

## Religious Affairs Committee 2006-2007

- Planned for and administered High Holidays honors for both Main and Classical services; organized Tashlich service at new location at Carnegie Lake;
- Continued participating in B'nai Mitzvah Liaison committee;
- Reviewed our inventory of cemetery plots in two cemeteries, convened committee to advise on plans for use of these plots as well as possible acquisition of new plots;
- Provided series of newsletter articles on religious affairs-related topics;
- Discussed current approach for assigning first and second *aliyot* to *Kohanim* and *Leviim*, and agreed on slight modification to allow others to have those first two honors while continuing to offer them to *Kohanim-Leviim* when available;
- Discussed and agreed on policy to continue allowing both parents of B'nai Mitzvah (even if both are not Jewish) to stand on steps in front of Ark when clergy offers *Birkhat HaKohen* for their child;
- Worked with clergy to implement policy to allow B'nai Mitzvah children to hold Torah at start of Torah service, if the child and clergy agree it is desirable and safe;
- Reviewed and discussed kashrut regulations and agreed to make them more widely known, and to continue congregant education about the regulations and about kashrut in general. Rabbi Feldman worked with outside caterers to assure their knowledge of and compliance with our regulations, and continues to do so;
- Recruited congregants to prepare/deliver *D'verei Torah* during summer months;
- Worked with clergy to elevate awareness/significance of special Simchat Torah honors;
- Worked with clergy and Linda Meisel/Judy Leopold to review and revise Mourner's Guide – will be issued in summer 2007;
- Revised *shamashim* guidelines as needed, and scheduled refresher session for *shamashim* and *gabbaim* in June 2007;
- Consulted with clergy on change to Kabbalat Shabbat services to add in a few prayers and psalms that had been taken out over the years;
- Worked with clergy and others to assist with planning of Egger Shabbaton and Adult Education offerings;
- Arranged no-cost exchange of defective Etz Chaim *humashim* for new copies;
- Worked with clergy and Larry Epstein to plan for coverage during Cantor Simon's four-month sabbatical/vacation absence.