

**Congregation Or Chadash**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting**  
**MINUTES**  
**Emily Joseph, Secretary**

**Part 1: 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 7, 2018**

1. Call to Order .....Benjamin Vogel, President
  - Ben called the meeting to order and announced that quorum had been met at 7:07 pm.
2. Invocation and Remarks ..... Rabbi Thomas A. Louchheim  
Paraphrased and summarized remarks:  
“God, source of our strength, enliven our step, recharge our depleted reserves so we may continue to proclaim the great power of God’s love, ever calling upon us to exert ourselves bravely in this Divine cause at Congregation Or Chadash.”
  - The rabbi thanked the staff and our many volunteers for their tireless efforts on behalf of Or Chadash
  - He spoke about the challenges facing both our synagogue and the American Jewish community as a whole.
  - The rabbi listed several of the accomplishments of our congregation over the past year, specifically highlighting our collaborations with other institutions.
3. President’s Welcoming Remarks .....Benjamin Vogel, President
  - This year we had two fun and fantastic events – Casino Night and Flying Chai - the committees did great work and raised about \$30,000.
  - We finished the year in the black have paid off last year's deficit thanks to contributions from our community, the support of the family foundation, and Alan Kalmikoff's generous volunteer service as an unpaid Administrator.
  - Our solar panels have been installed, and we now have covered parking.
  - The OC25 taskforce has worked incredibly hard on their long-term planning efforts, which will be presented later in the meeting.
  - The president thanked all our directors, officers, and staff, most especially those members of the board who are finishing their service. He also thanked all our members for their participation and support.
4. Minutes of May 2017 Annual Meeting .....Emily Joseph, Secretary
  - The minutes were accepted with the correction of “22<sup>st</sup>” in the title to “22<sup>nd</sup>”
5. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Philanthropy Presentation .....Rina Liebeskind, Director of Education
  - Rina introduced Brenda Landau, advisor to the 7th grand Noah Cohen Youth Philanthropy Group, and three members of the class: David Berk, Lily Goldberg, and Talya Fleisher.

- Since the beginning of the program, more than \$75,000 has been distributed to various organizations.
  - This is Brenda's 13<sup>th</sup> and final year with the program, her leadership has been invaluable and we are grateful for it.
  - The class this year was very small, and they had to be particularly thoughtful both to raise money and to make meaningful decisions with such a small group. The focus they selected this year is helping refugees become self-sufficient. They granted funds in the amount of \$1500 to Literacy Connects, which will fund 3 workshops to help refugees learn English.
6. Sisterhood Presentation..... Dana Adler, Sisterhood President  
Sisterhood currently has 104 members, and would like to increase by 10% next year. Some highlights of their activities this year were their sponsorship of both congregational fundraisers and the religious school's model wedding, and their extensively work with Sr. Jose's Women's Shelter.
7. Presentation of Slate for Board of Directors: Amelia Cramer, Member, Nominating Committee
- Amelia is presenting the slate because the chair, Steve Schuldenfrei, is recovering from surgery. In addition to Amelia and Steve, the nominating committee members were Aaron Fisher, Jim Whitehill, and Shelia Peress-Valez
  - In accordance with the Bylaws, this slate was presented to the Board of Directors at its March 26, 2018 meeting and mailed to the membership no less than 20 days before the Annual Meeting.  
For Secretary: Emily Joseph  
For Treasurer: Aaron Fisher  
For Director:  
Benjamin Goldberg  
Harriet Kronman  
Mo Riback  
Beverly Sandock
    - The slate passed, with 109 votes in favor and 6 votes opposed
  - Announcement of Congregational Nominations .....Paul Bartlett, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
After the mailing of the slate three congregational nominations were submitted. The nominating committee will review the nominees and a second slate will be presented for congregational vote on June 4. It is important to allow the nominating committee to vet the nominees and to allow members who vote absentee to have their vote.
8. Presentation to Outgoing Board Members and Ruach Award .....Benjamin Vogel, President
- These outgoing members of the board were given gifts and thanks for their service: Sheldon Clare, Andrea Davis, Terri Freed, Jay Sherman, Gerry Tumarkin, Marty Zuckerman
  - The annual Ruach Award was presented to Andi Elkins. The text of the recognition follows:

“The Hebrew word Ruach means “wind,” “breath,” or “spirit.” The word was first used in the Bible in the second verse: “The Spirit of God [Ruach Elohim] was hovering over the waters” (Genesis 1:2). In Genesis 6:17, Ruach is translated “breath of life.” Genesis 8:1 uses Ruach to describe the “wind” God sent over the earth to recede the Flood waters. Altogether, the word Ruach is found almost 400 times in the Torah.

The Ruach Award is given to a person in the congregation who exemplifies the spirit of Or Chadash. I have the honor of awarding the 2018 Ruach Award to a very deserving individual: Andi Elkins.

Andi served on the Board of Directors, on several committees such as Membership, Social Action, Religious School Education Committee, and much more. Andi has spent hours and hours of extra time and effort getting the difficult jobs done. She is still active and continues to demonstrate the spirit of volunteerism. Andi exemplifies the epitome of wind, breath, and spirit of Or Chadash.

The award states: Thank you for your outstanding leadership & service to our congregation.”

- Andi thanked all her friends and congregants, the rabbi and cantor, her daughter, granddaughters and her husband Chuck for their support.

9. Presentation of the 2018-2019 Budget.....Marty Zuckerman, Treasurer  
..... Discussion

- We are applying about 10 years of depreciation to our books this year in keeping with current accounting best practices for non-profits. This doesn't affect the budget, which is based on cash, but appears on end-of-year statements.
- \$65,000 of this year's income is not repeatable, as it came from the special matching grant effort.
- A question was asked about the allocation of any surplus. There is no surplus anticipated, but the board would decide among deferred maintenance, reserves, or other future need.
- The budget passed 68-10, with 1 abstention.

10. Report on the Solar Array..... Jim Liebeskind, Facilities Manager

- Approximately two years ago, the congregation started looking into options for solar power in an effort to be more environmentally responsible.
- Our array is currently generating all the power we require, plus a bit of extra that we sell back to TEP.
- Our average bill from TEP has been \$1500/month, and now we will pay \$1128.78 each month to lease the system plus taxes and fees. We expect to get an overall rebate of between \$1500 - \$2000 per year.

11. OC25 Report..... Jeff Jacobson, Chair

- We are coming up on our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and there are transitions coming up both in our congregation and the wider Jewish community.
- OC25 was set up to allow for creative thinking about our future.

- Each working group was self-directed and developed its own process and mission. Their progress reports were distributed in hard copy.
  - An emphasis was put on listening to a variety of opinions with a survey and a town hall.
  - Dave Flyer presented some of the work of the Systems and Operations group
  - Possible Partnership with THA .....Gary Kippur
    - One recurring theme in our discussions has been the desire for a sanctuary
    - For about \$100,000, the MPR at THA could be upgraded into a part-time sanctuary that we could rent. The improvements would include an new ceiling and floor, painting, new doors, and stained glass. The seating capacity would be ~225.
    - Pros:
      - Approximately half of the required money is informally pledged.
      - There has been positive response from some of the larger community donors, not much support for a single-synagogue capital campaign at the moment.
      - More secure facility
      - Would be able to use the THA kitchen (Cantor Cohen is qualified to oversee the kashrut there) and the JCC's back lot for parking.
      - THA would benefit from the upgrades to their property and collaboration with us, we may gain some members from their community.
    - Cons:
      - THA practices a different kind of Judaism than we do.
      - Previously they have charged very high rent.
      - The room would still be used as an MPR/lunchroom by the school.
      - We have invested \$3 million in our current property, and this might distract from efforts to improve our own campus.
    - Remaining questions
      - What would the increase in operating costs be?
      - How long would we agree to a lease?
      - How would usage priority be determined?
    - More details will be presented at the June meeting.
  - Jeff thanks all members of OC25 for their work. He will not be continuing as chair, and encourages everyone to get involved in the work of the congregation year-round.
12. Installation of Board Members .....Rabbi Thomas A. Louchheim & Cantor Janece Cohen
- Postponed until after the second part of the meeting
13. Suspension of Proceedings
- At 9:27 pm Gary Kippur moved for and Marty Zuckerman seconded the suspension of the proceedings of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting until June 4, 2018

## Part 2: 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 4, 2018

1. Call to Order .....Benjamin Vogel, President
  - Ben called the meeting to order and announced that quorum had been met at 7:05 pm.
2. Invocation and Remarks .....Cantor Janece Cohen

They teach at cantorial school that there is always something in the weekly Torah portion that applies to your situation. In this week's portion we are instructed that if someone breaks a commandment by mistake, they can apologize, make expiation, and the error is dismissed. However, if someone transgresses on purpose, they are to be cut off from their kin. In our congregation, we are all here with the best interests of our community in our hearts. Together we can create something wonderful.
3. Balloting for Board Candidates.....Paul Bartlett, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President
  - A request was made for the candidates to give speeches. This was refused because the other candidates were not required to and their biographies have been available.
  - The votes totals were:  
Dana Adler: 96-10  
Mitch Karson: 81-46  
Gary Kippur: 92-24  
All three candidates are therefore elected to the board.
5. Further Discussion of Possible Partnership with THA .....Gary Kippur
  - Gary reiterated his points from the May 7 meeting and opened the floor for discussion.  
..... Discussion and Q & A
  - What would be the seating capacity? Depending on the chairs, between 220-260 (The capacity of the community room is 185)
  - What's the square footage? Unknown.
  - What would the rent be? It hasn't been negotiated yet, Gary estimates it would be about \$1000/month. The amount of the initial fundraising campaign could be increased to cover the rent for a certain timeframe.
  - Is anyone else looking at the same kind of arrangement? No
  - Are the donors mentioned people who would have donated to Or Chadash? No, these pledges are project-specific and part of the draw is the collaboration.
  - What about M'kor Hayim, who presently hold services there? They use the Beit Midrash, so there would be no conflict.
  - How often would we use THA? Every week.
  - What is the impact to our spending on the existing property? We don't know, we will be paying rent to THA, but can't determine the ramifications in terms of wear and tear on our building, utility usage, etc.
  - Will there be sufficient handicapped parking close to the building? Cantor says that they have the same amount of parking as we do.
  - Is the goal still to have a sanctuary here? And if so, then how long will this intermediate step delay us? Yes, and until we can raise the money.

- Will the congregational groups like the auxiliaries have access to the space on a Sunday? It would depend on the lease.
- Would the religious school move? No
- Will we be able to bring in outside food? Not unless it is kosher.
- Concerns:
  - Difficulties of the turnover from Friday school lunch for services
  - Do we really need a larger space for Saturday mornings? If it's just for Friday nights, is it worth it?
  - We also will have to pay for new clergy soon, will this be possible if we're paying rent for another space?
- Conclusion: We have a number of possibilities for our future, and we will explore them all until we have the information needed to proceed.

6. Closing remarks - Ben

- The president thanked the OC25 leaders in general and Gary in particular for their work on the THA initiative.
- Congregational input is critical to this process. The board represents the congregation, so we need to know your thoughts, and we will continue to bring you information as we gather it.
- There are many details to be determined on both this option and other possible directions. A committee is being formed to put those details together so we can all make an informed decision.
- Communications – in both directions – are key to this. Please send us your thoughts, ideally in writing.

7. Benediction ..... Cantor Janece Cohen

May God bless you with discomfort –  
At easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships.

May God bless you with anger -  
At injustice, oppression and exploitation of people.

May God bless you with tears to shed -  
For those who suffer pain, rejection, starvation and war.

And May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe you can make a difference in our synagogue and the world - so that you can do what others claim cannot be done. Amen

- *Adapted from a Franciscan benediction*

8. Adjournment

- At 8:15 pm Emily Joseph moved for and Kathylynn Saboda seconded the adjournment of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting.