

**OZ Congregational Meeting**  
**Sunday June 6, 2021 – ZOOM meeting**

**Present:** Diane Rippa, David Rome, Nancy Sugarman, Judy Chalmer, Becky Wasserman, Brett Smith, Lisa Glass Kornstein, Judy Danzig, Adam Bluestein, Barbara McGrew, Basha Brody, Lynda Siegel, Joanna Grossman, Laura Cooper, Dorothy Fishman, Bill Gottesman, Myra Barovick, Bill Miller, Yoram Samets, Vivien Rabin, Judy Hershberg, Linda Kopper, Michael Bukanc, Michael Rosenthal, Suzi Wizowaty, Ducky and Frank Donath, Mark Banks, Brett Smith, Rick Wolfish, Cantor Steve Zeidenberg, Rabbi Amy Small, Nancy Sugarman, Eric and Karen Corbman, Rick Wolfish, Harvey Klein, Michael Schaal, Andie Lowe, Gary Visco, Barbara Rippa, Mindy Evnin, Phil Bieber, Suzanne Brown, Richard Finkelstein, Josh Kernoff, Sarah Glassman, Diana Kernoff, Bill Miller, Mollie Ritvo, Raul Guervera, Wendy Stein.

Cantor Steve led community in Hena matovu manyim

**Rabbi Amy Dvar Torah:** On Monday, March 9, 2020, I went to NPR with Imam Hassan and the Rev. Ken White to interview Jane Lindholm; I recall a brief opening conversation on Covid. A couple of days later the stay at home order began: the disruption has brought so much change, and we are only now beginning to fully understand. While reading Rabbi Life's Daily Blessings, I Revisited Ecclesiastes: "Everything is Exhausting..." We may try and understand the world but never be satisfied: still, we are motivated to go on living to create a better world. Being alive is blessing enough..." We have animated the "divine spark" within ourselves individually and within our congregation. This year's Mary 27, "In Judaism, holiness is not the same as perfection. . . We cannot be perfect, but we can commit holy acts." That is our mission: to have "aspiration," as a result of being engaged in the process." It is an "act of becoming." What is the nature of our becoming now? We read of Moses sending out scouts: two described the land as one of abundance. But the other ten felt like grasshoppers against giants." The people were not ready. They would remain in the desert for 40 years. They were not ready. Today, we sometimes think in black and white: we need to see the world without fear, as it might be. We should not fear change. We should embrace what's possible with nuance. We must build on our past, with joy...with the hope of bringing more holiness in the world.

**Motion** to Approve Minutes from December Congregational Meeting (after amending the minutes to acknowledge adjournment. Use Poll to vote. 50 in favor and 1 abstention.

**Motion:** Elect Gary Visco to Board (until the end of December 2022). Vote by Poll: 54 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

**Update on Current Year Financial Projections.** Bill Miller As of April 30, we have \$200K in checking account; revenue ahead of budget; Our costs are lower than projected, our pledges as planned. Several generous pledges, totaling \$150K, have arrived in Imagine 2025 funds, to be used in anticipation of balancing this year's budget (\$90K) together with the government's PPP money. The budget will be balanced. The Building fund has replaced part of the roof and will work on an air flow system in the sanctuary.

- Frank Donath asked whether we have to repay PPP loans. Bill indicated we do not.
- Judy Chalmer said a “balanced budget is good news.” Frank noted that gov’t money will end and we need to be prepared.

9:56 Zoom Poll on how many children attend Full Circle. Sarah gave the answer: 30 (33% guessed right!)

10:00 am Discussion/Motion to Approve Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget

- Nat reminded the congregation the budget runs July 1-June 30, 2022: \$1.3M budget, balanced. There are relatively few changes over the last 2 years.
- Kay reminded congregants that the kitchen was paid for by the Shalom Shuk
- Judy Chalmer highlighted a “big change” in the Adult Ed budget. There should be \$1500 in the budget. Nat explained that it may show up elsewhere in the budget. He indicated the Board will look into this.
- David Rome inquired how much is left in the building fund: Bill indicated we will spend \$45 with a balance of \$6K.

**Poll vote on Budget:** 48 in favor; 3 abstentions

10:15 Breakout Room 1 – Three people: Describe a moment from the past year when you felt particularly connected to OZ...

10:24 Sarah Glassman gave a presentation on “Connecting Our Community.” This included information on the new “membership portal” software;

- Bill Gottesman asked about the program. It’s “Shul cloud,” not built in house. Sarah explained it is not affiliated with USCJ
- Judy Chalmer inquired if it is ADA friendly. Sarah explained that Brett Smith is working on incorporating demographic info and accessibility needs into a questionnaire.
- Nancy Sugarman asked what information we’re collecting on new members; along with an annual update among existing members (which changes, and may help with programming).
- David Rome asked about cybersecurity and backup. Shul cloud has a server and backup and is sensitive to our needs. We have Rose Computing for our local files.
- Deb Lashman asked about accessibility of actual software question: Sarah wasn’t sure but will look into this.

10:38 Cantor Steve led a song (preview of singing community): “On the day we are together again” by Humbird...

10:45 Nat introduced Andie Lowe, our new office assistant.

**Presentation:** Rabbi Amy and Challenges Facing Synagogues Today (based on Lunch and Learn delivered on May 6<sup>th</sup>). Rabbi Amy described the major changes going on in Jewish life and community, particularly relating to Jewish identity among younger Jews, highlighting Jack Werthheimer’s work, “The New American Judaism.” Many synagogues are closing. The idea of “unbundling” is thriving, focused on networking rather than the current membership model. There will not be one cultural place for people to be Jewish. But we still need synagogues (particularly to address those in need): we need new ideas and we should not be afraid...

Describe a time when you understood or expressed Judaism or your relationship changed

11:05 Brief Imagine 2025 report

11:19 Poll: What year was the OZ congregation founded? Sarah Glassman gave the answer: 48% got it right)

Good news and Appreciation of Staff and Clergy: Molly Ritvo expressed appreciation of Full Circle and offer thanks to every volunteer and all our donors. Strengths include Adult Ed and Lunch and Learn; Social Action have done work steppingstones, hunger, and antiracism; collaboration leading to OZ Family Facebook Group – now open to everyone; Our Religious committee has innovated (B Mitzvah) and met our needs; we have reached out to our congregation; work on Lost Mural; and the Imagine 2025. Young adult volunteers and leaders (30) has been tremendous: Joanna Grossman, Sergei Span, Grace, Ingrid, Brett, Jenny Blair...

Brett Smith acknowledged the work of our staff and clergy in these difficult times: Preschool, Hebrew School, Shuk, Andie Lowe; our clergy, Rabbi Amy (reinventing services, teaching, engaging in Social Action) and Cantor Steve (brought light when we needed it most – singing in prayer and in social events; prepping our B Mitzvah students). Naomi (has reinvented everything) – on-line teaching, drive throughs, et al). Erika keeping our preschool thriving, with vision). Sarah “the engine keeping our wheels going”; Karen Robair – central to OZ’s mission and in credible asset. Raul person who gets things done. It’s been challenging -- hope it’s been rewarding and one everyone can be proud of.

11:30 Poll: Preferred spelling of Winter Holiday of Lights:

Chanukah – 44%

11:35 Recognizing Losses: Rabbi Amy provided names of people lost since the beginning of 2020 and recited El Maleh Rahaman and Kaddish.

11:38 Cantor Steve remembering losses (recited last 3 stanzas of Humbird)

11:40 Adjourn