

JEWISH CONGREGATION OF VENICE  
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)

OCTOBER 26, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Eli Rapaport at 10:03am. He announced we have a quorum.

Motion to approve the minutes from the March 2025 Congregational meeting was made by Maxine Arkin, seconded by Vicki Solomon Vote taken; approved unanimously.

**Rabbi's report**-Rabbi-Cantor Marci Vitkus

Rabbi reported that she spoke at a Lutheran Synod, organized by Pastor Donna Bachelor, about what it is to be Jewish in the world today. Rabbi Marci also reported that she, Pastor Donna and Rabbi Ann are r hosting an Interfaith Thanksgiving service at the JCV on Tuesday November 25, 2025. There are 21 faith-based groups participating.

Rabbi Marci said that the theme of her service in the past year is Unity. She spoke about the various activities that will help unify our community such as Kol Isha on Tuesdays, which is a Women's group, she has Hebrew class on Tuesdays, she will be beginning the third Wednesday each month a group called Soul Food-brown bag lunch with Rabbi Marci and she is also looking for readers for Shabbat to help keep the service flowing.

Rabbi Marci also updated the Congregation that after conversation with the Ritual Committee and the Board of Directors it was decided that the first day of festivals Passover, Shavuot and Sukkot, along with the High Holy Days , we will not have activities scheduled on those dates.

Rabbi Marci reported that she met a Rabbi on the east coast of Florida who is starting an online platform called IJKL of educational programs. Rabbi Marci is gifting the congregation access to sign up for the programs.

**President's report**-Eli Rapaport

Eli reported that everything is going well. He stated that he was so proud and happy to watch our Rabbi blossom into the Rabbi she has become. He also noted that our office manager, Denise Riley, has been a joy to work with and is so capable.

### **Treasurer report-Victor Haran**

Victor thanked the Finance committee and Eli for their support in the 3 years he has been treasurer. He stated that the budget year ends on June 30. Our income in the last year has been \$100,000 more than last year. Our donations increased and the Rabbi Installation was very successful. He brought everyone's attention to the profit and loss statement and what it indicates between the current and previous year during the same time. Victor spoke of the dedicated funds and that information is on the website and the office. Victor stated that the goal of the Finance committee was to improve the efficiency of the operation of the JCV and make the finances more visible. The key reports are on the website for all congregants. Victor discussed opening a new checking account with Chase bank and closing the account at Horizon. Victor also reported updated the credit card machine for the food festival using the square credit card which allows us to go online to check the account immediately.

- Question: What is the net income from the food festival? Answer: Net \$50,000.
- Question: With the change to Chase, do they give money back or points? Answer: 2% back
- Question: Did the net include the \$10,000 donation? Answer: yes , we count all the money we get in no matter where the money came from. We look at the percent of profit. Comment: if the \$10,000 is counted, it doesn't tell us the actual profitability of the Food Festival

Victor stated that the Finance committee is working to be more detailed in the financial reports, breaking it out in more categories.

### **Membership Committee-Deborah Rosen, Chair**

Deborah said because of Victor's work he went through the membership rolls, and we now have 297 members. Deborah thanked the members of the Membership committee.

**Ritual Committee**-Joel Reznick for Susan Litwer, Chair

Joel read Susan's report. She thanked Rabbi Marci for a wonderful High Holy Day service and to everyone who participated in all aspects of putting the services together. She also said that more members of the Ritual committee are needed.

**Adult Learning**-Keith Usiskin, Chair

There is a full calendar of events coming up. Many of our activities are about music. There are many activities on the calendar, please sign up. Keith thanked all his collaborators, including Ed Lipman and Frank Meyer from Men's club, Robin Schoenewald from Sisterhood and Mark Silvermintz.

Eli commented that Keith has done an excellent job in bringing people to the JCV for our Adult Learning programs.

**House and Grounds**-Jeffrey Weisenberg, Chair

Jeff named the members on the committee. There is a new air conditioner in the library. There is a need for a new air conditioner in the kitchen. There will be a new dishwasher. A new section of the roof has been completed. Updating the 5-year maintenance plan as part of the strategic plan. We have a gentleman who does deep cleaning in the building who is doing a great job. Jeff asked if anyone sees anything that needs deep cleaning, please let the committee know. Jeff said that Fati has notified the JCV that she will hopefully be back by the end of November.

- Discussion regarding using a key fob system to allow Congregants to come into the building when it is open. Question about keeping the curtains open when we are in the building, answer is for security they

need to be closed .There was an inspection of the roof, and it was reported that the roof should be good for the next few years.

**Sisterhood**-Robin Schoenewald, Chair

Robin reported that during the year, 114 different women came to the variety of programs offered. There are 105 members of Sisterhood. Robin described programs that will be going on this year. There was a successful food drive and will soon start a toy drive. Robin thanked Judy Haran for chairing Book club. She spoke of collaborating with Adult Learning. Robin described how the upcoming cooking classes will help with filling the Food Festival Bakery.

The Sisterhood began a gardening program called JCV Blooms and that will be open to the congregation to participate. They are working on putting plants around the building.

- Question regarding how much money was collected for the Food Pantry. Robin said she would get that information.

**Men's Club**-Ed Lipman, President

Ed reported that Men's club has a lot planned in the coming year. This includes drum circle, schmooze at Palm Avenue Deli, pickleball, golf and the Jewish Theatre. The November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting will be the first meeting of the year where they will be finalizing all of the activities.

**Volunteer Committee**-Jeffrey Weisenberg for Jeffrey Chaitman, Chair

Jeff encouraged the congregation to volunteer. It is a wonderful way to meet new people, feel good and give back to the JCV. He also encouraged anyone who is interested to contact Jeff Chaitman or the Chair of any committee.

**Strategic Planning Committee**-Deborah Rosen, co-Chair

Deborah discussed the activity planned during lunch after today's Congregational meeting. She thanked the Website committee for all they do and asked the Congregation to sign up for the Welcome table.

## **New Business**

**Nomination and Election of members to the Nominating committee**-Linda Cook, Chair

Maxine Arkin, Selma Bitz, Rod Margolis, Aaron Rosen, Richard Rinko, Keith Usiskin, Sharon Scarlett. There were 7 people nominated. Annette Blum, the Parliamentarian, stated that the by-laws state there are 6 members, with up to 2 being board members. Since there were 7 names nominated. Keith declined the nomination.

**Alma Rogers made a motion to accept the nominations, Mardi Skoegard seconded. Vote taken; Nominating Committee approved.**

Question: When will the by-laws review be finished. Annette responded that the committee hopes to get the proposed changes to the Board in December for review and then to the Congregation in January or March.

Question : What board positions are open for the coming year? Answer: President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Treasurer, Membership chair, At-large director.

Motion to adjourn made by Vicki Solomon, seconded by Mardi Skoegard.

Vote taken: Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ferris Forman Rinko, Board Secretary