

TEMPLE  
SHAARAY  
TEFILA



## Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2018

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Temple Shaaray Tefila was called to order at 6:33 pm.

### **Invocation**

Rabbi Beni Wajnberg performed the Invocation.

### **President's Report**

#### **Acknowledgments**

Barri reminded everyone assembled that at the upcoming Erev Shabbat service the congregation would bid farewell to Rabbi Beni Wajnberg as well as thank our volunteers for all they do during the year. Rabbi Wajnberg is leaving Temple shaaray Tefila to become the Senior Rabbi at Temple Beth Rishon in Wyckoff, New Jersey. Barri extended thanks on behalf of the congregation to Rabbi Wajnberg for his service to our community over the last three years.

Barri then explained that that Rabbi Mosbacher was not in attendance at the meeting as he was attending the funeral of our Director of Congregational Learning and Engagement, Mindy Davids' mother in Champaign, Illinois. We send our condolences to Mindy's family. Barri then thanked the Clergy and Staff for a vibrant year at Temple Shaaray Tefila as well as the lay leadership who contribute to our meaning, connection, and purpose.

#### **Engagement**

In the past year, several staff were organized into our new Engagement Department and Leadership Team, whose purpose is to engage our families more deeply and to respond to the needs of our community. She asked the congregation to think about what activities they may be interested in attending and that we would try to create a blend of what is familiar and new.

Barri announced that the Temple was adjusting to new revenue streams, including a vibrant Early Childhood Program that is projecting to be at full capacity this coming year and new Pre-K programming in the Religious School. In addition, staff and lay leaders have had many one-on-one conversations with members this past year to find out what our members want, helping us to become a relational synagogue. Our goal this year is to strengthen and clarify our committee structure.

#### **Infrastructure**

Barri announced that there would be new infrastructure put into place this coming year along with updated policies and procedures, specifically assessing the launch of our new CRM

(Customer Relationship Management) Software and Weekly Email this past year along with the launch of a new website in the coming year. The Board's focus will be on the financial health of the synagogue. We already received pledges of \$110,000 in matching funds from the Board for our Annual Appeal. In addition, we will begin a strategic planning process this year, helping us to establish priorities as well as long-range plans.

### **ARZA**

We will no longer automatically enroll our members in ARZA by adding their annual fee onto our membership dues. The Board of Trustees voted to make a meaningful donation of \$10,000 this year on the behalf of the congregation to ARZA to support ARZA's representation of the Reform Movement in Israel.

### **Staff**

Barri introduced the congregation to members of staff: Anna Stein, Director of Development; Elana Paru, Assistant Executive Director; Rabbi Ilana Schachter, Director of Community Building; Andrew Paul, Director of Teen Engagement; and Rabbi Jessica Lenza, Director of Religious School Engagement.

### **Clergy Report**

Cantor Todd Kipnis delivered the clergy report in Rabbi Mosbacher's stead. Cantor Kipnis reported on the breadth of activities at the temple in the past year; we experimented with the impact of worship, engaged monthly speakers, experienced the Teen Exchange Program, sent a delegation of members to the AIPAC conference, settled a refugee family, and lived our Jewish values through social action. Cantor reported that Rabbi Mosbacher is looking forward to focusing on our strengths in the next year as we lead up to the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Temple Shaaray Tefila in 2020.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Rich Jacobson thanked the staff and finance committee for all of their hard work and collaboration to reduce expenses and put the budget together for FY19. This budget reflects conservative estimates of membership and dues collection. Rich thanked The Early Childhood Department for their efforts to increase Parenting Program and Nursery School enrollment. Rich then announced that this year, we would not increase our dues or religious school tuition. Included in the budget is a 2% increase for all staff.

Motion to approve the FY19 Budget:

Motion passes unanimously

There was a confirmation of quorum.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Upon motion duly made and seconded to approve the minutes from the 2017 Annual Congregational Meeting:

Motion passes unanimously

### **Bylaws Update**

Upon motion duly made and seconded to approve amendments to our bylaws:

Motion passes unanimously

## **Slate of Trustees**

The proposed Slate of Trustees was presented. Special thanks to Melissa Saperstein, whose term as an Officer has ended and will start her last term on the Board of Trustees. Liz Sherman's term on the Executive Committee has ended, but she will continue to serve on the Executive Committee as Executive Vice President.

Thank you to our outgoing Trustees: Ken Barkoff, Andrea Labov Clark, Shari Forman, Heather Greenberg, and Faith Silberstein. Lois Nyren's term has also ended and we are nominating her as Honorary Trustee this evening.

Thank outgoing Nominating Committee members: Shari Brasner, Shari Forman and Michelle Parker. Thank you to Len Lubinsky and Michele Shapiro who will Co-Chair the nominating Committee and new members Sumie Okazaki, Rob Stolz, and Alana Wodnicki.

Special thank you to the Bylaws Committee who worked on the amendments passed at this meeting, Michelle Ingber, Lois Nyren, Paula Dwoskin Sitzer, Sumie Okazaki, Rachel Gerstein, and Debra Anisman.

We welcome new Officer, Seth Frank to the Executive Committee as Assistant Treasurer and new Trustees Rachel Gerstein and Howard Feller to the Board.

Upon motion duly made and seconded to approve the proposed slate for FY19:

Motion passes by majority

Opposed: 1

## **Election of Sarah Reines as Rabbi**

Sarah Reines will start her tenure here as Rabbi at Temple Shaaray Tefila beginning July 1, 2018. Her first Shabbat Service will take place on July 13. Rabbi Reines' family, including her husband Rich and daughters Talia and Noa have members at Temple Shaaray Tefila for many years and have been involved with youth programs.

Upon motion duly made and seconded to approve Sarah Reines' Election as Rabbi:

Motion passes unanimously

Cantor Kipnis performed a musical selection.

The Annual Congregational Meeting was adjourned at 7:23 pm.