

Congregation Israel of San Antonio

"A Progressive Jewish Congregation in Prayer and Practice"

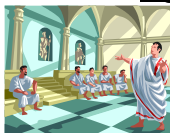
16320 Huebner Road at St. Andrew 210.387.2436

www.congregationisraelsatx.org

High Holy Days and End of Year Review Meeting 5770 2.1.2010

St. Andrew 7p.m. in the Conference Center Library 2nd Floor

Agenda



(Toga optional)

1. Opening Prayer and D'var Torah
2. Approval of Minutes of 9.2.09 (previously e-mailed and attached below)
3. Review HHD Services and content, choir
4. HHD Honors system
5. Facilities and Pulpit review
6. RH Luncheon and YK Break-the-fast review
7. Advertising and Publicity follow up Web Photo Journals
8. Outcome of collecting tzedakah for past non-contributors 5x Chai donations
9. HHD Budget review; Budget Targets
10. Old/New Business
 - a. Thanksgiving and Oblate Appearances by Hazzan and Choir
 - b. Chanukah Dinners and Decorations, Highly Praised
11. Budget for 09-2010 Going forward (Saturdays)
12. Lefkowitz Bat Mitzvah assistance (luncheon following service open to all 100+)
13. Good and Welfare
 - a. Resignations and retentions: approach resigned?
 - b. Our Theology State: Should we adopt one brand?
 - c. Havdalah Will Travel
14. Adjournment



Minutes of the Meeting 2.1.2010

Present

Hazzan and Barbara Silverstein; Chris Richtberg; Karen Potyk; Roger Potyk; Dave Jackson; Sharon Davison; Patty Handler; Hal Handler

Excused

David Miron, George Siglin

1. Called to order at 7:00 p.m. D'var Torah about Parashat Yitro. His love of Israel and the God of Israel compared to CISA's welcome of all people who are earnest in their quest for Jewish values with a progressive bent. How all are included in our family tent.
2. Minutes of the High Holy Day planning meeting of 9.2.09 approved as corrected.



3. HHD and year-end review.

General consensus that the services, honors, music were executed with panache and accepted with gratitude and favor. Since then, Ari Richtberg has been operating the sound and video with new avatars which enhance the visual. His use of “prelude” and “postlude” music is well received. Suggested was to show photos of past events while “prelude” is playing or being played. St. Andrew does this prior to each service with good results.

For our Bat Mitzvah on May 8, the entire prayer service will be projected to avoid costly duplication of our prayer book, thus we remain very “green.”

4. Honors were accepted at the moment of need without the use of check-in and card systems. It was felt that a community of our size does not presently require this fine system which would be more appropriate for a larger synagogue. Even then, people tend to avoid any structured system.

5. Facilities and pulpit: in general all was prepared and in good operation. Routine hiccoughs with the sound system (of which we use very little) were minimal; the facilities under the direction of **David Blank** of St. Andrew are always at the ready, clean and welcoming. Temperature remains a constant issue as to hot or cold, but this is a common and recurring thing; adjustments are made as necessary.

6. Selichot dinner, Rosh Hashanah luncheon and Yom Kippur break-the –fast exceptional and well received. We need to inform George to assign a contact person to light the ovens for safety’s sake. Karen Potyk reported that it is difficult to accomplish for us as the controls are hidden behind the units and out of sight. Discussion in connection to charging a fee of tzedakah for our events involving food to offset costs and allow a cushion for unexpected expenses. Agreed that each announcement contain an RSVP and a suggested donation. With Purim and Pesach around the corner, this should be implemented with those festivals.

Discussion on regular Friday evening/Saturday morning repast. Decided that finger foods and dessert items be featured for all services except “First Friday” where a protein meal and dessert is the fare. “Yad B’yad”-hand in hand is the name of our regular fare.

7. David Jackson commended for his constant upkeep and creativity of the website, replete with photos, music and layout. A new History and Philosophy button allows visitors to view our history archive and a photo essay on our appurtenances. General discussion of publicity: hotel room brochures, JCC kiosk, printed media and the like. As of this writing a proposal to investigate VMail and its robust components was made. Caren Taubman Glasser is the vendor-she a life-long friend of Hazzan. We should evaluate and question her fee-for service product(s) on the merits.



Hazzan uploaded a CISA Facebook page (Congregation Israel of San Antonio) which links our website and many of its pages and photos; the FB community often will use FB rather than peruse our site on its own. We have over 100 FANS of CISA out of 500 invited so far. The advertising potential here is limitless and free (for the present since FB is considering a fee for this added platform...we'll see)

8. The tzedakah for the Holy Days was \$72.00 per adult worshipper. We collected less than \$400 with this vehicle; some who called in wanted to negotiate even that fee to a percentage of it, based upon how many services they might attend. Also, a letter of reciprocity was received of Congregation Agudas Achim, asking us to accept one of their members at no charge since she paid her dues there.

(This is fantastic! A letter of reciprocity is used normally for fully paid members of out of state/city synagogues asking the visited site to accommodate the worshippers at no charge to them.)

The visitor's home schule benefits, the visited site use its soft dollars to accommodate them. CAA should know the United Synagogue policy and that we are not a member of that austere organization—so, it does not apply to us. Nonetheless, we accommodated their member and her four family members at the CISA rate. A response will issue from CISA should such a request be made of us again this year.

9. New Business: Hazzan and Choir members active in the community over the holiday season and ongoing.

10. Budget Projections: it was suggested that we accommodate only those who have donated in the past to our HHD services and food events, and programs for which we incur a hard dollar cost; suggested that we move to another location for the HHD where we can monitor attendance afresh. Discussion.

Those who have reneged on their contribution commitments will receive a letter from George indicating what their personal pledge was and what is outstanding on the pledge. Of note is our original membership application so worded as to be a binding contract (should we choose to enforce it) for nonpayment of pledged funds “in consideration of the pledges of others...” This language somehow was deleted in subsequent issues of the membership application probably by the person who volunteered to make our app friendlier (incidentally, that person, too, has not completed their pledge for 2009).

That person owes **thousands of dollars** to date (since 2006) should we choose to enforce the provision. Discussion. One of these wants CISA to forgive their \$3900 indebtedness and accept \$800 to clear the past and book a double B'nai Mitzvah in the near future. We decided to follow up first with the letter and then republish this contractual obligation. Again it is emphasized that these individuals decide on their own what they would contribute and some have not indicated that hardship has prevented them from fulfilling their obligation. **We are very understanding of this need especially in this economy..** Hazzan will use discretion in consultation with others.



Decided to remain at SALC until we outgrow the facility or the fees outgrow us.

11. Decided to maintain Friday night worship exclusively until we increase our cash flow or for scheduled member simchas. Elements of the Shabbat morning Torah service and discussion will be included on Fridays from time to time. This will increase the running time, but all have seemed to welcome the addition and exchanges we offer.

12. Lefkowitz Bat Mitzvah on May 8 with Hazzan and Choir officiating. Many quests and good community relations opportunity. Danielle is advised to visit with our catering teams for help in providing a repast for the congregation. All are welcome to enjoy our second Bat Mitzvah.

13. Good and Welfare: Everyone who has resigned has been contacted by letter, e-mail and personal contact with Hazzan **during that process**. This means that their resignation vehicle was met like-for-like encouraging them to rethink their position and while expressing that which motivated their response. Hazzan has not cold-called those who resigned after that owing to the respect that we owe people who make up their minds. All have been encouraged to rejoin when their heart is moved.

In connection to our “theology” it was decided to continue to offer a broad examination of Jewish thinking and ritual without adopting a single focus or matter of ritual. We adopted “progressive” as a working mission tool to allow a broad range of expression, not in the political “liberal” sense, but in the wide palette that is Judaism as supported in Torah and Law.

Sheryd and David Jackson have sponsored our Havdalah will travel Adult Studies Institute through June. We thank them and will acknowledge this appropriately in the bulletin and website publicity. Agreed that having a members home publicized might invite security risks, so we have located to this beautiful conference center for our Havdalah, reception and study.

14. Meeting was adjourned at 7:03—hey that’ what is written here, so somebody please offer a correction to this pronto—otherwise we can do Yom Kippur in 4, 5 minutes, too!

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Silverstein

Barbara Silverstein 2.1.2010

Transcribed with “humor” added HDS 2.4.2010 ...my new address is.....