

# Congregation Israel of San Antonio

*"A Progressive Jewish Congregation in Prayer and Practice"*

16320 Huebner Road at St. Andrew

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[www.congregationisraelsatx.org](http://www.congregationisraelsatx.org)



## **CISA Second Annual Congregational Meeting**

**5/6/08 7:30 p.m.**

St Andrew Conference Center 16320 Huebner Road at St. Andrew, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

### **Agenda and Minutes of the Meeting**

1. Arrival and registration-Meet and Greet
2. Call to Order Roger Potyk, Chair
3. D'var Torah and Opening remarks Hazzan Silverstein
4. Proof of Notice (e-mail of the Final Agenda, Notice Given)
5. Approval of Minutes of Annual Meeting 5/6/07 (previously e-mailed, available)
6. Financial Report Budget George Siglin
7. Old Business: Roger Potyk
  - a. Approval/Amend of By Laws as presented 5/6/07 by Bernard Wm Fischman, Esq.
8. New Business
  - a. Dues Structure Review (round up amounts, divisible)
  - b. Concert Proposal of Audrey Babcock (Aviva)-Beyond Carmen
9. Motion for and Adjournment

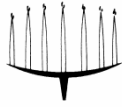
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Our meeting is open to our members, our community of friends and guests of CISA. Voting rights reside, however, in full members of CISA, evidenced by a registered application and current dues contribution. Items may be added to the AGENDA, if submitted electronically or by post and received on May 4, 2008. Additional items may be raised through the chair during New Business. Members, please insure that your application is up to date upon registration prior to the meeting. Welcome!

B'shalom,

*George*

George Siglin, Administrator



## Congregation Israel of San Antonio

Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting 5.6.08 7:30 p.m.

### In Attendance

Nadzieja Batki, Darius Batki, David Jackson, Sheryd Jackson, Karen Potyk, Roger Potyk, Barbara Silverstein, Hazzan David Silverstein, Judith Miller, Michael Roth, Hal Handler, Patty Handler, Pat McClure, Karen McClure, Yael Friedlander, Edie Friedlander

### Excused

Cindy Barbier Sanchez, Music Director, George Siglin, Administrator, Melvyn Levine, Barbara Levine (Director) Anne Susswein (Sisterhood Representative) Evelyn H. Cooper, Jay Chapman, Harry Mazal, Jerry Mazal, Bernard Fischman (Attorney and member), Dr. Mark and Sally Brauer

1. **The Meeting** was called to order by Roger Potyk, meeting chair, at 7:34 p.m.
2. **D'var Torah** from Hazzan Silverstein was based upon last week's *parasha* of Kedoshim-Holiness. He indicated that our community coin is increasing due to many factors which indicate how we are working toward being a kehilat hakodesh-a holy community. That holiness is not supernatural or necessarily of cosmic force, but seen in the everyday and weekly activities and down to earth acts we undertake as a congregation: a beautiful and functional web site as designed by George, Roger, Jay and David; a regular ad space underwritten by one of our families weekly and for the High Holy Days; fine art and participatory music in our services; support of atrts in the university and community college; respecting our community of congregation's policies and members; our involvement in numerous community-wide events as partners in the Jewish community; no infighting within our own house; guided leadership which invites excellence in worship, study and action; our open door inclusiveness for programs, dinners and services without fee. At bottom, we are earning a good name and welcoming new people to our fold.
3. **Proof of Notice; Approval of Minutes** Chair Roger Potyk indicated that proper notice was sent and received. He asked for a motion to approve or amend the Minutes of the first annual meeting from 2007. Karen Potyk so moved. The Minutes of the first Annual Meeting were approved (attached to the original Minutes of this meeting).
4. **Financial Report** was designed by our George Siglin who was excused due to a happy family matter. Hazzan Silverstein walked through the Budget. Other questions may be referred to George. Hazzan thanked George for his dedication, holy friendship in support of our community for his work with our financial growth, and bringing us under the roof of St. Andrew. The Budget suggested for the coming year would reflect a modest growth in the needed income, including the line items for the Music Director and Choir staff. The line for ritual leader (attached to original Minutes) would be maintained as funds become available. A motion was made to approve the Budget for 2008-2009. Discussion. The Motion was amended to include an additional payment to the ritual leader of salary (as opposed to reimbursements) not taken in prior years 2006-7; 2007-8 as funds are available in the coming year(s). With that amendment, the Budget for 2008-2009 was passed unanimously.



5. **Old Business/By-Laws** Mr. Bernard Fischman, Attorney at Law gifted us with our By Laws last year. The congregation has had an opportunity to review those By Laws. The Chair asked for a motion to approve the By Laws for Congregation Israel of San Antonio. Discussion and recommendations were forthcoming on two areas:

a) In connection to **section 2.1.1** concerning who may become a member of the congregation, it was unanimously approved that the language be changed in part to  
1) Eliminate the **parentheses** and 2) read in relevant part:

*“Persons and families who desire to become Members of the Congregation may be of the Jewish faith by birth or by adoption of Judaism through a program of study. All who are seeking a Jewish way of life or who are supportive of the Jewish community, the Congregation and its religious tenets, may become Members. Members shall subscribe to the Statement of Principles of the Congregation.”* Approved as amended.

b) In connection to **Article V Officers** and sections **5.1 - 5.2** it was suggested to change the word “will” to “may” to reflect the intention of the congregation to streamline and keep manageable the leadership structure, electing such officers as deemed needed in the future if at all. Approved as amended.

## 6. New Business

**Dues Contribution recommendations** Petty Handler suggested we focus on first-time affiliates and how we present the dues system to them in a comfortable way. A posted monthly amount might resonate better with those who have never been members than to see only the total year’s suggested dues contribution. The current dues structure was posted on the website and can be amended to show monthly contributions. It had been previously suggested by new member Mark (Moshe) Brauer to round all dues contributions to the next highest zero as divisible in equally monthly installments for simplicity sake. Motions as to both were made. Discussion.

Hazzan explained the need for cash on hand as startup capital at the beginning of each calendar year. In order to plan for and engage our hard-dollar desires like our building, our Music Director and soloists, and any related expenses of operation that must be paid in whole rather than expensed monthly. \$10,000 is needed, for example, to begin the High Holy Day and Shabbat Season. Anticipated hard dollar costs must be met to begin. Members who request a PPA (payment plan adjustment) are accommodated, but only after we accumulate a cash base going forward. We could not continue only on monthly installments, except at the larger Underwriting Levels which by their nature give us cash flow. He reminded us that our custom is to have 100% of the dues contributions completed before the High Holy Days unless a PPA is agreed upon. After discussion both motions were approved.



**Rental of St. Andrew and Related Costs** In connection to the unbelievable low rental of this fine edifice, the Board of St. Andrew did approve some time ago a rental increase. Essentially the rate would be per hour as opposed to per use, with other requirements. This structure might mean that we would need to tailor our services accordingly as well as some meeting usage. Hazzan praised George and the clergy of ST. Andrew in holding to our original rental agreements going forward as much as possible. He noted that as all expenses increase beyond the control of the church (OHM, energy, cleaning etc.) that we might be facing increased rental costs. If and when this occurs we will need to contour our use as our cash allows.

On point, our Music Director and choral forces are essential to our style of worship and are of high praise in the community. We intend to continue as we have in the past, respecting their incredible talents, loyalty and beauty of services rendered. It is our charge to compensate our staff as service is rendered, recognizing their worth and needs as they arise. Therefore Hazzan urged all to help insure a healthy cash flow to respect all our commitments.

**Concert Proposal** Through Hazzan's involvement with the San Antonio Opera he has had contact with the artist who will perform as **Carmen** in the fall, Ms. Audrey (Aviva) Babcock of New York. She and her associate have proposed a Havdalah concert program to take place during September while she is here for the Opera (attached to original minutes). CISA recommended that we pursue her proposal and also seek out other sponsorships for the concert (suggested Beth El and the JCC) at a location to be determined.

**Friday Night Lights** dinners will continue owing to their success. All will be asked to sign up and bring a dish to the table. Birthdays and Anniversaries will be highlighted. These dinners will be multi-course as in the past. For the regular Onegai Shabbat and brunches to standard fare will be Coffee, fruit plates and desserts. Other offering will be welcome. Donations to cover amounts spent will be welcomed.

## 7. Good and Welfare

The *Shehecheyanu* prayer was recited at this occasion of gratitude and thanksgiving as we begin our third year.

A prayer for healing was intoned for Sharon Levine and all who are ill in our orbit of concern; special prayer for Barbara and Mel Levine who are away attending to Sharon's needs.

A special welcome to all members who joined in this past year: Sheryd, Brooke and David Jackson, Gerri and Steve Jacobs, Matthew and Samantha, Joel Batafsky and Anne Lasky, Linda, Stephanie and Alan Fisher, Karen and Pat McClure, Howard and Myrna



Alwais, Norman and Gaby Hershfield, Judy and Dr. Ira Diskin, Terry and Bernard Fischman and Connie and Dr. Mark Brauer

8. **Motion for Adjournment** was made and accepted at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Barbara P. Silverstein*