

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Membership Committee is the subject of focus this week as we continue to explore the structure, function and general nature of some of the many committees that serve our congregation. This important committee serves to welcome our visitors and guests, provide them with information regarding our congregation, and to encourage and guide those who are interested in becoming members.



This committee is co-chaired by Chris and Rick Walter and they are currently assisted by Charlotte Shea, Sue Pyne, Sherry Davis, John and Pinkie Hoffman and Jane Watts. It sounds like a big group, but theirs is a large and multifaceted task that could easily use more members.

The people who greet you at the door and hand you the Order of Service are volunteers functioning as extensions of the larger committee and are organized by Charlotte Shea.

After services, visitors and guests are asked to use yellow coffee mugs provided by the committee so that prospective new members might be greeted by our congregants as we meet to chat and have coffee together. During this time members of the committee mingle with our visitors as well as with those who have attended before.

Information regarding the membership process is available at the Membership Welcome Table, where a committee member is stationed before and after Sunday services to explain the process to becoming a member. That begins with signing a roster indicating interest which starts a three-part process. The first step is attending an orientation meeting for prospective members. In addition, a meeting with Rabbi Chava must be

scheduled. The next step is the new member welcome which is incorporated quarterly into a Sunday service. Along the way, a Fellowship Friend will be selected to serve as a mentor on an as-needed basis throughout the process. This is a newly added program feature which has been very well received. At the completion of this process membership is granted...except...one last detail. I know Rabbi Chava could help me say this obliquely but I haven't that ability so I'll just say it - a pledge, including a monetary contribution of record must be made with every membership.

Our next Prospective Member Orientation is this next Sunday, October 16th and a New Member Welcome is scheduled for November 6, 2016. We are anticipating 8-10 new members at that time and several other interested people are in the wings. This is an indicator that the process is working!

If you are interested in being a part of a crucial committee that helps our community grow by showing the public the warmth, intellect and palpable interchange of love in this extraordinary congregation, the Membership Committee needs your help. Please connect with Chris or Rick Walter to learn how you can help.

Next week we will be learning about another committee.....this one is not a standing committee but a very important one nonetheless. It is the small group that has formed to arrange our Thanksgiving celebration. We'll be looking at what they are doing and how we all can help to make this a joyous gathering and also explore a bit of the history of this event. We'll pick up again on standing committees the following week. So, committee chairs, please contact me to meet with me about your group. It is important to let everyone know about the opportunities for congregants to express love of this community via the avenues provided for personal ministry. It is our committees that are the ties that bind as well as the backbone of this congregation.

Peace in your hearts,

Linda