

Dear Friends,

I hope everyone is doing well as we begin to get ready for summer. I want to send you one last update and highlights from our annual meeting and last board meeting.

This marks my last few days as president of Temple Sinai. I can't say enough about what a great honor and privilege it has been to serve as president these past two years. We are truly a unique place here in North Central New Jersey. I know we will flourish and grow as we move forward.

Our dedicated and committed staff; Rabbi Gershon, Cantor Shemesh, Amy Damast, Lara Davis, Samantha Eichert, Jorge and Lily Frias, Saskia Jeselsohn, Patti Kahn, Renville Lawrence, Michal Levine, Donovan Mowatt, Audrey Napchen and Adriana Pinzon do so much every day to keep Temple Sinai going. Our lay leaders, who could not be more talented, dedicated and just great human beings, have made these two years even more special.

I can't thank them enough. They include:

Eric Barr- VP Development

Cindy Homer- VP Operations

Lori Riseman- VP Membership

Jodi Shepard- VP Ritual

Jennifer Sinoway - VP Education

David Zack- VP Finance

Josh Friedlander- Immediate Past President

Douglas Cohen- Financial Secretary

Michael Sherman- Recording Secretary

Adam Keil- Treasurer

Trustees - Sharyn Colon, Allyson Crystal, Rindi Klarberg, Lenore Lerner, Maurice Lefkort, Daniel Muhlfelder, Roberta Nooger, Antonina Pearl, Ian Singer

On Sunday morning, June 2, 2019, we held our annual congregational meeting. While we did not have a quorum, we had a spirited and engaged group. The following was the agenda and results of the meeting. [READ MORE](#)

1 – The Diana Burns Rosen Volunteerism Award was announced and presented to Amanda and Steve Greenblatt. The Greenblatts have been committed and involved members of Temple Sinai for over two decades. They have done virtually anything to help, mostly without having to be asked. Most recently, Amanda led our yearlong celebration of Rabbi Gershon while Steve, a past president of the temple, chaired the Temple Emanu-El Holocaust Remembrance Center Committee. Mazel Tov to Amanda and Steve! They join Susan Mamis, Bruce Stein and Peter Lederman as recipients of this meaningful award. A celebratory Shabbat will be planned in the fall.

2 – David Zack shared the finance update and reported another good year of managing well within our means. The current trend shows a deficit of \$6,600 on a \$2M budget. This is the third year in a row that Temple Sinai has stayed within our operating budget while enhancing our programming. The budget for 2019-2020 was presented and shows a small surplus. David Zack and Adam Keil have both done a wonderful job managing our finances and balancing the needs of our congregants.

3 – Cindy Homer and Eric Barr presented the proposed changes to the constitution earlier circulated to the congregation. These changes will allow Temple Sinai to work more fluidly as times and needs change. It also will allow for electronic or proxy voting from our congregants. This allows our members to have more access and involvement in the Temple. The work of Cindy and Eric in governance was extraordinary as this was in addition to their current roles and responsibilities: Cindy as VP of Operations and Eric as VP of Development.

4 – The slate of officers was presented and there were no floor nominations. I could not be more pleased with the new Board of Trustees, as Temple Sinai will be well served these next few years. Our new President Ian Singer could not be more qualified and prepared to lead and represent Temple Sinai. The rest of the Board of Trustees are:

Cindy Homer – First Vice President

Eric Barr – VP Development

David Zack – VP Finance

Lenore Lerner – VP Membership

Vanessa Weisbrod – VP Communication

Jodi Shephard – VP Ritual

Jennifer Sinoway - VP Education

Roberta Nooger – VP of Operations

David Hoodis – Immediate Past President

Trustees – Adam Keil, Doug Cohen, Lori Riseman, Michael Sherman, Sharyn Colon, Maurice Leftkort, Daniel Muhlfelder, Antonina Pearl

Please note - We still have one open position, Recording Secretary, and are open to nominations. If you are interested or know someone who might be a good fit, kindly contact Ian directly.

5- Rabbi Gershon closed the meeting with very kind remarks and, together with Cantor Shemesh, offered a blessing to the Congregation.

I look forward to many more years together at Temple Sinai. I am very excited that Interim Rabbi Dennis Ross begins on July 1st and as Ian Singer and the new board continue our legacy as the most warm, friendly, and hamishe synagogue in North Central Jersey. See you soon.

L'Shalom

David Hoodis