

Congregation Or Chadash
24th Annual Meeting
MINUTES
Monday, May 6, 2019, at 7:00 pm

Emily Joseph, Secretary

1. Call to OrderBenjamin 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:
This week’s Torah portion is Kedoshim, which is about holiness. Holiness is found in setting things apart from the ordinary, aspiring to be Godlike in your behavior, controlling your own inclinations in service of God’s will, recognizing the divine in others, and in rituals. All members of our staff bring holiness to their work, and those sparks of holiness combine in Or Chadash. Holiness is an individual calling – God demands that we each be just, humane and treat others with sensitivity.
3. President’s Welcoming RemarksBenjamin Vogel, President
 - Several security consultations have determined that we are a low-risk target for terrorism. However, we have decided to hire professional security for major events and are looking into funding for security improvements to our campus.
 - Our solar panel array has provided us an average savings of \$150/month on electricity.
 - A new Governance Committee is reviewing our bylaws and committee structure.
 - A task force researched alternative dues structures, which were presented to the board and the congregation.
 - We have discussed several options for a future worship space, and conducted an informal straw poll that indicated a preference for expanding our existing community room.
 - A newly expanded Finance Committee identified an upcoming deficit and presented several suggestions to mitigate it, including a voluntary assessment of the congregants. The assessment raised \$31,973, 64% of our goal, and we are exploring possible options to avoid such shortfalls in the future.
 - The board appointed four ambassadors to open talks with Temple Emanu-El about collaboration options between our congregations, which may be beneficial to both organizations.
 - Ben offered his thanks to the board, volunteers, clergy, and staff who make Or Chadash possible, and said it has been an honor to serve as president.
4. Minutes of May 2018 Annual MeetingEmily Joseph, Secretary
 - The minutes were accepted as distributed

5. Sisterhood Presentation..... Laurie Kassman, Sisterhood President
 - The Sisterhood presented its inaugural Eshet Or Award to Kathylynn Saboda at their annual meeting
 - There are a number of exciting events in the planning stages, including several speakers and a joint fashion show with their counterparts at Temple Emanu-El
 - In the past year the Sisterhood has continued its work supporting Sister Jose’s Women’s Center and raising funds for our religious school.
6. Presentation of Slate for Board of Directors: Steve Schuldenfrei, Chair, Nominating Committee
 - The Nominating Committee consisted of Karen Erenberg, Ron Feller, Karen Heller, Beverly Sandock, and Steve Schuldenfrei.
 - The committee sought input from the staff, the board, and the congregation as a whole. Special attention was payed to finding skill sets currently not represented on the board.
 - Scott Sheftel was nominated by the committee and appeared on the initial mailings and the absentee ballot, but he has withdrawn his name from consideration due to unexpected circumstances and is not considered part of the final slate.
 - In accordance with the Bylaws, the slate was presented to the Board of Directors at its February 25, 2019 meeting and mailed to the membership no less than 20 days before the annual meeting.
 For President: Elaine Jones
 For First Vice President: Gary Kippur
 For Vice President: Beverly Sandock
 For Treasurer: Mark Ross
 For Immediate Past President: Benjamin Vogel
 For Director:
 Lynn Greenberg
 Steve Groff
 David Markzon
 Mark Sbar
 - The slate passed, with 83 votes in favor and 3 opposed.
7. Presentation of Awards and Outgoing Board Members.....Benjamin Vogel, President
 - The following outgoing board members were given gifts and thanks for their service: Steve Schuldenfrei, Melissa Hall, Rick Marimow [*Secretary’s note: now of blessed memory*], Aaron Fisher, and Paul Bartlett.
 - The annual Ruach Award was presented to Steve Schuldenfrei. The text of the recognition follows:
 “The Hebrew word, Ruach means “wind,” “breath,” or “spirit.” The word’s first use is found in the Torah, appearing in the second verse of the first chapter of Genesis: “The Spirit of God” [Ruach Elohim] was hovering over the waters.” In Genesis 6:17, Ruach is translated “breath of life.”

Often, when we refer to the Ruach Elohim, the “Spirit of God,” the connotation is one of divine inspiration. The rabbis attribute the Ruach Elohim to a person who has insight into the future and the will of God. The term ruach is also used with our word for holiness. Ruach HaKodesh is attained by those saintly among us who are humble, who desire to offer themselves in word and deed to God. Finally, when acting in this manner, the person in possession of this spirit does so with ultimate joy and no desire of reward.

It is for this reason, that the Ruach Award is given to a person in the congregation who exemplifies this spirit. Steve Schuldenfrei has not just lived up to this high honor this past year but has done so since his family joined our congregation eleven years ago.

Steve and Joan joined our religious community on October 2008. Steve was elected to serve on the Board of Directors four years later. In 2013, he served as 1st Vice President under Allen Erenberg, of blessed memory. He then took on the mantle of leadership as a President from 2015 to 2017. As the immediate Past President, he automatically became the Chair of the Nominating Committee, and concludes his chairmanship this year.

As an important member of the Membership Committee Steve led very successful fundraising and community events like the Jewish Food Festival and Revvin’ It Up. Steve used his marketing talents to design the Taste of Or Chadash logo that we use every year.

His dedication to the congregation knows no bounds. During the time when we had no Executive Director, Steve worked in the office every week to serve in that capacity while he was also the President of the Congregation. His leadership, experience and dedication to the mission of Or Chadash knows no bounds and we are eternally grateful. Steve is a tireless volunteer and a model of exceptional membership in our congregation.

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

8. Presentation of the 2019-2020 Budget..Mark Ross, Treasurer & Marty Zuckerman, Co-chair of the Budget & Finance Committee
 - The spring voluntary assessment successfully covered the projected shortfall. We expect to break even this fiscal year. Thanks also to Jeff Goldberg for leading a very successful High Holy Day Appeal.
 - Dues will be raised 15% in an effort to prevent a shortfall next year. We assumed no net gain in membership, and we did not project that all members will be able to respond to the increase.
 - Our religious school had 20 more students than budgeted, resulting in the congregational subsidy being ~\$13,000 less than originally budgeted.

- Expenses are generally expected to be consistent next year, with some increases (i.e., bringing our accountant up to full-time status).
- Security needs increased after the budget was developed, so those increased costs are not reflected in the proposed budget.
- All service contracts are being reevaluated.
- The Treasurer noted that we currently do not have the capacity to set funds aside for future expenses, including clergy transitions, but the congregation should be aware of them.
- The budget passed, with 69 votes in favor and 14 votes opposed.

9. Remarks from the Incoming President.....Elaine Jones, Vice President

- Thanks to Ben for his service, and the nominating committee for assembling such a strong team.
- Three past presidents will be on next year’s Executive Committee – Ben Vogel, Mark Ross, and Beverly Sandock. Emily Joseph and Gary Kippur complete the team.
- Focus of the next year will be on finances and communication.
- We plan to continue our discussions with Temple Emanu-El about the possibility of mutually beneficial collaboration. The next steps include planning collaborative events and looking at what the finance benefits could be.
- Elaine plans to have regular town hall meetings to keep the congregation up to date and involved in current issues. Also check the eblast and New Light for updates.
- Elaine looks forward to working with our staff and board over the next two years.

10. New Business

- A suggestion was made that we increase our marketing efforts. Elaine Jones encouraged members to join the relevant committee.
- Scott Krasner reminded the congregation to sign up for the Chad Ash Brotherhood’s annual baseball road trip, coming up on July 21.

11. Benediction Rabbi Thomas A. Louchheim

- As you were blessed coming in, may you be blessed in going out.

12. Adjournment

- At 8:18 pm Steve Schuldenfrei moved for and Ken Freed seconded the adjournment of the 24th Annual Meeting.