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## ***MINUTES***

**February 21, 2023 30 Shevat 5783**

**Board meeting goal – “To laugh at least once per meeting”**

**Attendance:** Ellie Short, Marc Lubner, Andy Salsman, Jeff Cohen, Jason Cohen, Beth McAleese, Jon Stevens, Melissa Rubenstein, Ellen Rawicz, Phil Nordlinger, Marc Lubner, Stephanie Kravatz, Michael Smolen

**Absent:** Rachel Tyler, Jarad Fingerman, Helen Berman, Brandon Weiss, Rabbi Briskin, Rabbi Goldberg, Cantor Kohlbrenner

**Motion** to approve the minutes from the last meeting by Melissa Rubenstein, Second by Beth McAleese, abstention by Stephanie Schwartz, Melissa Rubenstein, Jason Cohen, Andy Salsman.  
**Motion tabled as we have no quorum.**

**I. Welcome & Remarks**

- Approval of 1-24-2023 minutes
- Tzedekah
- WoSA Board meeting – March 14 –Ellie
  - Discussion about WOSA communications to all of Shir Ami to increase membership,
  - Brief discussion around auxiliaries being open to non-congregation members
  - Jeff/Jason to follow up with WOSA and Mens club leadership around communications
- Need Board dinner sponsors for March, thank you to Jason & Andy for sponsoring tonight’s dinner
- Reports on ShirBoard drive under 2022-23 Gatherings- Bldg & G, RS/LLL, Pastoral Care, Ritual, Tikkun Olam, ELC, SHAFTY, C of G, INC, Cantor, Rabbi Briskin
- Circle of Giving Fund – Board members are expected to make a contribution, another way of demonstrating leadership
- **Budget Meetings: Board members should try to attend these.**
  - March 7** - ELC
  - March 16** - Admin, Maintenance, Affiliation
  - March 22** – Youth, Education

**March 30** – Ritual, Philanthropy, Engagement

- **Important dates:**

**April 25**, Annual Meeting 7 pm, approval of board slate & budget

**April 28**, Shabbat service honoring Ferne Levy's 30 yrs

**May 12**, Shabbat service/Board Installation - honoring outgoing and incoming board

**June 9**, Shabbat service honoring Cantor Kohlbrenner

- Dvar Torah – Stephanie Kravatz

**II. Consolidating restricted funds – Jon Stevens**

Approx 700K in restricted funds, 27 restricted funds

Balances between \$500 and \$184K

12 funds have less than \$10K each

We have no restricted fund policy

No minimum size to create

Inactive threshold, automatic fund transfer of funds

Keeping restricted funds segregated means that they cannot be invested to grow well

Jon to create policy for review/discussion at next meeting

**III. Promotion of Purim Baskets & Purim Spiel - Jason**

**Golf Outing with Mahjong and Cards Update – Marc Luber**

Purim basket sponsorship trending lower than last year by approx. 7K

Hamantaschen orders are flat, cost went up

Need more drivers for 3/5, need bakers for 3/3-5

Golf outing...big community day, 7 foursomes for golf, similar for cards, 20K in sponsorships

Ask for board members to reach out to connections

**IV. Annual congregational meeting, April 25 - Ellie**

Four pillars and committee chairs report out via PPT, need photos

**V. Education Goals review-Stephanie Kravatz**

B Mitzvah task force formed by 4/1, report back to board by Nov 1

Update curriculum and evaluate every year, include adequate tikkun olam opportunities for each year, ongoing review by RS committee each year

Lifelong learning- schedule finalized by July 1 or 8 weeks prior to HHD

**VI. Dream big exercise – what would we like Shir Ami to look like if money wasn't an issue? – ideas from breakout groups**

**Growing spiritually:**

- Shabbat dinner or substantial oneg after services so people are more likely to stay without worrying about being fed, also offer oneg before services
- Utilize chapel more
- Become more of a spiritual center for our congregants, feel that clergy wears the congregation on sleeve/in heart, not just a job

- ShirJitney to bring people to Shir Ami from

### **Learning Together**

- High profile speaker series
- Better organization of adult learning
- Having a relationship with BCCC for our programming for someone to get credit
- Make ELC the Ivy of preschools, hire better teachers, don't be limited by space
- Reconfigure Hebrew school, second day for 6<sup>th</sup> grade or move it to Sunday
- Incorporate tikkun olam into religious school (another congregation has ½ teaching, ½ social action)
- More interactive time between clergy and RS kids leading up to b. mitzvah to build relationships

### **Connecting**

- Collaborate with other synagogues for big events
- Embracing non traditional Jews, be more welcoming
- Open house event every year
- Be more visible to the community
- Trips to Israel more frequently...after x years of membership, more youth trips
- Make Purim 'our thing', what we are known for, to become a source of funding

### **Making an Impact**

- Set a goal for community service hours for congregation/events sponsored by Shir Ami/as a community
- Hire social action coordinator
- Fund L'Taken for confirmation class, create L'Taken fund
- MLK weekend social action activities
- Continue Code Blue
- More focused DEI
- Market Shir Ami as doing good
- Engage entire congregation in doing good
- Bring Tzedekah back to RS, maybe have 3 choices and kids choose which they donate to

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### **Administrative**

- Improved security
- New sound system, screens
- Outdoor gathering/worship space with sound proof walls
- Carpet sanctuary, re-do Shalom Hall, re-do Chapel
- Buy a new more accessible location (explore selling this property)
- Buy easement to have exit onto Buck Rd.
- Improve entry way by office, improve entry way by sanctuary

- Create good hangout space
- Redo youth lounge
- Partner with Newtown MS, have “JCC” night there, basketball, pickleball, etc
- Use full property
- Resurrect basketball league.
- Program Director, Engagement Director

Creating concrete vision which could then allow the congregation to get behind it and would fund it....

Next step...look at list and categorize for feasibility

There is money in this current year’s budget that hasn’t been spent.

## **VII. Director of Operations Report – Phil Nordlinger**

Budget meetings – keep our goals in mind as look at 2023-2024 budget

Board should charge various operational leaders to accomplish goals within budget. Board to provide direction....this is budgeted amount and we expect you to do XYZ and hold them accountable

# MONTHLY BOARD REPORT

**NAME:** Ken Standig

**DATE:** 2-17-2023

**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.**

- Met with Phil to discuss proposed maintenance budget for FY24.

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

- Follow up meeting on completing EAP.
- 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.**

None.

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

None.

## **APRIL BOARD REPORT**

**NAME: Meryl Reis**

**DATE: 4/11/2023**

**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 meeting. Bullet points are fine.**

The Committee met and agreed on two events this spring to thank our Circle of Giving donors.

High category donors will be invited for brunch at the home of Harriet & Jerry Paley on Sunday June 4, 2023. Invitations are ready and will be mailed out next week, week of 4/17. Thanks to Harriet & Jerry for offering their home for the event. Thank you, Phil and Jodie, for the invites. The committee will meet to plan the menu and decide on speakers for the event.

On the following Friday, June 9, All donors will be thanked at Friday night services with a special oneg following services. More details to follow.

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

**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.**

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## **BOARD REPORT- CLERGY/STAFF**

**NAME:** Rachel Kohlbrenner  
**TITLE:** Cantor

**DATE:** 2/21/23

**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.**

- Intergenerational Shabbat, Tu B'Shevat and Shabbat Shira with choir had a nice mix of families participating in singing fun songs for Tu B'Shevat with Michael Smolen, Avi Briskin and me, extra musical boost with the choir singing 3 songs to highlight the Torah portion and excellent presentation by the teens who went on the L'takein seminar. There were many moving parts, but they all came together in a wonderful way.
- We had a Torah reading Shabbat with Ivy Pearlstein chanting Torah as well as giving drash while Rabbi Briskin was away in Israel at the CCAR convention.
- We had one b.mitzvah service of Sarah Fiely on 2/4 who demonstrated confidence and musical talent as well.
- Choir has begun again to rehearse every Wednesday evening for the next choir Shabbat in March.
- We have begun rehearsals for the Adult Purim spiel and I am rehearsing primarily with the band on Thursday evenings.

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

- Shir Sprouts Shabbat is coming up on this Friday, 2/24 at 5:30pm where we are honoring our 3 year olds in the ELC. The next one is on 3/31 where we will honor our 2 year olds and bright beginning students in the ELC.
- Choir Shabbat is on 3/24 where we will have a full service of choir music including a piece composed by one of our choir members, Claudia Digesu
- 4/28 will be our next Shir Shabbat where the theme will be country rock as we honor Ferne Levy for 30 years at Shir Ami.
- Upcoming b.mitzvah services are less during this winter season, but Drew Holzman will become b.mitzvah on this upcoming Saturday, 2/25 and the next one is Ella Jones on 3/25.

## **BOARD REPORT- CLERGY/STAFF**

**NAME:** Nina Orr  
**TITLE:** ELC Director

**DATE:** 2/20/23

**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.**

- **Registration for 2023-24 school year is going strong**
  - **Infant room - full (waitlist: 1)**
  - **Bright Beginnings - full (waitlist: 1)**
  - **2's classes - full (waitlist: 1)**
  - **3's - 32 students registered**
  - **Pre-k - full (waitlist: 1)**
  - **Kindergarten 27 students registered**
  
- **Summer camp 2023 - 34 children are currently registered.**

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

- **Shir Sprouts honoring our 3-year-old students will be on Friday, February 24.**
- **Next family engagement program will be Sunday, March 26. Snacks will be provided. Puppet Pizzazz will be the entertainment.**
- **The ELC is getting ready for Purim, Passover, and a very busy spring.**

**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.**



## **FEBRUARY BOARD REPORT**

**NAME: Bob Cherkin**

**DATE: 2/20/23**

**TITLE OR COMMITTEE: The “new” DEI Committee**

**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.**

- 1) The Inclusion Committee merged with the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, after discussions with Sharon Benoff, Ellie Short and Stephanie Schwartz. Why? Because there was an obvious overlap of goals to be addressed.**
- 2) I emailed all of the previous members of both groups, as leader of the “new” group to be known as the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. Sharon has agreed to continue as a member.**
- 3) I have since had meetings or exchanged emails with Ellie, Stephanie and Jason as well as people at JLV and UJR to address my DEI education needs.**
- 4) PLANS are in place and YOU ALL ARE INVITED....to the newly designated Annual DEI Shabbat Service this Friday, 2/24/23 at 7pm. After comments from me about the past year, Sarah Sharma, a member of the Committee since we began, will share her family’s compelling journey to insure that her cousin would have a Bar Mitzvah. Rabbi Briskin will be describing what a B’nai Mitzvah looks like at Shir Ami.**

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

**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.**

# FEBRUARY BOARD REPORT

**NAME:** Helen Berman

**DATE:** 2-17-23

**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.**

- 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
- Emergency Cards – Sarah Sharma
  - Designing cards with critical emergency numbers for distribution
  - Meeting to review various lists of numbers and determine priority and best means of communication
- Plan to work with clergy to do training to lead Shiva Minyans and expand number of lay leaders
- Re-establishing college connection
  - We have received minimal response from students.
  - Soliciting information from parents through ad in eNnews (Without current addresses, we are unable to physical mail or gifts to the students.)
  - Soliciting leadership for project
- 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  
February 21, 2023

Good evening from Jerusalem. Apologies for this very late report. And because I am typing on an iPad, the formatting is different.

A few things to share.

First of all, Rebecca Kaufman gave birth to a baby girl on 2/16. Lily Janet Nathanson is home and all are well.

Shir Ami groups are up and running. The recent empty nesters group, Shabbat dinner group and born in the 50s have met. Next up bourbon group at the end of the month and wine group, and JRA groups shortly thereafter. Rebecca has communicated with all those who have signed up and our goal is to have everyone settled into one group before they are placed into a second or third. We will also do another round of outreach later this spring once all of the initial groups are running.

Purim spiel practice is well underway. Folks at the meeting tonight can provide updates from the rehearsals the show and the band practices too. Please sign up and bring your friends. This is one of our signature events of the year.

Confirmation is scheduled for sat may 13 at 10:30 am. Please join us if you can. Several of us have children in this class.

This Friday is Jewish disability awareness and inclusion month Shabbat. Please join us.

My trip to Israel has been great and eye opening. Today was a visit to Ramallah and learning about the issues from a Palestinian peace activist and journalist. Tomorrow I am standing as an ally with my colleagues for Rosh Chodesh Women of the Wall, and last Saturday night I joined demonstrators in Tel Aviv protesting the changes to the judicial appointment process. We also heard from two Knesset members, the US ambassador to Israel and the former Chief Justice of Israel's Supreme Court. I have been posting regularly to my Facebook page and I believe it has been linked to the Shir Ami page too. Needless to say being in Israel now is quite interesting. I will preach about my trip in March.

Finally, registration for the dec 20-31 Israel trip is open. I hope you will join me.

That is all from Jerusalem tonight. Have a good board meeting.

Rabbi Chuck Briskin

## **FEBRUARY BOARD REPORT**

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

**DATE:** 2/19/2023

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.

- 2/6-Ritual Life Committee attended Congregational Meeting and met Cantor Berlin
- 2/8-Attended WOSA meeting: many upcoming events, non members are able to attend and join WOSA and attend the events. Communication is an issue, help get the word out
  - \*Looking for volunteers for Purim-drivers, bakers, etc..
  - \*3/23-RSVP to dueling piano night if you have not
- 2/10-Greeted for Shabbat, connected with a member looking to be involved, discussed further the events and committees. He showed interest in the Food Bank, thus, made sure to be there to link further. Special shout out to Rabbi Briskin for the Eagles themed and spirited Shabbat
- 2/12-Volunteered at the Food Bank.
- Feedback with Cantor has been that Shabbat has had “excellent turnouts”.

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

- Ritual Life is hoping to meet this week (did not meet last month).
- Ritual Life will be volunteering with WOSA to set up at Purim Carnival, and other upcoming events.

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.

NA

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:** Eric Goldberg

**DATE:** Board Meeting 2/21

**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. Religious School: Over the past month we have had classes on Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. In addition to our ongoing curricular focal points, the past month has provided opportunities for us to emphasize the following ideas, Jewish values and people: a. Tu B'Shevat/The unofficial start of Spring in Israel/Our connections to Israel/the 7 species of Israel (this included many grade level Tu B'Shevat seders); b. The rise in anti-Semitism and what we can do about it as individuals and a community; c. That Jewish teachings, values, ethics and rituals can be just as meaningful for us today as they have been for centuries. Our focus in the coming weeks will turn to Purim, and the themes associated with it, including: a. Speaking out when there is injustice/hate/oppression; b. Taking pride in being Jewish and honoring those who came before us; c. Being Jewish can — and should — be fun!
2. February is JDAIM (Jewish Disabilities Awareness and Inclusion Month). The ideas and concepts associated with this month (i.e. we are all created in God's image) are being included in lessons both in the classroom and throughout our Religious School experience. One of our teachers, Staci Kincus, has been working closely with Gabby Meyer at Jewish Learning Venture over the past two years in this area. In addition to the students learning/experiencing more, we are planning to have a teacher workshop in April/May as we plan ahead for the '23-'24 school year and integrate more ideas and curricular pieces into our Religious School program.
3. Our 5th Grade Family Tree Program took place Sunday 1/29. Students taught us about their family history through special recipes that have been passed down from generation to generation. The students did a wonderful job teaching us about their family stories and the recipes were shared so that everyone can make them at home!

4. Looking ahead, we have our 1st Grade Family Program on Sunday 2/26. We will focus on themes connected to Purim and JDAIM/inclusion.

5. Prayer Labs for our 6th-7th graders are back in full swing on Sunday mornings. Prayer labs are designed for 6th/7th grade students to work in small groups on specific prayers and Hebrew in general as they prepare for becoming b.Mitzvah. Prayer Labs meet in-person only from 9-10am. Then students join our Shir Ami family for Tefillah/Song Session from 10-10:30. After Tefillah/Song Session, 6they can either be picked up at our usual drop off/pick up spot (back/sanctuary parking lot), or continue working in small groups until 11:30am pickup.

6. Our 6th and 7th graders will have several very special opportunities to engage in mitzvot in the coming months. On both 2/26 and 3/26 students will have the opportunity to make meals for local organizations (i.e. Caring for Friends) while learning more about food insecurity in our area and broader community. We are also going to encourage students and their families to join us for the 'Be Kind' 5K on Saturday April 15th. This race benefits Kin Wellness and Support Center, Bucks County's new innovative cancer center that 'provides FREE services to LOCAL cancer patients in treatment and recovery and their caregivers by offering a full range of integrative services, fitness, yoga, therapy, and support.' We will also ask members of the Shir Ami Run/Walk group and the entire Shir Ami family to join us for this special event.

7. Steve Rosenberg and I continue to work on programming for older teens and their families re: Israel/anti-Semitism. On Wednesday 5/17, we will have a follow up program to our ADL program last month. We are honored to have Jason Holtzman, Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), lead an interactive program for teens and their parents focusing on what is happening on college campuses and how to respond both before going to college and once on campus.

8. Preparations have begun for the '23-'24 school year. In addition to working together with our amazing team, I look forward to partnering with Cantor Berlin and have set up meetings for us to discuss Religious School, b.Mitzvah and to just get to know each other better.

9. Last, but not least, we cannot wait for the Purim Carnival on Sunday 3/5! In addition to all that SHAFTY is doing, we are going to have a very special Tefillah/Song Session just like we did last year.

## **Lifelong Learning (LLL) Update**

- a. iEngage continues with Rabbi Briskin. Through the consideration of major historic moments, this year long series grapples with the different ideas and values that shape the meaning of modern Israel, Zionism, and Jewish identity today.
- b. Thursday 1/26 was 'Dinner and a Movie' on Zoom. We watched 'Abe,' a movie about a twelve-year-old boy with a 'complicated family: part Israeli, part Palestinian, and constantly fighting. But when he meets chef Chico and his fusion cuisine, he's inspired to unite his family through food. Abe wants to cook a meal that will bring everyone to the table, but he's about to learn that the kitchen can't heal some divides.' Themes connected to the movie led to a meaningful discussion and provided an opportunity for those participating to connect with each other and share their beliefs.
- c. Tuesday 2/7 we welcomed Rabbi Stacey Blank from Israel for Lunch and Learn. She spoke about her life and experiences as someone who made aliyah and is a female, Reform, rabbi in Jerusalem. She also shared her thoughts on the current political situation in Israel and both successes and challenges facing the country in the coming months and years.
- d. Looking ahead, we have: a. 'Israeli Book Club: Where the Desert Meets the Sea' on 2/23 with Cantor Kohlbrenner and our 3rd Jerusalem Masterclass ('Secrets of the Old City') on Sunday 2/26 with Kobi Cooper joining us live from Israel!

## **Additional Items**

- 1. Continue to make daily birthday and anniversary calls.
- 2. Continued pastoral care calls, emails and texts
- 3. Officiated at life cycle events.
- 4. Band practice is underway for the Adult Purim Shpiel. Get ready for everything from Taylor Swift to Van Halen to David Bowie!
- 5. Continued planning for the Shir Ami Golf Outing taking place May 15, 2023. Fundraising/Sponsorships and golf/card player registrations are well underway and going very smoothly. Todah Rabbah to Brett Cohen, Todd Leon and Marc Luber for all of their incredibly hard work and dedication.

6. 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](mailto: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!



## **BOARD REPORT- CLERGY/STAFF**

**NAME:** Ferne Levy

**DATE:** 2/19/2023

**TITLE OR COMMITTEE:**

**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.**

- A few weeks away and we have 50 teen volunteers. One more Sunday of planning before our Saturday set up
- Shafty's football pool fundraiser pool was successful as we reached our goal of \$1000
- JCrew had fun at laser tag (ultrazone) on January 28th. We had 12 teens that night
- We had 29 kids enjoy the NJ Aquarium
- 6th-10th grade are enjoying the canteen every Wednesday, run by our 8th graders

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

- Bonim and Chalutzim will be going roller skating next weekend
- SAVE the Date for the SHAFTY Yard Sale on April 16
- I will be at Camp Harlam for Sprinter March 17-19 (with a few of our teens)
- Many more events will be at the end of March

**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.**

# FEBRUARY BOARD REPORT

**NAME:** Helen Berman

**DATE:** 2-17-23

**TITLE OR COMMITTEE:** Tikkun Olam

**Committee Chairs:** Barbara Roth and Essie Cherkin

**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.**

The Tikkun Olam has several concurrent efforts in progress. Each has a congregant leader.

- **Code Blue – AHTN (Advocate for Homeless and Those in Need)**
  - We are working on providing dinner at Shir Ami once a month for the homeless.
- **Food Drives – Marc Luber**
  - February donation was 3,000 pounds
  - 25 volunteers participated.
  - We did not get the participation we had hoped from 6/7th graders for this event, but we will try again in April.
  - We currently have a surplus of inbound donations, which will be spent for the April distribution. This will mean a larger than average distribution.
- **Caring for Friends**
  - The number of groups who want to prepare meals for Caring for Friends is increasing – friend groups, auxiliaries, youth groups, religious school
  - Meals will be delivered to the Caring for Friends Warehouse from the Shir Ami freezer twice a month.
  - Maria Pisano from Caring for Friends will be visiting Shir Ami on March 3. She will speak briefly following services about needs and opportunities at Caring for Friends. She would also like to see our facility and talk to congregants.
- **Penndel Drop-In Center**
  - We have committed to providing lunches every Wednesday for the homeless at the Penndel Drop in Center
- **Jewish Relief Agency (JRA)**
  - We have had groups of congregants, individually and through the Auxiliaries, volunteering to pack food boxes at the JRA warehouse and deliver them to those in need.
  - We are working to increase the number of volunteers and possibly combine it with getting the group together for lunch after volunteering.
  - The next distribution is March 12.
- **Education Fair Funding – Janis Bader – No Update**
- **Social/Racial Justice – Janis Bader and Harriet Paley**

- The second in the racial justice discussion series was held Feb. 16 with the topic of White Privilege. 5 people participated.
  - Additional discussions are scheduled Mar.16 and Apr. 20
  - Each discussion is based on a reading available before the meeting
- Soles 4 Souls
  - Collection bins outside youth lounge and main office
- Political Activism (Get out the vote) – Arthur Kraus and Andee Losben – No Update
- Advocacy – Arthur/Andee
  - Concern about local book banning
- Appreciation for Police & Fire Depts.
  - SHAFTY presented gifts to Police and Fire Departments
  - Tikkun Olam will look at doing something later
- Providing support to the Buffalo community impacted by the recent Tops tragedy – No Update

Please list and describe any upcoming initiatives and/or events. -Scheduled December zoom meeting to continue discussion of additional projects

Under discussion:

- Expanding political activism (RAC priorities) – common sense gun control
- Congregational education on current topics, such as the BDS movement
- Road clean-up

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

Next meeting TBD

**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.**

- There is an interest in cleaning-up plantings, repairing dedicated benches, and improving the Biblical Garden. Discussion and decisions are needed to determine direction/plan. Will it remain a “Biblical” garden, or be converted to plants that are better suited to our climate? Will it be moved/extended into other parts of the property – closer to the front, on the other side of the parking lot. Will outdoor meeting spaces be created? How will it be funded? Does this really fall under Tikkun Olam, or should it be part of Building and Grounds?

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

**THINK BIG!**

What might Shir Ami look like with unlimited resources  
(programmatic, physical plant, staffing)?

1. Growing Spiritually
2. Learning Together
3. Connecting
4. Making an Impact
5. Administrative (Utilizing/Maximizing the Facility, Sustaining the Congregation)