

**MINUTES**  
**Temple Sinai Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**Wednesday June 20, 2018, 7 Tamuz 5778**

**Board Members Present**

Megan Bacigalupi, Jon Braslaw, Diane Grauer, Richard Hart, Melissa Heller, Neil Jacobson, Sara Klein, Jacob Levine, Laurie Lieber, Tom McCleary, Susan Rosenthal, Frances Rotolo, Sydney Schimmel, Andrew Shear, Anne Schmitz, Sam Schuchat, Joan Waranoff, Phil Witte

**Absent**

Liz Daoust, Matti Fromson, Bart Schenone, Debra Schoenberg, Karen Tanner, Eric Zwerling

**Staff Present**

Dorian Farrow, Ellen Lefkowitz, Rabbi Mates-Muchin, Rabbi Regev

**Guest**

Helen Smiler

7:05 Welcome

7:10 D'var Torah – Anne Schmitz

7:20 Financial Update (*Information*) (*Jon Braslaw/Dorian Farrow*) (*Attached*)

- The month of May ended as projected, and we will end the fiscal year exactly as projected.
- Dorian noted that the cemetery ended up in a good position this month due to some unexpected plot purchases; this effect will be mostly reversed as this coming month some plots will be returned.
- Our loan is down to \$2.2 million.

7:25 Membership Renewal Update (*Information*) (*Dorian Farrow*)

- Membership renewal efforts started on time this year (instead of early) because our cash position is strong. Online renewal started in June, but a bug in the online form forced a temporary outage, which has now been corrected. Membership renewal is trending well - 206 households have renewed so far. Additionally, the average yield so far is the highest it has been in 4 years (note: this yield is expected to come down as we get farther into the renewal efforts, as the big gifts usually come early).
- The high holy days are in mid-September this year, so we will therefore wrap up the membership renewal drive early.
- It was noted that the online renewal form is extremely easy to use and much improved from previous years, thanks to Dorian and team. Dorian mentioned that contributions to WTS and Brotherhood are higher this year, and he thinks this is because the form is simpler than in the past.

7:30 Approval of May 2018 Board meeting Minutes (*Action*) (*Attached*)

*Neil Jacobson moved to approve. Sam Schuchat seconded. All approved; no changes.*

7:30 Consent Calendar: Membership Report – *Dorian Farrow* (*Materials to follow*)

*3 new households. All approved new members.*

- 7:35 New Agenda item: Declaration of Moral Emergency - Helen Smiler and Andrew Shear
- On behalf of the Social Action Committee, Helen Smiler and Andrew Shear presented a proposed resolution that Temple Sinai should officially add our name to the list of signatories to a Declaration of Moral Emergency drafted by Bend the Arc. Doing this would allow the rabbis to publicly speak to the issue of separation of immigrant families on behalf of the entire community, and officially in the name of Temple Sinai.

*Sam Schuchat moved to adopt. Melissa Heller seconded. All in favor; resolution adopted.*

- Temple Sinai will have a presence at a protest gathering in Montclair Park on June 30th.
- Dorian indicated the office will notify elected officials of this action. Additionally, all members of the Temple Sinai community will receive a communication about the resolution.

8:10 Report from URJ Board Meeting (*Information*) (*Rabbi Mates-Muchin*)

- Rabbi Mates-Muchin was asked to be part of the delegation representing the Central Conference of American Rabbis to the board of the URJ. She recently attended her first meeting in this capacity. She reports that:
- The movement is doing some new exciting work with regard to youth. They shared some impressive data about the long-term impact of participation in NiFTY on Jewish identity and participation years later.
- Temple Sinai Board members are encouraged to attend the URJ biennial conference in December 2019.

8:20 Interim Director of Education Update (*Information*) (*Sara Klein*)

- Rabbi Levenberg accepted the interim position; will begin in July.

8:25 Director of Education Search Committee Update (*Information*) (*Andrew Shear*)

- The search committee had their first meeting last week and will start to gather input from all congregants after the high holidays. Interviews are expected to be held in Jan/Feb. The committee is hoping to have final candidates in the Feb/March timeframe. Andrew will keep the Board notified of progress.

8:30 Leadership Development Update (*Information*) (*Dorian Farrow/Sara Klein*)

- In the past, Temple Sinai has offered a program called “Leading with Jewish Values,” which is an intensive educational program to inform congregants about what it would be like to be a leader in our community. Dorian is hoping to offer this program again, likely in the spring of 2019. All board members are encouraged to forward to Dorian and/or Sara names of promising individuals who may want to participate. Current board members who haven't previously participated in this program are invited to participate as well, though some of the material will likely be redundant.

8:05 Bimah Honors Update (*Information*) (*Sara Klein*)

- Some spots remain open for Friday nights, please sign up.
- Starting in September, Sara will be assigning bimah duty. Board members should email Sara regarding preferences for Friday vs. Saturday.

- Rabbi Regev mentioned that Board members are needed to make high holiday phone calls to the community. Volunteers are requested, look for an email this week.

8:10 General Discussion: Biennial/URJ Materials on Disability *(All)*  
*(To prepare for this general discussion, please review the materials – video and documents – at this website: <http://disabilitiesinclusion.org/session/leading-inclusion-for-congregational-leaders/>, and read the attached email from Sue Bojdak)*

This agenda item was postponed to allow time for discussion of the Bend the Arc Declaration.

8:35 Good and Welfare *(All)* *(A revived tradition for our new library meeting location)*

8:45 Adjourn

**Note Board Meetings for Remainder of 2018:**

**No Board meeting in July**

**August 15**

**No Board meeting in September**

**October 17**

**November 14 (note, second Wednesday not third)**

**December 19**