

## Congregation Shalom Meeting Agenda January 16, 2022

**Present:** Wendy and Stan Drezek, Secretary Dawn Elmore, Rabbi Lisa Goldstein, Maury Goldstein, Gayle Kipp, Treasurer Adam Falkiewicz, Sondra Singer, Barbara and Mike Stern, Marga Speicher, Chair David Shane, Sue Weintraub, Karin Zucker

David Shane called the meeting to order at 12:09 PM.

Sue Weintraub moved and Mike Stern seconded approval of the minutes from October 24, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

Lisa Goldstein gave the rabbi's report. She presented an update on resolution of the synagogue hostage situation in Colleyville. All congregants are safe due to Rabbi Citron-Walker's heroic efforts. Coordinated effort by several law enforcement agencies and the rabbi's ability to keep the congregation calm made this possible. She emphasized the importance of avoiding Islamophobia. She also reported on the URJ meeting she and Adam Falkiewicz attended. Due to financial issues from COVID, the North American Board reduced its size and shifted some of the decision making to different constituencies. She met with the San Antonio rabbis, who have decided to meet monthly in the interest of building community. Finally, she has been participating in The Intersection, a City of San Antonio interfaith group convened by Mayor Ron Nirenberg focused on meeting the city's social needs. The aim is to help the congregation stay involved in social justice activities. Matt Shane recently joined her in a day-long symposium of The Intersection.

Adam Falkiewicz gave the treasurer's report. We are in the middle of the third quarter. All is mostly on track for the budget. Some people pay monthly or are still making their quarterly payments on schedule. Three families may have financial challenges. Adam encouraged congregants who pay through PayPal to donate the fees to offset congregational expenses. The ballpark forecast now is that we will use most of the funds budgeted for the year. David Shane pointed out we need to get about 15 new families or 30% increase in commitments from current members to sustain the same budget for next year.

Marga Speicher moved and Sue Weintraub seconded approval of the treasurer's report. It passed unanimously.

Adam also reported on our 501(c)(3) application. Cost of filing the application is \$600. Adam requested donations to ensure the filing does not affect our current budget. Several congregants volunteered to donate. Should we receive more than \$600, any extra donations will stay in the congregational budget.

Lisa reported the website is nearly ready to launch. The homepage and the members only section still need work. She is waiting for the URJ's assistance on these last two components and will be setting an appointment with them in the coming week. She provided a demonstration of the finished pages.

Lisa is coordinating with Dawn to present a session on Dreams as Prophecy for the Multicultural Conference at San Antonio College the evening of April 4<sup>th</sup>. It is planned as an in-person event with Zoom access, and it is open to anyone in the San Antonio community. A new Intro to Judaism class will be starting soon. One Tree, Many Branches, the current class on the theology of the Jewish movements as reflected through their prayerbooks, is ongoing and had its first session last Tuesday. Anyone who has ideas on future programming should contact Lisa.

In new business, Lisa reminded everyone that we need to complete an inventory and organization of our storage unit. She requested volunteers to work not just with moving items but also with opening boxes and recording inventory. A poll will go out to all interested volunteers to ascertain when most people are available to complete the task. Sue Weintraub volunteered some extra space for storage in her personal space if needed.

In-person services are scheduled to be held at Gayle and Ron Kipp's home on Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup> pending COVID conditions. The COVID safety committee, chaired by Mike Stern, will meet to decide whether it will be safe to hold services this week. Participants for in-person services must sign up in advance.

Lisa led a general discussion about what's working with our current worship services and what needs to be improved. Congregants were complimentary about the Divrei Torah, variety, and the inclusion of outside elements from outside sources, in particular.

The Temple Chai Board of Trustees had requested that the Memorial Board and Tree of Life be temporarily hung at the Jewish Community Campus until Congregation Shalom has its own space. We received word from Federation that their Board agreed to hang them outside the Jewish Federation office for up to two years. The cost to do so is \$400 for installation and \$400 when they need to be taken down. Lisa called for discussion on whether she should use funds from the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund to do so. Discussion points centered on the location and that they would not be seen by more than a few people. It was a lot of money and it didn't satisfy the original intent of the Temple Chai Board's request. Maury Goldstein moved and Sondra Singer seconded a motion to decline the Federation's offer to hang the Memorial Board and Tree of Life and instead store the items in a respectful manner with Congregation Shalom's property.

Kathi Kardon is working on a script based on West Side Story for Purim. Both adults and children are welcome to participate. Passover discussion is deferred till the next meeting. David and Matt Shane will be creating the chuppah frame, but we need a canopy before March 6th. Lisa will be using money from the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund to purchase one.

The Martin Luther King interfaith service will be held on Zoom this afternoon at 4:30. We received the links by email.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.