

Har Shalom 2020-2021 Annual Meeting Minutes  
9/13/2020

**Present:** *David Cox, Holly Kingsford, Laurie Franklin, Kate Sells, Ruth Singer, Bert Chessin, Sherry Kolenda, Maeta Kaplan, Janet Cass, Jessica Weltman, Nina Marie Kalckar, Edie K, Ari Margo, Suzanne Aboulfadl, Kate McIvor, David Jolles, Melisse Hunter, Jay & Crystal Koosman, Marlene Hutchins, Donna Upson, Carolyn Goren, Barb Gross, Rebecca, Patricia, Paul Rosen*

**A PDF of the Annual Meeting presentation is attached.**

**A PDF of the Roles of the Board is attached.**

Topic	Discussion	Action
<b>Mission, Vision, Goals</b>	<p><b>President</b> presents mission, vision and goals.</p> <p>VISION We envision a cohesive, holy community united by Jewish values and traditions, a “makom”, a sacred space, to create meaningful Jewish life for current and future generations.</p> <p>MISSION We will create opportunities to engage in spiritual exploration and worship, Jewish learning and culture, and the pursuit of justice.</p> <p>Goal 1: Financial stability for the near-term through positive cash flow, matching grants and networking in order to achieve a cash reserve by the end of the fiscal year.</p> <p>Goal 2: Increase net membership by at least five family units in 12-18 months by energizing the Membership committee and through collaboration with the rabbi.</p> <p>Goal 3: Expand our educational, cultural and social justice programming during this fiscal year resulting in greater membership/volunteer engagement (measured in volunteer hours).</p> <p>Full report in PDF.</p>	

Topic	Discussion	Action
<p><b>President's Report</b></p>	<p><b>President</b> discusses the response to COVID-19, and explains that the building is open only to Garden City Montessori, and at limited capacity. Safety is the priority. In the meantime, our “virtual congregation” is able to bring us together.</p> <p><b>President</b> explains that we did well this year financially, and that we were able to establish a bit of a cushion before the COVID-19 crisis began. Full report in PDF.</p>	

Topic	Discussion	Action
<p><b>Rabbi's Report</b></p>	<p><b>Rabbi</b> announces that over 45 households have already renewed their membership commitment, and that it's very early in the fiscal year to reach such a milestone. “Jewish community is important in our lives right now.”</p> <p>Torah Study, Beit Midrash and Lunch With The Rabbi are well attended, as well as prayer.</p> <p><b>Rabbi</b> announces that we are going to expand later this fall with a Hebrew Learning Program oriented towards Biblical Hebrew and Torah. There will be an 8-10 week thorough beginner's course that will be great for beginners and those wanting to review. Then, in 2021, we will have the Biblical Hebrew course.</p> <p><b>Rabbi</b> thanks the community for volunteering, participating and sharing opinions and observations. She invites everyone to participate in the High Holidays.</p> <p>We have a Yizkor book of remembrance this year. Everyone can submit names for the book.</p>	

Topic	Discussion	Action
<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p>	<p>2019 – 2020: We paid off the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mortgage Loan. That's over \$100,000 in 3 years with the help of several large contributions.</p> <p>We still have our main mortgage, and due to COVID-19 and reduced attendance, we're receiving approximately \$10,000 less in rental income from Garden City Montessori.</p> <p>Taxes will be filed on time. <b>Treasurer</b> is working with <b>Bookkeeper</b>. <b>President</b> is working on Budget for next year.</p> <p><b>Treasurer</b> intends to hand the job off, with training, within 1 more year.</p> <p><b>Treasurer</b> presents Profit &amp; Loss and Balance Sheet.</p> <p>The loss of income from Garden City Montessori somewhat balances out with the reduced expense of having paid off the second mortgage.</p>	

Topic	Discussion	Action
<p><b>Nominating Committee Report</b></p>	<p><b>Nominating Members</b>                      Bert Chessin                      David Jolles                      Holly Kingsford                      Crystal Koosman                      Barb Gross</p> <p><b>2020-2021 Board of Directors</b>                      President: David Cox                      Vice-President: David Jolles                      Secretary: Sherry Kolenda                      Treasurer: Paul Rosen                      Immediate Past President: Holly Kingsford (Ruach Chair)                      Member at Large: Bert Chessin (Membership Chair)                      Member at Large: Crystal Koosman</p> <p>Though each Board Member is supposed to have a two year term, several Board Members have generously provided more of their time.</p> <p>A vote was taken and there was no opposition to the above listed Board.</p> <p><b>Secretary</b> welcomes those in attendance to volunteer for the Board.</p>	

Topic	Discussion	Action
<p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>	<p><b>Q: What is unearned income?</b> A: Stock or investment. The Bookkeeper can provide more detail.</p> <p><b>Q: What did Secretary mean?</b> A: Seats are available on the Board. We currently have 7 members but can have as many as 9, so there are 2 available Board seats. President and Treasurer are both planning to step down before the next Board meeting, so for the sake of a smooth transition, members are invited to attend Board meetings and volunteer for available roles.</p> <p><b>Q: How many members do we need to have in order to be a sustainable congregation?</b> A: In terms of finance, we need to be at a certain income level for building expenses and wages. We pay the bills in part by membership contributions, but also by receiving charitable contributions from supports—some even out of state—and the community at large during fundraisers.</p> <p><b>Q: Do we have a goal for the number of members per year?</b> A: 4 or 5 more by the end of the fiscal year.</p> <p><b>Q: How does our current membership compare to our historic membership numbers?</b> A: The numbers are similar. There are ~600 Jewish people in Missoula, and a certain percentage want to be members of Har Shalom, others go to Chabad, and there are those that don't participate. We need to look for ways to engage those that don't participate in the hopes of bringing in new members.</p> <p><b>Q: What happened to the Jews in Montana project? Can there be updates in the weekly?</b> A: History of Jews in Montana project is moving forward. So far they have 9 panels and when the library is finished they will be installed. Yes, we can put updates in the weekly. In addition to the local stories, we've expanded to Helena and other parts of the state for broader Montana Jewish stories. Montana is part of a bigger story of Jews in the west, so connections are being made along those lines.</p>	

Topic	Discussion	Action
<p><b>Comments</b></p>	<p>A member is very happy with the education part of Har Shalom and is grateful for the online events on Zoom.</p>	

Topic	Discussion	Action
<b>Recognition</b>	<b>Board</b> recognizes Marlene for her time and efforts over the years. Though she will be off the Board this fiscal year, she is still helping with the Weekly and communication pieces. Thank you, Marlene!	

Topic	Discussion	Action
<b>Roles of the Board</b>	<b>Past President</b> presents a document describing the responsibilities of the Board. Full document attached. Board discusses some of the language in the document and goes over the broader topics, including job descriptions. Board to review the document in more detail before the next Board meeting.	