

Congregational Annual Meeting
May 21, 2020
Rabbi's Report (May 2019-April 2020)

For the General Benefit of Members and Prospective Members:

- Meetings, coffee dates, meals, phone calls and emails regarding congregant personal issues and relationship building with current members and members of the at-large Jewish community. Sent every synagogue child a birthday card for their birthdays.

Staff Transition and Administrative Tasks:

- With staff, board and lay leadership, planned Barb Berven's retirement and transition
- Restructured office team into Business Manager (Christy Rothlauf) and Communications and Programming Coordinator (Kristin Davis), including creating job descriptions for evaluation purposes
- Trained staff in new positions and facilitated weekly staff meetings

Covid-19:

- Together with staff and David Copeland, moved all synagogue programming and services to Zoom/virtual platform when possible
- Created synagogue **Medical Task Force** to plan for eventual synagogue re-opening

Mikvah:

- Worked with member donor and synagogue VP to begin process of planning and building community mikvah and improved grounds to be built at Tifereth

Security:

- Worked with synagogue VP and paid grant-writer on application for a Homeland Security grant for improvement of synagogue security procedures and overall target hardening

Cemetery:

- Worked with cemetery president to continue to upgrade interfaith section of Jewish Glendale Cemetery

Adult Education:

- Planned programming with Adult Ed committee for the year
- Led weekly "lunch and learn" on the Babylonian Talmud after Shabbat morning services
- With Adult Ed committee, executed "Entryways into Elul" weekend program
- Taught Biblical Hebrew Grammar and Intro to Talmud classes in Spring/Summer 2019
- Led Quarterly discussions of Halachic topics-Modern Conservative Movement Teshuvot and lunch book discussions

Women's League:

- Worked with Women's League members on a variety of projects throughout the year

Weekly, Shabbat and Holiday Services:

• Holiday Services and Events:

- Planned and executed Shavuot family & adult services and programming
- organized and led Tisha B'Av services and program; chanted from the book of Lamentations
- Planned and led Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah services in conjunction with staff and volunteers
- Planned and executed Purim evening festivities and read Megillat Esther

• Shabbat and Weekday Services:

- Led Weekday minyan services
- Led Shabbat services, gave divrei Torah or discussions, read Torah, Haftarah and Megillot
- Co-led Acoustic Shabbat services on Friday night, led Contemplative service on Shabbat morning once a month before Traditional Torah service

Illness, Bereavement and Other Lifecycle Events:

- Officiated at unveilings, funerals and shiva minyanim
- Called or visited with members of the community who are ill
- Meet with couples to plan weddings
- Led Beit Din for 3 Conversions in Omaha (resulting in a new member family)

Youth:

• Youth Lounge

- Together with synagogue lay leadership and volunteers began working on a proposal for a Youth Lounge remodel

• Beit Sefer Shalom and Gan Shalom

- Taught 3rd grade on Wednesdays and Sundays at BSS
- Visited Gan Shalom as part of monthly rabbi rotation
- Organized and led Consecration service for BSS Kindergarten students
- Made sufganiyot with Hebrew High, Gan Shalom and BSS
- Led BSS Annual Friday night services at Tifereth
- Coordinated and led Tot Shabbat/Children's services and Mishpacha services on Friday nights

• Bnei Mitzvah

- Met with bnei mitzvah students regarding their Divrei Torah and officiated at bnei mitzvah
- Met with families to plan future bnei mitzvah ceremonies and pick dates

• Camp Ramah Wisconsin and other Jewish Camps

- 75% of TI children attended Jewish summer camp in 2019, including 7 to Camp Ramah in Wisconsin. Several others were at Herzl Camp, OSRUI, Engman Camp Shalom and other Jewish Camps
- Partnered with Camp Ramah Wisconsin to send 3 families (1 prospective family and 2 member families) to Camp Ramah Wisconsin Family Camp for the first time
- Visited Engman Camp Shalom and led mini Shabbat services for each age group

• YAD

- Attended all YAD events and coordinated programming with YAD committee

- **Kadima/USY**

- Met with EMTZA regional director and participated in EMTZA region clergy conference call about USY/Kadima
- Helped host USY on Wheels at Tifereth for second year in row
- Encouraged 3 young women to go to EMTZA Kadima Kinnus

Community Engagement:

- **USCJ**

- Participated in **a regional EMTZA meeting with rabbis in the Midwest in Minneapolis**

- **Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines**

- Co-officiated at Kever Avot Services at Jewish Glendale
- Attended Federation Board Meetings
- Attended Senior Luncheons at Tifereth

- **Jewish Senior Life Center**

- Led abridged High Holiday services and Purim event
- Gave Staff In-Services on High Holidays
- Attended Fall Fundraiser for Jewish Senior Life Center

- **Greater Des Moines Community**

- Secretary of the Executive Board of One Iowa Action
- With congregants and Hy-Vee leadership, and with state-wide promotion, helped to co-ordinate year-round availability of kosher food at Hy-Vee Windsor Heights
- Hosted several church groups and school (including college) groups for visits and discussions about Judaism
- Guest lectured at 3 DMACC classes

Israel Engagement:

- Spoke at AIPAC and hosted Iowa Event
- Attended JCRC Israel discussions