

Report of the Ritual Committee
For the Annual Congregational Meeting of Temple Aliyah
June 1, 2011

The Ritual Committee activities include coordinating:

- **Ushering** assignments. For each Shabbat service, two members of the Board of Directors are at the sanctuary door to hand out Shabbat booklets and assist throughout the service.
- **Greeters** welcome guests and congregants for Shabbat services. Thanks to Tory Epstein for guiding the effort of the Kabbalat Panim.
- **Gabba'im** – (the “administrators” who call up the recipients of aliyot and supervise the Torah reading) Thanks to Irwin Jacobson for overseeing these volunteer assignments.
- **Seudah Shlisheet** – Danny Barwald has managed these monthly services and meals, flawlessly for many years.

The Ritual Committee also serves as the eyes and ears for the Congregation in matters regarding Jewish practices and Temple policy. In this regard, we discuss possible changes with the clergy before they occur, and analyze them afterwards. Visible activities this year included:

- U-shaped arrangement of seats for Shabbat services during July. This allowed for closer interaction with the congregation during this month with smaller attendance.
- Landscape shaped arrangement of seats, instead of Portrait shaped for High Holiday services. Person sitting in the seat furthest away from the Bimah was ½ the distance from previous years.
- Time-stamped High Holiday honors. Consequently, in future years Congregants who are given honors will have a more accurate estimate as to when in the service they should come forward.
- D'var Tzedek (Torah commentary) is now part of the Neshama Minyan. Torah Study is on alternate Shabbats.
- Sacred Space Shabbat service now monthly, instead of bi-monthly
- New percussion-based Shabbat service, to be put in a rotation with the Klezmer service on the 4th Friday night of the month
- Experimented with having the parents of the bar or bat mitzvah give their speeches prior to the *Shema*, rather than the beginning of the Torah service.
- Using a newly revised Siddur (Prayer Book) for the Fusion Service (2nd Friday night of the month)
- Created a new Gabbai training manual. Three more Temple members are now learning to become a Gabbai.

- Ritual Committee reviewed and subsequently made a recommendation to the Board of Directors to enter into new contract negotiations with clergy whose contracts were up.



Rabbi Gary Oren



Hazzan Mimi Haselkorn

Recommendation accepted! They are with us for years to come.

- To lessen noise and maintain proper decorum during the services, new signage and reminder cards were created:



To maintain the sanctity of the Shabbat and Jewish holidays please keep your cell phone **turned off** while in services. Calls, texting, or chatting with friends is disruptive to those who come to Temple Aliyah to pray. If you need to make a phone call or text someone, please take your phone outside. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding. Thank you.

I wish to thank our amazing, talented and caring clergy, Rabbi Vogel, Rabbi Oren, Hazzan Stein and Hazzan Haselkorn, and all those Temple members, who, as volunteers have regularly participated in Ritual Committee meetings and activities. Special acknowledgement and appreciation goes to our outgoing directors, Jake Tarica and Marvin Klein. We are thrilled that long-time committee members, Debbie Strom and Linda Stock will be Ritual Directors for the next term.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Appleby
 Temple Aliyah
 Vice President, Ritual