**Ritual Committee Report – June 26, 2016**

**We’ve had a very busy year. We started off with beautiful and spiritual High Holiday services with Cantor Saralee Shrell-Fox and she will be returning for the upcoming high holidays. Our Friday night services, Shabbat morning services, and holiday services were well attended throughout the year as we met at the First Congregation Church and here in our new home. We continued to learn at the monthly Breakfast Torah Study Shabbat services for which we use the transliterated siddur so everyone can participate. The students of our Religious School participated in the Shabbat services several times during the year showing us how much they’ve learned. It makes us all very proud.

As we were planning the move into our new shul, the Ritual Committee felt it was necessary to revisit and reevaluate some of the procedures that would be implemented in the building because it had been very hard to do everything the way we wanted while in rental space. We started our discussions with the basic policies from our former buildings. Then we interviewed over 20 congregants and spent five months discussing their responses and our own ideas at our committee meetings. Then we made some recommendations to the eBoard who contributed their own thoughts and then we presented to the full Board. We have already had 4 b’nai mitzvot implementing some of these changes and the transition has been very smooth and successful. We are always open to your suggestions and will continue to reevaluate our policies. I would like to call on Rabbi Benjamin to give a quick summary of our recommendations and the thought behind them.

Rabbi speaks

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me or Rabbi Benjamin.

Now for some well deserved thank you’s: First, thank you to Ruth Gershman, Janet Quint, and all the women who help to prepare the weekly Kiddush luncheons. I’ll probably leave someone out, but I’d like to thank Arlene Klotz, Harriet Pollard, Francine Weistrop, Janet and Gladys Petkun, Susan Liberty, Aileen Sovronsky, and Bebe Rosenstein.**

**Next, a huge thank you to Bill Hanna, Bryan Liberty, Larry Rose, David Mabel,
David Dauer, and Robert Rosofsky for setting up the Ark and all the other furniture for our services in the First Cong. So much work and effort went into the preparation and breakdown for each service and event.

Thank you to everyone who helped unpack many boxes so we could set up our beautiful, new sanctuary and everything that we need in it.**

**And as always, I would like to thank the members of the Ritual Committee for their commitment to our traditions and to our Congregation. The committee members are: Lil Konowitz, Sidney Quint, Lila Rosenbaum, David Dauer, Shelley Charnoff, Jay Balaban, Harriet Goldstein and George Goldstein and to Rabbi Benjamin, for his continuing guidance. If you are interested in joining this committee, please let me know. It’s a true learning experience and we have a
great team.**

**Thank you.**