

**MINUTES**  
**Temple Sinai Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**Wednesday, January 15, 2020; 18 Tevet 5780**

**Board Members Present**

Jon Braslaw, Becky Chase, Liz Daoust, Calvin Gibbs, Ann Gordon, Richard Hart, Melissa Heller, Sara Klein, Laurie Leiber, Jim Manheimer, Susan Rosenthal, Frances Rotolo, Bart Schenone, Anne Schmitz, Debra Schoenberg, Andrew Shear, Karen Tanner, Karen Tiedemann, Joan Waranoff, Phil Witte

**Board Members Absent**

Neil Jacobson, Josh Kuluva, Sydney Schimmel, Erik Zwerling

**Staff Present**

Stephanie Ben-Simon, Cantor Keys, Terrie Goren, Ellen Lefkowitz, Rabbi Mates-Muchin, Rabbi Regev

7:02 Call to Order

7:03 D'var Torah – Andrew Shear

7:12 URJ Report and Summary from Biennial – Joan Waranoff, Andrew Shear, Rabbi Mates-Muchin and Cantor Keys

- Over 10 attendees from Temple Sinai. Cantor Keys noted we are on the cutting edge of music, melodies, etc. in the Reform movement and she is thinking about other ways to incorporate more of these ideas in our services.
- “Jewish Adjacent” – expanding the “tent” in the movement; we are leaders in this type of inclusivity. Two young adult groups led a service with Rabbi Mates Muchin- she was impressed by how far we have come in the past two decades. Extremely inspiring and moving in many ways; the next Biennial is in Washington DC in 2021.

7:30 Approval of November 2019 Board meeting Minutes

*Bart Schenone moved to approve, Sara Klein seconded. All approved.*

7:32 Consent Calendar:  
Membership Report

*All approved new members and resignations.*

7:40 Finance and Membership Renewal Update – Terrie Goren

- 940 renewals to date (down from projections for the year). Average pledge the highest it has been in the past four years.
- Annual giving is strong for the year; have raised \$59K for the Cantor Keys event and tribute book. Annual giving should help close the membership gap for this year.
- Will begin discussing membership for next year in March.

*Discussion ensued*

7:57 Website Update – Terrie Goren

- New website will be up in the next couple of days. Fresh, exciting, mobile friendly, new calendar system and will be much more functional than the old site. Nicole did an excellent job with the design.

8:03 Social Action – Women’s March, RAC Update and Census Project - Susan Rosenthal and Andrew Shear

- Information related to the Women’s March (January 18, 2020) was shared with the board. The Social Action Committee and WTS are sponsoring the march for the temple. No negative feedback from the community. Group will be meeting in front of Awaken Café at 1429 Broadway. Focus of the march is the 2020 Census.

*Susan Rosenthal moved to participate in the Women’s March, Karen Tanner seconded. All approved.*

- Andrew and Susan have been involved with RAC- upcoming sessions will focus on legislative priorities for the year. The organization is encouraging congregations to meet locally with state representatives. It would be helpful to strengthen our ties to RAC, as they are an amazing organization. RAC will select a piece of legislation and help educate and guide congregations so they can inform their members about the legislation.
- Need to figure out a structure for social action and social justice as related to the board and the Social Action Committee.
- Census Project through RAC: concrete and substantive, will make a huge impact on funding for Alameda County. Temple Sinai has signed up to be a Census Ambassador; will have people here trained in how to help congregants fill out the Census. We will also open ourselves up to the greater community so they can come here to complete their Census forms (either online or written form).

8:34 World Zionist Organization elections - Rabbi Regev

- Every five years, Jews around the world get together for the World Zionist Conference.
- ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America, is the Zionist arm and voice of the Reform movement and represents progressive Jews in the US in this conference. Voting for delegates is an important part to having our voices heard in the Jewish world. Rabbi Mates-Muchin is part of the ARZA slate for this upcoming election.
- Voting online occurs between January 21 and March 11 and all board members and congregants are strongly encouraged to vote.

8:43 Board Engagement – Jon Braslaw

- Community connections, Committee connections, and Development are three areas of focus.
- Community connections: bimah duties, ushering, holiday calls, oneg participation, etc. Phil Rubin has spearheaded much of this work for quite some time. Phil Witte will join Phil R. to coordinate the effort. Phil R. currently recruits all the ushers so thinking about ways to streamline and simplify the process. Board members need to be present and available for services; also need to have metrics and tracking so expectations are clear. A refresher for board members about duties at services would be helpful so they feel comfortable.
- Committee connections: there should be board representation on temple committees. Board members can then update the board about committee progress and work.
- Development: there is an expectation that board members will contribute as well as be ambassadors with other congregants. We need 100% board participation with annual giving. Melissa Heller will be spearheading the rebirth of the Development Committee.

9:15 Strategic Plan update and high-level plan to move forward - Jon Braslaw and Richard Hart

- Richard Hart has agreed to serve as chair of the Strategic Plan. Change in structure: the board will have a steering committee that will provide high level goals, project oversight, find resources, etc. A second group, the action team, will go out and do the work (communications, data gathering and analysis, outreach).
- If board members feel as though they can't make the commitment to the strategic plan work, Richard and Jon will figure out a different way forward for them. A letter will also be going out to the congregation to solicit others who may have interest or experience in strategic planning.

9:20 Security Task Force; formation and broad charter – Terrie Goren

- The temple will be organizing a Security Task Force and is currently looking for congregants who have experience with security (military, police, etc.). To start, the group will meet monthly. A letter will be going out to the congregation with information soon.

9:25 Executive Session

### **Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:**

**February 19, 2020**

**March 18, 2020**

**April 15, 2020**

**May 20, 2020**

**June 17, 2020**