life and Legacy - estate/legacy planning methodology
 - Shir Ami is 1 of 19 organizations in Southeast PA participating under Federation auspices
 - Goal to get pledges from 18-25 people this year, and another 18-25 next year
 - Learning how to target, market, etc.
 - Applied and were accepted to program

V. DEI Grant: Stephanie

- WRJ has an opportunity for a DEI grant of \$5k-10K – must apply now (Oct 25), money will be distributed later
- Got many ideas when solicited ideas for use of funds
- Grant is not self-sustaining, so any programs established will need to be funded later by Shir Ami
- 5 proposals
 - Create resource teacher for Religious School and/or B'Mitzvah for kids with special needs like ELC does (recently had B'Mitzvah for autistic child – Heather Blumberg's daughter)
 - Evaluate bimah accessibility – lift, ramp, hiring architect to look at entire sanctuary
 - Safe space for sensory/quiet break
 - Address other physical barriers in building (hands free lights, large print books/hearing devices, etc.)
 - Tim Tibo Nights to Shine – prom for disabled adults (14+)
 - Discussion:
 - Stephanie will send feedback to Bob Cherkin – Bob and Phil work will on grant proposal, combine a couple of ideas together
 - Currently allocate \$5-7K in budget – not spent
 - Nina hired resource person to replace herself in that role
 - Part of engagement, inclusion

VI. Review of Policies: Ellen

- Adopting and amending policies
 - Number and date them
 - Review on rotating basis every 3 years and as board designates
 - Suggestions for updates should go to Executive Director, who will distribute – owners of policies will review and update/board
 - Board will approve new/updated policies

- Meryl made motion and Beth seconded – Motion passed unanimously.
- Shafty
 - Policies are more advertisement than policies, need to be rewritten
 - K-12, Jewish youth
 - Michael and Ferne working on restructuring youth groups/policies – board reviewed and tasked youth committee to rework
- Membership Policy
 - We don't have congregation membership policy
 - What can non-members, non-Jews do?

VII. Engagement Priorities Discussion: Marc and Brett

- Inspired by activity around Purim - how can we streamline, coordinate, build-up?
- Objective – Strengthen our Shir Ami community by implementing a replicable cycle of meaningful & memorable programs that increases congregant involvement while maximizing the results of congregational “asks”.
- Reviewed:
 - Congregational asks
 - Desired outcomes
 - Strategy
 - Tentpole Events for next 2-3 years
 - Participation goals
 - Inspire congregant FOMO – fear of missing out
 - Next steps
 - (See Engagement Committee presentation)
- Recommended use of hashtags
- Organize photos by hashtags for EOY “year in review”
- Discussion
 - Calendar meeting with committee/event chairs - coordinate
 - Natalie – engagement/programming – bridge clergy/staff and lay leaders
 - Marc/Brett consult

VIII. Closing Prayer: Rabbi Goldberg

MONTHLY BOARD REPORT

NAME: Ken Standig

DATE: 9-10-2023

TITLE OR COMMITTEE: Buildings & Grounds

Please provide a summary for the board of what you and/or your committee have been up to since the last meeting. Bullet points are fine.

- Discussed initial proposal for roof-mounted solar panel installation from Coral Reef Partners; received revised proposal, to be discussed.
- Concurred on replacement of the rooftop HVAC unit for the office area.
- Held review meeting of final (hopefully) edits to the EAP.
- Created Emergency Procedures pew card for distribution in the sanctuary.
- Updating Emergency Exits and Evacuation Maps for all areas of the building.

Please list and describe any upcoming initiatives and/or events.

- Reviewing revised proposal from solar panel consultant and follow-up meeting.
- Hold regularly scheduled committee meeting.
- Follow up meeting on finalizing the EAP and reviewing action items list.
- Schedule meeting on security guard policy.
- Scheduling emergency response training sessions for staff and congregants.

Are there any items that the board needs to discuss or actions that the board needs to take at this time? If so, please specify the question, topic and/or required action.

Note that the rooftop HVAC unit for the office is the first of more than 10 units of similar vintage being replaced. With the anticipated replacement of other units as they reach the end of their useful life, this will become a significant capital expense in coming years – FYI.

If you have any documents that you would like to include with your report, please email them with this form.

None.

ADOPTING AND AMENDING POLICIES

This policy manual has been adopted by the Board of Directors of Shir Ami.

This policy manual will be reviewed and updated as necessary. Recommendations for change to the policy manual should be directed to the Clergy, the Director of Operations, Early Learning Center Director or Director of Education, as appropriate, or to the President of Shir Ami. Changes or amendments to the policy manual may only be made by the Board of Directors.

I. Schedule of Policy Review (Approved 4/13/2023)

The review of all current policies shall be conducted every 3 years, on a rotating basis, and at any such other time as designated by the Board of Directors. Policies are reviewed by the owners as designated in the policy manual and updates are approved by the Board of Directors.

September BOARD REPORT

Name: Debbie Stevens

Date: 9/8/2023

TITLE OR COMMITTEE: Circle of Giving Committee

Please provide a summary for the board of what you and/or your committee have been up to since the last board meeting. Bullet points are fine.

Circle of Giving is getting renewed focus this year.

Marc Luber will be speaking on behalf of Circle of Giving at Kol Nidre services. There will be a pledge card available at that time which will include a QR code for contributions.

The link for Circle of Giving was included in High Holiday information and there is a special donation page just for the Circle of Giving program since we are encouraging people to give at specific levels.

A brunch is being planned for November for all who have given to Circle of Giving this year as well as those who gave last year. This is to acknowledge and thank donors and perhaps encourage those who haven't given yet in the new year to make their contribution.

Circle of Giving provides a significant source of funds for Shir Ami. It is important that we encourage as many congregants as possible to participate in the program.

Please list and describe any upcoming initiatives and/or events.

Are there are items that the board needs to discuss or actions that the board needs to take at this time? If so, please specify the question, topic and/or required action.

If you have any documents that you would like to include with your report, please email them with this form.

Cantor Julie Berlin

September 10, 2023

- In the last month much of my time has been spent on High Holy Days - working with the choir, preparing the service menus for clergy and choir, and preparing my own materials.
- I continue to work with b. Mitzvah students as I also continue to learn the program. We had 3 b. Mitzvah services this month and while I think they went well and pretty smoothly, I have noted a few minor things I need to work out.
- Also with the b. Mitzvah program, I plan to meet with Jodi and Ferne to walk through our program from the time families get a date to the service to note all of the transitions and see where I might need to have more communication with families so they always know what next steps are for them.
- I also spent quite a bit of time working with the band on the music for the Shabbat service on Sept 9. Thanks to Rabbi Eric Goldberg for helping to coordinate and organize and helping me to learn how this talented group works.
- The choir has been working really hard to learn all the music. We've been meeting twice a week for the last five weeks. We were a little short on time since [Eric Schnitzer](#) was on vacation into August. Pamela Stein Lynde has been a great help in facilitating rehearsals and also making recordings of parts for choir members to practice with between rehearsals.

I look forward to seeing all of you throughout the High Holy Days and I hope you all have a sweet New Year.

Shanah Tovah um'tukah

Julie

Resolution 0001 – Shir Ami Early Learning Center Non-Discrimination Policy
September 12, 2023

Whereas it is the responsibility of the Board of Directors of Shir Ami to establish policy and standards for the Early Learning Center, as part of the overall congregation.

Whereas the Board strives to make the synagogue a welcoming place for all, our school maintains a Non-Discrimination Policy.

Whereas the Early Learning Center does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, color, religion, disability, or national origin in admittance or education; and extends to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally made available to students at the school.

Whereas all personnel responsible for school admissions or programming are charged with supporting this effort and responding promptly and appropriately to any concerns that are brought to their attention.

Now, therefore, it is resolved to formally implement the above Non-Discrimination Policy for the Early Learning Center, as of this date, September 12, 2023.

Board President – Stephanie Kravatz

Signature _____

Date_____

Board Secretary - Helen Berman

Signature _____

Date_____

BOARD REPORT- Executive Director

NAME: Phil Nordlinger

DATE: 9/11/2023

Please provide a summary for the board of what you have been up to since the last meeting. Please include an update on your goals when relevant or indicate activity pertaining to your goals. Bullet points are fine.

- **Finalized and emailed congregational billing**
- **Coordinated Circle of Giving Annaul plan with CoG chairs**
- **Completed Life and Legacy plan and submitted to JFGP**
- **Began initial revision of 501 c3 application**
- **Coordinated all logistic aspects of High Holy Days**
 - **Security and police detail**
 - **Congregational email**
 - **Website information**
 - **Guest and reciprocal tickets**
 - **Room setups**
 - **Staff schedule**
 - **Maintenance responsibilities**
 - **Life Stream**
 -
- **Negotiated rental contract with Borscht Belt which was prepared to commence on 9/1/2023**
 - **Subsequent decision by Newtown township has delayed the beginning of the rental period indefinitely**
- **Completed fy '24 budget spread**
- **Scheduled building fire inspection, Kitchen hood system, installation of digital mixer for sound system**
- **Completed scheduling of fiber optic phone/internet lines for October 2023**
- **Coordinated onboarding of new Engagement Coordinator/ training**

September BOARD REPORT

NAME: Jeff Cohen

DATE: September 10, 2023

TITLE OR COMMITTEE: Marketing & Communications

Please provide a summary for the board of what you and/or your committee have been up to since the last meeting. Bullet points are fine.

- We have begun the new exit interview process. Three families that resigned recently have been contacted, but no interviews completed as of the time of this report.

Please list and describe any upcoming initiatives and/or events.

- Nothing at this time.

Are there any items that the board needs to discuss or actions that the board needs to take at this time? If so, please specify the question, topic and/or required action.

- We will share results from the exit interviews once available.

If you have any documents that you would like to include with your report, please email them with this form.

SEPTEMBER BOARD REPORT

NAME: Jason Cohen **DATE:** 9/11/23
TITLE OR COMMITTEE: Membership

Please provide a summary for the board of what you and/or your committee have been up to since the last meeting. Bullet points are fine.

- Called and spoke to 20 new member families by phone/email and delivered Welcome Baskets. All welcome baskets included personalized and signed letters from me.
- All interactions logged into CRM with notes about families. All follow up items completed and questions answered during my phone calls/emails with all members.
- Six additional new member families joined the week of 9/4 and 9/11 and will be contacted the week of 9/11
- New member spotlight, Stianchi family, in Shiron. Family joins us from Temple Judea and met them in person during opening day of religious school on 9/10. Jaffe family and Stupine family are up next to be highlighted as new member spotlight.
- A few new members attended the opening day of religious school including the Rubin family, Stupine family, Stianchi family, and Jill/Raphael Cohen and family.
- Newborn onesies delivered to Shapiro and Morgaylo families; List to be delivered.
- 3 former members rejoined - Ken Lipton, Brenda Shore, and Jason Hart and family.
- One new member, Nicole Gilston has social media marketing background and interested in potentially joining M&C committee. Sent information to Jeff Cohen to follow up.

Please list and describe any upcoming initiatives and/or events.

- Planning underway with Natalie Standig for new member brunch scheduled for 10/1 in Sukkah and Stevens Atrium. Clergy, RS committee chair, ELC Director, WoSA, Mens Club and SHAAK invited to attend. All Board members invited and encouraged to attend. Personal email invite from me going out the week of September 11 linking to online registration form. Follow up with phone calls the week of 9/18.
- Finalizing program to help members get to know each other and engage with committees, board, clergy, and staff

Are there any items that the board needs to discuss or actions that the board needs to take at this time? If so, please specify the question, topic and/or required action.

- Board members are encouraged to attend New Member brunch on 10/1 at 9:15.

If you have any documents that you would like to include with your report, please email them with this form.

SEPTEMBER BOARD REPORT

NAME: Helen Berman

DATE: 09-12-23

TITLE OR COMMITTEE: Pastoral Care (Chesed)

Chair people: Helen Berman and Harriet Paley

Please provide a summary for the board of what you and/or your committee have been up to since the last meeting. Bullet points are fine.

- Helen and Harriet met with Cantor Berlin to discuss committee agenda items and her interests/ideas. We plan to focus on:
 - Best way to facilitate calls/visits & other services to support congregants
 - Finalize approach for sharing/distributing emergency resource cards
 - Inviting members of local agencies to speak on current issues
 - New approach for college connection
- Meeting with full committee is scheduled for October 3, 7:00
- Continuing to solicit membership and solicit leaders for specific projects
- Soliciting information on congregational needs
- Birthday Cards – Dana Levy
 - Working with Rabbi Goldberg/volunteers to design Shir Ami celebration card
 - Birthday cards will be sent to kids and 80+ initially
- Plan to work with clergy to do training to lead Shiva Minyans and expand number of lay leaders
- Encouraging Chesed donations

Please list and describe any upcoming initiatives and/or events.

Planning is beginning...

- Determine where our congregants are living in Senior Facilities – determine if we should do programs at facilities or bring residents to Shir Ami

Are there any items that the board needs to discuss or actions that the board needs to take at this time? If so, please specify the question, topic and/or required action.

If you have any documents that you would like to include with your report, please email them with this form.

BOARD REPORT- CLERGY/STAFF

NAME: Rabbi Chuck Briskin

DATE: 9/10/23

Please provide a summary for the board of what you have been up to since the last meeting. Please include an update on your goals when relevant or indicate activity pertaining to your goals. Bullet points are fine.

Worship:

Our summer services were well attended, especially those when we served dinner (about 70-80 compared to 30-40 on non-meal nights). There is a good vibe around worship. Last Friday night 150 people gathered to formally welcome Cantor and Rabbi Berlin, share camp reflections, listen to the band, and eat together. We will plan periodic instrumentally enhanced Shabbat services throughout the year, with dinner before or after too.

In addition to the High Holy Days, we have plans for a nice Sukkot service on Sept. 29 and a combined Intergen, Consecration, and Simchat Torah service planned for Oct. 6.

During the year, we plan to read Torah on Friday nights once per month, and will be reaching out specifically to people who used to chant Torah on the High Holy Days. I've heard from a few that they miss it, and we want to give them an opportunity.

High Holy Days:

Honors

95% of the individual honors have been assigned. There are a few lingering for Yom Kippur but will be assigned this week.

Rosh Hashanah Group Aliyot invitations have been sent. They are for the Golf Tournament Volunteers, Code Blue volunteers, and the Cantorial Search Committee.

Yom Kippur Aliyot will be for All SHAFTY Board, Madrichim and the Confirmation class; all b.mitzvah since last year; all Purim Volunteers (hamentashen baking, Mishloach Manot, Spiel and party). Those will go out this week.

A reminder again that that the Board of Directors group honor is to hold Torah scrolls during Kol Nidre (Sunday evening, Sept, 24) More information about that honor will be forthcoming and Becky Markowitz is helping to coordinate.

Selichot:

Our experiment to join the larger Bucks County congregations was a bust. We only had 3 people to the program on Sat. night at 2 stayed for the service (which ended at 11:15 and was far more traditional than what we are accustomed to). Next year we will return to Shir Ami for a program that is more appropriate for our community.

The Torah Mantle changing during Religious School was also mixed. It was nice for the kids who were chosen to help change the mantles, but did not engage others. We will have to rethink how we might bring elements of Selichot into the RS.

But, we live and learn. Better to experiment and come up short than to not try something new at all.

Our HHD Lifelong Learning classes were well attended and folks have spoken highly of them. Many thanks to Rabbi Eric for coordinating.

RAC-PA: Seven Shir Ami folks were among the 70-80 Pennsylvanians who joined for our training last week to launch our campaign this year with Cease Fire PA, a gun safety organization lobbying for the Common Agenda to enact common sense gun safety legislation. In the weeks ahead, I will be working with Andee Losben, Essie Cherkin, Barbara Roth and Helen Berman to strategize for our in district meetings with our local reps.

Join us for our study session on Yom Kippur afternoon from 2:00 to 3:00 with other congregations to explore this issue through Jewish texts. I'll be leading with Rabbi Eli Freedman of Rodeph Shalom in Philly along with a former board member for Cease Fire PA who is a member of Beth David in Gladwyne.

18Doors Rukin Fellowship: I am looking forward to beginning this fellowship with a three day retreat in October (15-18). I look forward to reporting back next month.

Pastoral/Life Cycle:

Continued calls and visits to individuals and their families dealing with chronic or terminal illness, or who are in the early stages of mourning.

Baby Namings—Henry Harrison Pledger grandson of our longtime ELC teacher Robin Balderi

B.mitzvah of Allie Cohen, Spencer Behrend, and Isaac Cohen.

Conversion of Justin Newman

Wedding of Lauren Fried and Joe Lenz. Lauren is the daughter of Rick and Fern Fried

Vidui (death bed ritual), Funeral and Shiva minyan for Marcy Schaeffer-Allred

Small Groups—Bob Wolk (new member) is leading the Museum and Culture Small group. We will publicize new groups this fall, once it is determined if I will have any administrative and staff support to manage it. Existing groups should be able to continue for one more year.

B.mitzvah—Cantor Berlin and I have done three b.mitzvah so far. There are a few minor kinks to iron out but overall they have gone well. Our students and families are relating very nicely to Cantor Berlin and she has done a great job jumping in and facilitating a program that she inherited and is still learning about. I look forward to revising our program in the months ahead to improve it from start to finish. In time I hope that families who have questions about b.mitzvah will go directly to Cantor Berlin.

I believe that is all for now. If I missed something, please let me know and I will update this report.

Respectfully Submitted (90 minutes after deadline....)

Rabbi Charles Briskin

BOARD REPORT- CLERGY/STAFF

NAME: Eric Goldberg

DATE: Board Meeting 9/12/23

TITLE OR COMMITTEE: Rabbi/Director of Education

Please provide a summary for the board of what you have been up to since the last meeting. Please include an update on your goals when relevant or indicate activity pertaining to your goals. Bullet points are fine.

Religious School Update

1. It is with deep sadness that I note the Religious School family is mourning the passing of Marcy Schaeffer-Allred earlier this month. Marcy taught with us for many years, was a friend to all who met her, and will be so deeply missed by her students, our teachers, madrichim and myself. Our hearts break for her mom and dad, Helen and Larry, her sister Ember, her husband John and their four children - Erin, Gabby, Nick and Ryan. May Marcy's name be for a blessing today and every day.
2. Enrollment for the 23-24 Religious School year has exceeded expectations. As of Friday (9/8), 237 students were enrolled in K-10th grades, with an expected 5-10 more student enrolling in the next couple of days. This expectation is based on phone calls, conversations and emails between several families, myself, Jodi Friedman, Phil and others. Our expectation was that 226 students would enroll.
3. Our teachers and madrichim (teen teaching assistants) have been meeting throughout the summer and had our Opening Faculty Meeting last Tuesday (9/5). We have an amazing group and I am so proud to be part of this team. I am also proud to announce that we have more madrichim than at any time I can remember. Our teens are truly a special group!
4. As I am writing prior to the event, we are incredibly excited for our Opening Day of Religious School, Sunday 9/10. We will meet as a K-5th grade school family from 9-9:30 for an Opening Assembly, followed by a Meet & Greet + Community Connections Event from 9:30-10:45 and conclude with a all school Tefillah/Song Session from 10:45-11:30. Today Rabbah to our teachers, families, madrichim,

Ellen and the entire Religious School Committee, Ferne, Rabbi, Cantor, Jodi, Jodie, Natalie, Shanika and all who will be there to get our year kicked off!

5. The 2023-2024/5784 Religious School year will focus on the idea that learning/studying about living a Jewish life is infinitely valuable, but only if that learning leads to action. This text will be our guide: R. Tarfon and the Elders were reclining in the upper chamber of the house of Nitza in Lod, when this question was raised: Is study greater, or practice? R. Tarfon answered: Practice is greater. R. Akiba answered saying: Study is greater, for it leads to practice. They answered and said: Study is greater, for it leads to action. (Babylonian Talmud, Kiddushin 40b)
6. With this teaching in mind, we asked families to bring some (or all) of the following to be donated on the first day of school/throughout the beginning of our year:
 - a. Non-Non-Perishable items for the Shir Ami food pantry;
 - b. Winter Coats and Feminine Hygiene Products for Mitzvah Circle;
 - c. Children's/Young Adult Books for Tree House Books and/or
 - d. Clothing for JFCS.Fran Held, Director of Mitzvah Circle, will be at Shir Ami and speak to parents/adults on the 10th. Stan and Shelly Cohen will be representing JFCS on the 10th as well. Michael Brix, Executive Director of Tree House Books, will be coming on October 4th.

Lifelong Learning (LLL) Update

1. Our three-part series on preparing for the High Holidays, *Hineni: Here I Am*, was well attended and got our Lifelong Learning year off to a wonderful start. Rabbi, Cantor and I each led a session focused on important topics connected to the Days of Awe:
 1. The concept of Teshuvah,
 2. The Kol Nidre declaration,
 - and 3. Looking back on our actions and becoming the people we wish to be in 5784.Attendance was primarily in person with a few joining us on Zoom. All recordings will be posted on the website in the coming weeks.
2. On Tuesday October 3rd, I will teach our first Lunch and Learn session of the year in the sukkah (weather permitting). 'Rain, Rain (Don't Go Away)' will look at the idea that in Jewish tradition it is during Sukkot God determines the amount of rainfall for the entire year. According to the rabbis, when the rain falls and how much falls tells us a lot about how God thinks we are doing as human beings.
3. On Thursday October 19th, Rabbi Briskin will lead: 'You Are What You Eat: Why Keeping Kosher Matters (Or Not) in Our Lives.' Delve into the laws of kashrut, why

Jewish tradition/law has always deeply cared about what you put into your body, the relationship between Jewish law and being a vegan/vegetarian, as well as the meaning(s) the laws of kashrut have in our times as a Reform Jewish community.

Additional Items

1. Continue to make daily birthday and anniversary calls.
2. Continued pastoral care calls, emails and texts
3. The band was honored to help lead our September 8th service. Todah Rabbah to Cantor for her leadership, creativity and some great new music to work on. Todah Rabbah as well to our band members: Rabbi Alan Berlin, Avi Briskin, Ezra Briskin, Dave Chesner, Jeff Eder, Ben Hoffman, Matt Hoffman, Beth LaPat, Yale Saltzman, Eric Schnitzer and Michael Smolen.
4. Officiated at life cycle events.
5. Walking/Running group continues.

As always, do not hesitate to be in touch should you have any questions or want to know more. I can best be reached via phone/text (856-359-5758) and/or email (egoldberg@shiramipa.org)

Are there any items that the board needs to discuss or actions that the board needs to take at this time? If so, please specify the question, topic and/or required action.

Nothing specific, but please know that we would love to see board members any time at Religious School! Thank you for all of your support!

SEPTEMBER BOARD REPORT

NAME: Beth McAleese/Andy Salsman **DATE:** 9/9/2023
TITLE OR COMMITTEE: Ritual Life

Please provide a summary for the board of what you and/or your committee have been up to since the last meeting. Bullet points are fine.

- Completed outreach of HHD honor calls and follow up and had ongoing collaboration with Rabbi Briskin.**
- Updated and finalized.**
- Ritual Life Board Families attended/Supported Meet and Greet for Cantor Berlin**
- 8/29 Ritual Life Committee Meeting met, checked in with committee members, new member added Rachel Tyler. Dan Surkin interested and eager to assist with greeting/ushering for HHD help, and Shabbats. Goal is to increase connections. Follow up communication was done with Phil regarding coordination.**

Please list and describe any upcoming initiatives and/or events.

- Ritual Life will follow up with Natalie for introduction.**
- Follow up on send out of HHD survey and feedback with quick turnaround.**

Are there any items that the board needs to discuss or actions that the board needs to take at this time? If so, please specify the question, topic and/or required action.

If you have any documents that you would like to include with your report, please email them with this form.

September 2023 WOSA Report

Our WOSA meetings are tentatively scheduled for the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm, and the next one is in the FLC on 9/19. Some are online only through a Google Meet link so if you can provide me with an email address and phone number for whomever is expected to attend each month, we can provide access and/or schedule changes.

We hosted a prospective member mini-golf night in August and a kugel tasting this past Thursday. Some members were supposed to go to the JRA Food Bank this morning, but I don't know who went since I was at the open house. That will continue on a monthly basis. We're decorating the Sukkah next Sunday and are trying to organize a trivia night in October to replace the hayride/bonfire because we felt that was too expensive. We have our paid up membership event on 11/15 with a game show theme and a book & cookie exchange planned for 11/8.

We might try to pull off a sukkah brunch or lunch on 10/1 if the space is available, but that's to be discussed at the September meeting.

YOUTH GROUPS

SHAFTY Program

SHAFTY is the Shir Ami Federation of Temple Youth, one of the largest and most exciting youth groups in the region. SHAFTY consists of four groups based on grade level: Chalutzim (grades 3 and 4), Bonim (grades 5 and 6), Junior SHAFTY (grades 7 and 8) and Senior SHAFTY (grades 9 thru 12). Its goal is for children of all ages to have the opportunity to participate in a variety of social events that keep them active with other Jewish kids. We invite your child to join the group appropriate to his or her age and get in on all the fun! SHAFTY offers a social forum for Jewish children outside of the secular classroom. The SHAFTY program is open to all Jewish youth, whether or not their families are members of Shir Ami. Each one of our four youth groups are structured in accordance to the appropriate age level, and incorporates a balance between religious experiences, mitzvah projects, activities and entertainment. Here your child begins the process of becoming a leader of tomorrow in the Jewish community, while making lasting friendships.

SHAFTY Code of Conduct

- The drinking, possession and/or distribution of alcoholic beverages, even if the participant is of legal age, is strictly prohibited. Furthermore, no participant may arrive to an event under the influence, even if of legal age.
- The use, possession and/or distribution of weapons and/or illegal drugs or paraphernalia relating thereto, is strictly prohibited.
- Gambling in any form or manner is strictly prohibited, unless otherwise specifically approved by the adult leadership.
- Any inappropriate sexual behavior, harassment, or hazing will not be tolerated.
- SHIR AMI FEDERATION OF TEMPLE YOUTH, at its sole discretion shall provide sufficient supervision by adults at all events. Neither Shir Ami, nor its employees, may be held responsible for any damages or injuries sustained by persons or property, directly resulting from improper conduct.
- The cost and/or expense of damages resulting from vandalism of any kind, type, or nature must be paid by the person or persons who caused or participated in such vandalism.
- No member or members may, of their own accord; (1) extend the time of any sponsored event; or (2) depart from the premises upon which an event is being held, without the knowledge and express permission of an adult supervisor.
- Any act that is a violation of Federal, State or Local laws may be considered a violation of the SHAFTY Code of Conduct.
- Any infraction or violation of the SHAFTY Code of Conduct may result in removal of a member at the sole discretion of the SHAFTY advisor(s) at the expense of parent/guardian.