



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2023

10:00 - 10:30 a.m.: Greetings and Opportunity to Review Reports

10:30 a.m.: Meeting Called to Order

- 1) Blessing and Kavanah: Rabbi Steve Finley
- 2) Welcome, State of the Congregation: Jan Chernoff and Rabbi Steve.
- 3) Financial report and adoption of 2023-2024 budget: Amy Rassen
- 4) Committee Updates: (Written summary reports included)
 - Chance for questions from members and some very short oral reports may be given.
 - a) Worship
 - b) Religious School
 - c) Adult Lifelong Learning
 - d) Membership
 - e) Development/Fundraising
 - f) Caring Community - Chesed
 - g) Social Action
 - h) Sisterhood
 - i) Men's Club
 - j) Communications
 - k) Security
 - l) Legacy
- 5) Board Member Elections: Alexandra Allen - Report from nominating committee attached.
 - a) Nominating Committee recommendations: New members nominated are Ken Wornick and Matt Nydell. Judy Miller was nominated to continue for another term.
 - b) Confirmation of candidates and vote of the membership.
- 6) Changes to the Bylaws: Amy Rassen
- 7) Questions, concerns, comments from members.
- 8) For the Good and Welfare of the Community: Jan Chernoff
 - a) Recognitions
 - b) Other announcements
- 9) Adjourn

Post-Meeting: 1) Immediately upon adjournment of the Annual Meeting, the 2022-2023 Board shall convene momentarily to nominate and elect the 2023-2024 Board Officers.

Financial Report
Proposed Budget

	July 2022 - June 2023	July 2023 - June 2024
	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Revenue		
4000 MEMBERSHIP DUES	\$126,000.00	\$140,000.00
4100 DONATIONS		
4105 Regular	5,000.00	7,000.00
4135 Sisterhood-Men's Club donations	2,000.00	2,000.00
4170 Music Fund	100.00	100.00
4180 Chesed/Charitable contributions	750.00	500.00
Total 4100 DONATIONS	\$7,850.00	\$9,600.00
4200 YAHRZEIT	\$10,000.00	\$8,000.00
4300 CELEBRATION INCOME		
4310 Chanukkah	1,000.00	1,300.00
4320 Seder	500.00	8,500.00
4340 Purim	500.00	1,000.00
Total 4300 CELEBRATION INCOME	\$2,000.00	\$10,800.00
4500 COMMITTEE INCOME		
4520 Social Action	400.00	400.00
4530 Safety and Security	1,000.00	1,000.00
4550 LifeLong Learning	100.00	100.00
4555 Muriel Robbins Lecture	500.00	500.00
Total 4500 COMMITTEE INCOME	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
4600 FUND RAISING		
4610 Annual Fund	70,000.00	40,000.00
4612 Special Challenge	20,000.00	10,000.00
4620 Chai Sustaining Fund		10,000.00
4640 Tree of Life	1,000.00	0.00

4645 Escrip and Smile	250.00	250.00
4646 RaiseRight		1,000.00
4680 Major Fund Raisers	30,000.00	30,000.00
4681 Fund-in-need	14,000.00	14,000.00
Total 4600 FUND RAISING	\$135,250.00	\$105,250.00
4700 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL Revenue	8,000.00	6,500.00
4720 Children's Education Donations	750.00	750.00
Total 4700 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL Revenue	\$8,750.00	\$7,250.00
4800 HIGH HOLY DAYS		
4810 High Holy Day Tickets	5,000.00	500.00
4850 Yom Kippur Memorial Roll	1,500.00	1,500.00
Total 4800 HIGH HOLY DAYS	\$6,500.00	\$2,000.00
4900 MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	250.00	250.00
4910 Interest/earnings on account	150.00	10,000.00
Total 4900 MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	\$400.00	\$10,250.00
Total Revenue	\$298,750.00	\$295,150.00
Gross Profit	\$298,750.00	\$295,150.00
Expenditures		
5000 RABBI COMPENSATION & EXPENSES		
5010 Salary	72,500.00	72,500.00
5020 Parsonage	61,800.00	61,800.00
5030 Medical insurance	12,000.00	12,000.00
5040 Retirement Contribution	6,000.00	6,000.00
5050 Meetings and Seminars/ Travel	780.00	780.00
car allowance	720.00	720.00
5060 Books, copying and supplies	300.00	300.00
5078 P.R./Good Will	250.00	250.00
Total 5000 RABBI COMPENSATION & EXPENSES	\$154,350.00	\$154,350.00
5100 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL		

5115 Staff/Childcare	13,750.00	7,400.00
5120 Books and supplies	2,500.00	1,800.00
5149 Professional Development/ meetings	250.00	0.00
Total 5100 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	\$16,500.00	\$9,200.00
5200 OFFICE EXPENSES		
5210 Office supplies	800.00	800.00
5220 Office telephone and internet access	600.00	1,400.00
5230 Computer-Office	300.00	300.00
5249 Other	200.00	200.00
Total 5200 OFFICE EXPENSES	\$1,900.00	\$2,700.00
5250 OFFICE MANAGER	16,800.00	16,800.00
5255 Communications Coordinator	3,000.00	3,000.00
5300 CELEBRATIONS		
5310 Channukah Celebration	1,300.00	1,300.00
5320 Seder exp	500.00	8,500.00
5340 Purim celebration	500.00	1,000.00
Total 5300 CELEBRATIONS	\$2,300.00	\$10,800.00
5400 SHABBAT SERVICES		
5410 Oneg/Kiddush Exp	100.00	100.00
5470 Music and Tech	5,000.00	2,500.00
Total 5400 SHABBAT SERVICES	\$5,100.00	\$2,600.00
5475 A-V Room	10,000.00	0.00
5500 COMMITTEES		
5510 Lifelong Learning	1,000.00	1,000.00
5512 Muriel Robbins Lecture exp	500.00	500.00
5515 Chesed	600.00	600.00
5520 Social Action	300.00	0.00
5530 Safety & Security	5,000.00	7,000.00
5540 Fund Raising	2,000.00	500.00
5560 Membership	750.00	750.00

5570 Worship Committee	750.00	0.00
5580 Communications	1,800.00	1,800.00
Total 5500 COMMITTEES	\$12,700.00	\$12,150.00
5600 FUND RAISING EXPENSES		
5610 Annual Fund expenses	200.00	200.00
5660 Fund Raising event expenses	11,000.00	11,000.00
Total 5600 FUND RAISING EXPENSES	\$11,200.00	\$11,200.00
5800 HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES		
5810 Music and Tech	2,800.00	7,000.00
5820 Other costs	100.00	100.00
Total 5800 HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES	\$2,900.00	\$7,100.00
5900 GENERAL EXPENSES		
5903 Bank Service Charges	20.00	20.00
5905 Advertising	3,250.00	3,250.00
5921 Credit Card Fees	3,000.00	3,000.00
5925 Dues-Organizations	75.00	75.00
5940 Maintenance, Repair, Cleaning	1,400.00	1,400.00
5950 Newsletter expenses	200.00	200.00
5970 Insurance-Genl and Workmens Com	2,750.00	2,750.00
5985 Website	1,300.00	1,300.00
5991 Recognition/Gift Expenses	300.00	300.00
5995 Miscellaneous	200.00	200.00
Total 5900 GENERAL EXPENSES	\$12,495.00	\$12,495.00
5910 RENT-FCC	45,400.00	46,400.00
Total Expenditures	\$294,645.00	\$288,795.00
Net Operating Revenue	\$4,105.00	\$6,355.00
Net Revenue	\$4,105.00	\$6,355.00

Ways to Support our Congregation

Congregation Shir Shalom is very fortunate to have the support, generosity and commitment of its membership. Membership Dues account for 35% of our budget, and we count on various fundraising efforts to compensate for the 65% needed to sustain and build our Congregation. There are many ways that members can contribute and designate to specific CSS operations funds:

Operating Funds include:

- **Annual/High Holiday Appeal** – unrestricted funds to help sustain our core programs and activities.
- **“Chai” Sustainer Campaign** – designed to support the basic overhead costs of sustaining CSS.
- **General Fund** – to support recurring operational expenses.
- **Hebrew School Fund** - supports Hebrew School programs that are not covered by general tuition.
- **Safety and Security Fund** - supports programs and projects to enhance security of CSS during services and community events.

Program Specific Funds:

- **Chesed Community Card Sale** – these beautiful cards can be purchased as gift/note cards for your personal use, while also providing the funds that allow the Chesed Committee to send acknowledgments to members on various occasions.
- **RaiseRight for Shir Shalom** – Gift Card program benefits CSS General Fund. A percentage of the cards purchase value goes to CSS and is applied to the General Fund. Please contact Marjorie Nydell (marjorienydell@gmail.com) with any questions.
- **Tree of Life** – create a lasting tribute by purchasing a leaf for the tree. Show appreciation to someone special, or celebrate life cycle events. The Tree of Life is located on the back wall of the Sanctuary.
- **Yahrtzeits** – in honor of, to celebrate, etc. (including Kaddish and Yizkor)

Long-term Investment:

- **Legacy Fund** – *Leave a legacy build a future* by considering a bequest that provides ongoing financial support to CSS.
- **Lifetime Membership** – Cost is tier-based on the member(s) age at time of commitment and whether it is a single or family membership. For additional information please contact Janet Gallin (janetgallin@gmail.com).

Other Ways to Donate:

- **Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund** – provides funding for charitable purposes at the Rabbi’s sole discretion.

To make a payment, please go to www.shir-shalom.org and click Donate Today and select the appropriate category.

Committee Updates

A. Worship Committee:

Led by Rabbi Steve, Members Neal Ross Atkinson, Tony Rollins, Ari Moshe Wolfe, Yaffa Finley and Howard Egger Bovet

Committee Mission: The charge of the Worship and Holiday Ritual Committee is to work closely with the Rabbi to formulate strategies and plans for Shir Shalom worship services, festival celebrations and holiday observances.

High Holy Days - The Jewish calendar year began in a spectacular fashion with having all our High Holy Day services in person after two years of Zoom and pre-recorded services. The beautiful addition to our High Holy Days in September was that we were able to introduce the tech advantage of adding Zoom for all our religious services. And, for the first time, we held all our High Holy Day services in the sanctuary.

Thanks to Jan Chernoff and our newly created Tech Team, cameras were installed over the summer in our sanctuary, together with an audio-visual room to monitor all sanctuary gatherings.

The community building of the **Sukkah** was as lively as ever. This year we had great recruitment from our Hebrew School Parents and the event was festive. We would like to see more “nights in the Sukkah Hut” used by our members for meals, meetings and social gatherings.

Hanukkah was a huge success with approximately one hundred guests joining us on Spain St. for the lighting of the outside Hanukkah menorah. Reverend Curran joined Rabbi Steve and Yaffa for the blessings, songs and storytelling. Thank you to sisterhood, men’s club and Hebrew school families for helping with set up and serving latkes and hot chocolate. And kudos to Rabbi Steve and Jan Chernoff for putting up all the lighting decorations around the Hanukkah Menorah.

This year’s **Tu B’Shevat** was one-of-a-kind. In addition to planting a pomegranate tree we also arranged the burial of our Genizah (old and tattered holy books and religious items). Many Shir Shalom and First Congregational Church community members came out to join our Hebrew School for the event. The burial took place just outside our office, between the two olive trees.

Passover – The number of guests more than doubled from last year. We kept the program simple with the sharing of the reading from the Haggadah shared by the various tables. We’ll be looking for a more comprehensive way to engage the whole room together with topics for in-depth discussion.

Shavuot – This year we enjoyed an in-depth study session led by Reb Neal Atkinson via Zoom. This took place on the evening of Shavuot beginning at 8pm and continuing into the night just past midnight. The event was well attended, and for a first-time effort, the results were very gratifying.

Friday Night Shabbat – Our Shabbat gatherings have been phenomenal thanks to the return of our members, post covid. The Hebrew School has played a big part in the success, adding dynamics only

they can do. The “camp” style services focusing on music and joy seem to resonate well with our membership.

Shabbat Morning Services – We began the year with Rabbi Steve and Yaffa hosting these Zoom-only services from the sanctuary. The first in-person Shabbat morning this year was the Bar Mitzvah of Marcus and Weston Morgan-Brown in September 2022. After which, we resumed to Zoom only Shabbat Morning services until April when we returned in person for the Sager Bar Mitzvah. In May we enjoyed the in-person and Zoom Bar Mitzvah of Adam Nahmias, and from now we will remain with open doors in our sanctuary for in person Shabbat morning gatherings combined with the Zoom experience as well.

B. Religious School:

Hebrew School Staff / 2022-23:

Rabbi Steve	Robert Tenenbaum
Neal Ross Atkinson	Galen Peterson
Ari Moshe Wolfe	Stephen Steiner
Linda Goldman	Tony Rollins
Yaffa Finley	Tricia Ladouceur

Hebrew School Students / 2022-23:

Upper Grades	Lower Grades
Marcus Morgan-Brown	Noa Fynn Weiswasser
Weston Morgan-Brown	Nomi Signer
Ethan Sager	Haley Weiswasser
Sam Sager	Riley Weiswasser
Adam Nahmias	Mallory Feinstein
	Avi Sager

Hebrew School opens traditionally on the first Wednesday of September and our last school day is on the Wednesday before Memorial Day weekend – Approximately thirty-two sessions total. This year we had two classes: lower grades K-4 /upper grades 5-7.

Five students celebrated becoming a Bar Mitzvah this year:

- Marcus and Weston Morgan Brown became B’nai Mitzvah in September 2022
- Ethan and Sam Sager became B’nai Mitzvah in April 2023
- Adam Nahmias became a Bar Mitzvah in May 2023

Other highlights of our year included the celebration of our Jewish Holidays (Hebrew School Style:), having Annie Falandes, the founder of Homeless Action Sonoma come and give a presentation to our kids, celebrating Tu B’Shevat with the planting of a pomegranate tree combined with the burial of our very own Genizah outside our temple office. And, of course, the many potluck Shabbat celebrations throughout the year.

The 2023/2024 school year will resume here at Shir Shalom with the use of our new Marvin Diamond Education Center as well as the Sanctuary, Community Room and Burlingame Hall all as needed.

Looking ahead - With five boys celebrating their B'nai Mitzvah this year, this will make a major dent in our student enrollment for September 2023. Returning students are:

Mallory Feinstein	Haley Weiswasser
Noa Weiswasser	Riley Weiswasser
Avi Sager	Nomi Signer

Teachers and Tutors for next year remains undetermined.

C. Adult Lifelong Learning:

Led by Judy Miller, Helena Mitchel, Sydney Randazzo and Linda Goldman

Committee Mission: To develop and present programs primarily to enrich the lives of our congregants and secondarily to engage the larger community of Sonoma Valley. To bring to CSS topics that are important to us as Jews and citizens of the world.

We are happy to welcome two new members to the Lifelong Learning Team: Linda Goldman and Sydney Randazzo.

We have been able to bring programs to the Congregation throughout the year. This has enabled us to keep our members connected and interested. We have been well supported by the Rabbi, the Board of Directors and the general membership. We are now able to have events in person at Congregation Shir Shalom or on Zoom. Our first program was led by Rabbi Steve based on the PBS series The U.S. and the Holocaust. Linda Goldman led a discussion on Delving Into Your Family's History. It was very successful and a second session was held. Members shared stories and personal experiences researching their families ancestry. Sydney Randazzo brought a program on Jewish Peoplehood. This was a program sponsored by both our committee and the Men's Club.

Looking ahead to 2023-2024 the challenge for this committee is to come up with interesting and timely programs. We will continue to post Special Events in the second and fourth weekly editions of the CSS Newsletter, now planning to include live and in person events for our members to enjoy along with current books, TV and movies of interest to enjoy at home.

Helena, Linda, Sydney and I welcome all suggestions and participation to Lifelong Learning.

D. Membership Committee:

Members: Sharon Malakoff (chair), Gayle Stanford (co-chair), Alexandra Allen, Helena Mitchell and Tamra Rollins

Committee Mission: The Membership Committee develops and engages CSS's membership to sustain a vibrant, solvent and multi-generational CSS community into the future. More specifically, the committee recommends annual membership goals to the Board of Directors and develops and implements a plan to achieve those membership goals. Additionally, the Membership Committee focal points are publicity and communications, outreach, recruitment, welcoming new members and facilitating retention.

Highlights:

New members (as of May 11):

- **Ten new households** - representing singles and families
- Sheryl Alexander, Pearl Barak, Scott, Laura and Mallory Feinstein, Michele Garber, Cheryl Genet, Armando Hernandez, Sophia Metzger, Galen Petersen, Rebecca Rogoway and David Segal

Activities:

- **Shabbat potluck and services**
 - Outreach to on-going list of new members, guests and prospects by personal invitation
 - Assistance with set-up and clean-up
- **New member pizza party** – attended by new members, guests, CSS Board and committee chairs
- **Tuesday Farmer's Markets** – focus on providing a welcoming environment and introductions for new and existing members
- **Sukkot** – “membership night” attended by new members, guests and prospects

Coordination with other committees:

- **Board and Rabbi Steve** – extensive meeting with Rabbi Steve and Jan to ensure we are on the same page re: increasing membership
- **Sisterhood** – help with Shabbat potluck and Onegs
- **Communication:**
 - Featured two new members in CSS newsletter and will continue to offer the opportunity to others
 - Help with review and distribution of new brochure
- **Men's Club** – secured wine for events

E. Development/Fundraising:

Members: E. Michèle Samson-Chair, Lynn Blankfort, Judy Miller, Marjorie Nydell, Janet Galin, Sydney Randazzo, and Devorah Deutsch

Committee Mission: Develop a variety of sources and strategies to not only sustain CSS as the home of the Jewish Community in Sonoma Valley but to enable CSS to grow and flourish into the future

This extremely strong committee has been working tirelessly and has taken necessary measures to ensure the sustainability of our congregation. We are proud of the events we've brought to CSS for all of us to enjoy. This past year, we celebrated at our incredible Western Themed Gala. The Gala brought our community together (face to face) as well as bringing in much-needed funds for our general operation as well as our security fund. The year has been quite successful starting with last year's annual meeting start of the Love Fund.

This year, we will be celebrating Rabbi Steve on his upcoming 10th year at Congregation Shir Shalom. He is the center of our community. He brings much strength, wisdom, and security to our congregation. This includes the education of our children and the ability for all of us to be able to enjoy practicing our faith here in the beautiful wine country. We hope you'll support us in our effort to keep Congregation Shir Shalom strong and visible. Donating is simple by going on to our website.

We are constantly planning events and other forms of inclusion for this community. Our 2023/2024 calendar is already filling up starting with the July 9th family picnic. Our goal this fiscal year is to create sustainability for Congregation Shir Shalom. This will make us strong enough to provide you with everything needed to practice your faith and spirituality, to make strong connections, and being able to reach out to help our Sonoma community in times of need. We have exciting ideas on the horizon. We will count on new forms of revenue, membership dues, and other events generating ways to make the temple as sustainable as possible.

F. Caring Community / Chesed:

Members: Howard Egger-Bovet, Judi B. Friedman, Heidi Stern, Helena Friedmann, Sy Lenz, Alexandra Allen, Ken Cavalli and Zhana

Committee Mission: The Chesed Community's charge is to provide assistance, support and comfort to our members and their families in times of need, especially in times of hardship, ill health and any other issues in which a helping hand could make a difference.

Over the last year, the Chesed Community has handwritten and sent out 250 cards of healing and Birthday and Anniversary celebrations for Congregants. The feedback from congregants continues to be very positive. This year, we have made progress in selling our cards, enough to cover the cost of one run of cards.

Our target audience are congregants in need. Our monthly "programs" are fluid. We see a need as it

appears and do what we can to support that person. Over this past year we have helped or ministered to over 50 congregants, including former congregants such as Judy Evans and Rickie Roark. On the home front, this includes visits, calls, repeat calls, flowers, shopping for groceries, referring congregants to community services and spending time at their homes. This year we also added joining congregants at their home for a zoom service. We hope to continue this new program and will advertise this in the newsletter.

As we reach the end of this year's cycle we realize we need new members, and one is on the horizon. We continue to believe that Chesed is a vital part of the congregation's health. Lastly, we honor our dear member Zhana who has recently passed.

G. Social Action:

Members: Sally Brian, Barbara Insel, Bev Perlson, Sue Gertz, Lew Perlson, Amy Rassen, Tony Rollins, Barbara Sachs, David Schoenbach.

Committee Mission: The Social Action Committee is anchored in the values of Judaism. It shall undertake and promote opportunities founded upon the principles of Gemilut Hasadim (good deeds) and Tikkun Olam (repairing the world). We promote social justice and encourage action and advocacy. We are non-partisan and mindful that Congregation Shir Shalom welcomes a diverse membership.

The Social Action Committee was dormant this past year. Thirteen Shir Shalom members continued with S.O.S. food delivery to 20 homes every Tuesday and Thursday. Between July 2022 and April 2023 we have helped to deliver 4,258 meals. Anyone interested in signing up can contact S.O.S. It is worthwhile to the recipients and the deliverers! A mitzvah! Members also continued to support the La Luz income tax preparation services. Please reach out to La Luz if you can be of support in this area.

H. Sisterhood:

Sisterhood Officers: Sue Gertz, President; Jen Newman, Vice President; and Sally Brian, Treasurer; Tamra Rollins, Secretary.

Mission Statement: Our mission is to bring together women who are seeking connection with other Congregation Shir Shalom members in a spirit of camaraderie, to serve our Congregation, support our community and each other and enrich our lives through social events, education, spiritual programs, and fundraising.

Membership: All women in the congregation are invited to join the Sisterhood and participate in its activities and programs. Dues are \$54 annually; for 2022 – 2023, 54 women have paid dues, the highest number in recent years.

Programs/Activities: Sisterhood continues to flourish, building on the strong connections developed over the past few years. We've provided opportunities for woman to come together on a regular basis with programs/activities that appeal to different interests.

- **Ongoing Programs**

- Relaunched Women in Conversation in November – 3 groups, 34 women - monthly

- Sisterhood Pickleball League – weekly
- Sisterhood Lunches (sometimes with outings) – monthly
- Launched “Talks with Rabbi” with focus on Israel – bi-monthly
- ONEG/Potluck Dinners – monthly (Sisterhood sets up, cleans and sponsors ONEG and takes the lead with Membership on Potluck Dinners)
- B’nai Mitzvah ONEGs – Sisterhood has provided ONEGs for 5 B’nai Mitzvahs in the last year
- Bocce Ball – intermittently
- Launching Small Group Programs for Sisterhood – Hosted Dinners (June 21st) and Cocktail
- Party/Havdalah Service (July 22nd)
- **Special “One-off Programs/Activities”**
 - Sisterhood Happy Hour at Kina’s Kitchen
 - Hike at Sonoma Botanical Garden
 - Sisterhood Annual Potluck Brunch
 - Sponsored Rosh Hashanah Lunch
 - Sponsored “Break the Fast”
 - Lead on Community Seder
 - Hannukah Chinese Dinner/Movie – partnership with Men’s Club
 - One Bay/One Book – partnership with Adult Lifelong Learning
 - Periodic Book Club Meetings w/ Authors
 - Music, Pizza and Pinot with Men’s Club (July 9th)

Strengths: energy, enthusiasm, engagement and commitment from members and creative ideas for a variety of new programs; higher percentage of women paying dues than prior years; successful partnership with Men’s Club, Membership Committee and Adult LifeLong Learning to plan and execute programs.

Challenges: VOLUNTEERS - need to be expand pool of volunteers; concerns have been expressed that Sisterhood is expected to provide food and clean-up for most Synagogue events; it has been suggested that other committees take on some of these events.

I. Men’s Club:

Led by John Randazzo - President, Frank Samson - VP, and Richard Pollack - Treasurer

Committee Mission: The Men’s Club is charged to implement programs such as social and educational activities that encourage growth, challenge minds, build friendships, provide service to the Sonoma Valley community and create openings for real dialogue and self-expression. The goal is to create a cohesive, trusting and enjoyable group of men that develop genuine and meaningful attachment to the Shir Shalom community.

The Men's Club has spent much of the last year planning and facilitating Shir Shalom events both in partnership with other committees—from the “Family Festival” last spring to the most recent seminar on the “Jewish Peoplehood,” and organizing their own events. In addition to outings for Jewish Heritage Night at the Giants, Warriors and A’s, the Men’s Club sponsors the popular “Chinese Dinner & Movie” during Hanukkah and reactivated the twice monthly “Friday Morning in the Middle East” discussion

group. Men's Club volunteers have worked tirelessly behind the scenes setting up for events and sponsoring wine for every major occasion from the Gala to the Passover Celebration.

The Men's Club is constantly soliciting input from the congregation, working to build its membership and recruit new officers in an effort to facilitate expansion and revitalization.

J. Communication Committee:

Members: Ken Gertz, John Randazzo, Sandy Pollack, Brett Newman, and Mara Kahn.
Communications Coordinator: Michelle Flores

Committee Mission: The Communications committee is responsible for developing a communications and marketing strategy to engage members and non-members and for recommending to the Board of Directors communications policies. The committee's charge is also to implement methods for CSS to communicate with its members and other interested parties.

The Communications committee was formed in early 2020 in response to the new CSS strategic plan. As a committee, we have been very active in starting up a more concerted effort to enhance the awareness and visibility of CSS activities both within our congregation and in the Sonoma Valley.

Our initial primary work has centered around the **creation of a new CSS website**. This has involved a new design, updated content and pictures, a new data management system, and a host of other issues. This new site is now operational and is more user-friendly, easier to maintain and update, and more attractive to prospective and current members. This will provide CSS with the kind of messaging and branding that we need to grow membership, fundraising and general awareness. This year we have continued working to tweak the site, remove some of the initial bugs, and enhance our ability to more easily pay on line for events and other CSS initiatives and funding priorities.

Our second major initiative in this past year was to **redesign and rejuvenate our bi-weekly CSS newsletter**. The new newsletter went live in late 2022, and has been very well received by the congregation. It is more user friendly, has a fresh new look and has some new important information we now provide the community on a regular basis.

A major milestone for the Committee is the **hiring of our first Communications Coordinator**, Michelle Flores. She is a student at Sonoma State University and has been a terrific addition to the CSS communications team. Michelle now is serving as the editor/publisher of our new look newsletter, in addition to maintaining and updating our web site. Working with our committee, she has started to interface with various media outlets to get the word out regarding our events and activities, to place stories of interest, and to enhance our overall visibility. She also has been involved in coordinating all messaging and communications initiatives coming from our leadership, committees, newsletter contributors, and event planners.

This coming year we are beginning to revamp our CSS **social media presence**, initially starting with Facebook and Instagram. You will hear more on that soon.

K. Security Committee:

Members: Linda Tiefenthal, Andy Hyman, Carl Speizer, Devora Deutsch, Mark Hummel

Committee Mission: The Security Committee endeavors to plan for security improvements to facilities used by CSS at the West Spain Street campus, and to recommend relevant security training for officers and members of the Congregation.

This past year, the Security Committee:

- Coordinated volunteer greeter assignments for security screening at in-person events (now augmented by hired security personnel)
- Made substantial progress developing an Emergency Preparedness and Response Handbook for eventual use by the congregation, with input from temple leadership
- Met on several occasions with local law enforcement for updates on the regional security environment and including an in-person familiarization review of the CSS campus
- Successfully applied on behalf of CSS for, and are now awarded, \$200,000 in CalOES-administered grant funding for security upgrades to CSS/FCC facilities including exterior lighting upgrades, video surveillance equipment, upgraded sanctuary doors and hardware, and shatter resistance window film
- Publicized and participated in additional online security training sessions for temple leadership.

In the coming year, the Committee aims to:

- Promote regular calendaring of volunteer greeter assignments for security screening at in-person events
- Finalize the Emergency Preparedness and Response Handbook for use by the congregation and assist in providing commensurate training opportunities
- Continue to with local law enforcement for updates on the regional security environment
- Begin implementing grant-funded security improvements at the CSS/FCC campus
- Publicize and participate in further locally-sponsored security training sessions for temple membership.

L. Legacy Committee:

Members: Lew Perlson, Michele Samson, Linda Goldman, Alexandra Allen, Sheryl Alexander and Jan Chernoff

Committee Mission: The mission of the Legacy Planning Committee is to build long term economic sustainability for CSS through significant financial gifts from members and supporters during lifetime and at death.

Legacy giving describes a variety of charitable giving techniques including bequests, retirement plan and life insurance beneficiary designations and charitable remainder trusts that allow CSS members and friends to support Jewish life in the Sonoma Valley after their deaths. Policies are in place to assure legacy gifts received by CSS will be used to sustain the synagogue into the future.

The particular vehicle used will depend on a person's individual circumstances. With that in mind, the Committee held a workshop in early March to educate members on ways to make legacy contributions. The workshop was well attended and the Committee plans to schedule additional workshops.

A significant number of CSS members have already declared their intent to make legacy gifts to CSS.

Legacy Circle

Shir Shalom has established the Legacy Fund, a planned giving program which allows members to support Congregation Shir Shalom through numerous different mechanisms in assets from their estate. These gives can be part of your will and take place after your demise or can occur at any time. When you give to this fund you become part of the Legacy Circle and your financial support helps to build a future for Congregation Shir Shalom.

For more information, you may contact Lew Perlson or Sheryl Alexander, CSS members, who can describe which legacy gift vehicle might be right for you.

We are proud to announce our inaugural Legacy Circle:

- Jan Chernoff and Isabel Wade
- Judy Miller
- Amy Rassen
- Sharon Malakoff
- Helena Mitchell
- Lew and Bev Perlson
- Frank and Michele Samson
- Ken and Sue Gertz
- Linda Goodman
- John and Sydney Randazzo
- Gayle and Peter Stanford

Board Member Elections

The 2023 Nominating Committee

The Committee: Our by-laws provide for a nominating committee to select new board members. The committee is comprised of two board members and three congregants. Our committee members were Alexandra Allen, Michele Samson, Linda Goldman, Brett Newman and Lynn Blankfort.

Task: Select three new board members for a three-year term.

The Process: The committee, with input from the board, created a list of attributes, skills and responsibilities needed to be a board member.

Potential candidates came both from those who inquired and from names that were suggested as possible board members from a variety of sources.

After an extensive process we are pleased to announce that Ken Wornick and Matt Nydell were selected as new members and Judy Miller was nominated to continue for another term. These candidates were chosen because of specific skills they can contribute to the Board. We are sure you will agree that their bios reflect a wealth of experience and knowledge that will be a great addition to our congregation.

Nominees for CSS Board term 2023 - 2024:

Ken Wornick



I am a 30-year career grape grower and winemaker. I've sat on numerous religious and cultural boards including Chair of the Board of the Jewish Day School in Foster City, officer positions at the "J" (the SF Jewish Newspaper), AIPAC, SF Federation, and active roles with Birthright and the Republican Jewish Coalition. In addition, I was more recently an officer of the board of the Sonoma Valley Museum of Art, and am currently Vice-Chair of the board at the Sonoma Valley Film Festival. My wife Cynthia and I have been married for 35 years and have three grown children. We enjoy all things outdoors, ranching, and motorcycling. I am honored to serve on the Shir Shalom Board and I hope my experience and energy will be a good addition to the talented folks currently serving.

Matt Nydell



I am a seasoned corporate lawyer and executive, supporting small start-ups to global multinationals for over 35 years. Aside from my role as General Counsel for many companies, I have served as head of HR, Investor Relations, Corporate Development, Information Technology, Software Development, and even Marketing at various times in my career. I have over 25 years of experience in corporate governance, serving on many for-profit and not-for-profit corporate boards, both as a member and as corporate secretary. However, my most memorable “role” was as “First Husband” at Congregation Beth Jacob In Plymouth, MA which I dutifully served during my wife Marjorie’s four year reign as president. We have been married over 40 years and now live in the scenic foothills of Napa County on a 20 acre ranch. We are blessed with a wonderful son and daughter-in-law (Jonathan & Katie) together with a princess of a granddaughter, Leila. We are now awaiting the arrival of a grandson this summer! I am very excited about serving on the Shir Shalom Board and contributing to its future success.

Judy Miller



I grew up in Brooklyn, NY, attended Brooklyn College majoring in Education and Political Science. In 1959 I married Irwin Miller and moved to the Greater Boston area where we lived for 54 years. We owned a sales and marketing company that sold books, cards, toys and gifts to the retail trade; I was Vice President and Treasurer of the company.

My oldest son lives in San Francisco with his wife and three children. My youngest son lives in New York City with his wife and daughter. In 2012 we moved to Petaluma, CA; fellow CSS members encouraged us to join Shir Shalom. Over the years, Irwin and I chaired the Lifelong Learning Team, and I was President of Sisterhood for two years. I believe that you can get from an organization, in direct proportion, to what you give to it. I'm proud to continue as Chair of the Lifelong Learning Team, a member of the Board of Directors, and a member of this vibrant community.

Changes to the Bylaws

Additions to the Bylaws (in red)

6/25/23

ARTICLE III. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 8 Removal. A Director may be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board for not attending Board meetings without Board approval for such absences, and/or for failure to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of a Board member.

Responsibilities of members of the Board of Directors are listed in “B”, sections 1 through 7 below. Also included in grounds for removal are the following: malfeasance, neglect of duties, incompetence, permanent inability to perform official duties, arrest or indictment for a crime that is a felony or misdemeanor, involvement in theft or a crime of dishonesty, without cause or for cause.

ARTICLE IX. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

E. SISTERHOOD AND MEN’S CLUB DEFINITION AND RESPONSIBILITIES. The Sisterhood and Men’s Club are considered as adjunct to the Congregation. Membership in these groups is limited to members in good standing of the Congregation. Notwithstanding the foregoing, for a period of two (2) months, individuals may participate in Sisterhood or Men’s Club activities while considering membership in the Congregation.

The Sisterhood and Men’s Club may maintain separate checking accounts for their receipts and disbursements in conjunction with their activities. Annually, within a reasonable time after the close of the fiscal year, the Sisterhood and Men’s Club shall provide a report of their financial activities to the Congregation in order to be included in any Federal and state tax filings and other required reporting.”

The CSS President and Treasurer will be listed as authorized users of these checking accounts, as well as the President and Treasurer of each organization.