

## **The History of Temple Shalom's Sisterhood**

In December of 1965, for the first time in over 100 years, a new Reform congregation was formed in Dallas, Temple Shalom Dallas. Just a short four months later, Temple Shalom Dallas' Sisterhood held its first meeting on April 19, 1966 at the American Savings and Loan Building. At that time, temporary officers were elected:

- Sisterhood President: Pat Weiss
- Vice President: Jean Weinfeld
- Secretary: Janet Newberger
- Treasurer: Inarose Bogen

Sisterhood's By-Laws and Constitution were adopted in May, 1966. It was established that the mission of Sisterhood was "to serve Temple Shalom and through it, the ideals of Reform Judaism; to foster, in cooperation with the religious and lay leaders of the Congregation, various religious, social and educational activities; to encourage closer fellowship among its members; and to assist in the improvement of the Temple organization in such areas as may be recommended by the Board of Trustees of Temple Shalom." At that time, it was also decided that any woman who is in sympathy with the purpose of the organization was eligible for membership upon paying the annual dues of \$5.00. The constitution stated that there would be four members of the executive board: President, Vice-President, Treasure and Secretary.

The October 11, 1966 Sisterhood meeting was held at the First Federal meeting room. At that time, the treasurer reported that Sisterhood had 25 paid members (which was pretty good for a congregation that only had 112 members.) It was decided to pursue establishing some type of Judaica shop and members were asked to contribute handmade items.

In 1967 the By-Laws were revised and among other things, new officers were added to become part of the executive board.

- President: Pat Weiss
- Vice-President: Jean Weinfeld
- Corresponding Secretary: Marlene Fischer
- Recording Secretary: Janet Newberger
- Treasurer: Beverly Coben

Revised again in 1968 Sisterhood's executive board now included:

- President: Mrs. Robert Weinfeld
- Administrative Vice President: Mrs. Fred Fischer
- Ways & Means Vice President: Mrs. Helmut Wolff
- Recording Secretary: Mrs. Martin Cohen
- Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Arnold Levy
- Treasurer: Mrs. Morris Newberger

Over 50 years later, Sisterhood is still flourishing. Through the years, the By-Laws, including specific executive board members as well as Sisterhood's mission statement have been reworked, but the sentiment is still the same. Today, the mission of our Sisterhood is to inspire the women of Temple Shalom, Dallas to build enduring relationships with Torah, Reform Judaism and each other through education, service, and support to the temple and broader community. A current copy of our By-Laws can be found [HERE](#).

Sisterhood runs Temple's gift shop, Traditions, which is entirely supported by volunteers. All proceeds from the sale of merchandise go back to Sisterhood to support the many projects of Sisterhood, our Temple and Jewish community. Our Sisterhood gives a substantial yearly donation to Temple. We helped with redesigning our kitchen and purchased new dishes and glassware to be used by members for special events. Sisterhood helps sponsor religious school events, provides the Friday night Wine and Cheese Receptions, and participates in many "tikkun olam" projects advocating for social justice and positive change. In 2005, our eSchmooze became a quarterly newsletter with a column "What Sisterhood Means to Me" written by different members. Today it is published monthly and highlights Sisterhood's many programs including social justice events, book clubs, Rosh Chodesh, Woman of Valor Spring Event, Paid up Dinner, gourmet lunches, and various game nights.

Sisterhood continues to be a place to cultivate friendships while participating in study, worship, advocacy and social events. Temple Shalom Sisterhood reflects the diversity of our congregation with members of various backgrounds, ages, interests and hobbies and our programming is just as diverse. Wherever the congregation, Jewish Community, or our neighbors needs us, Sisterhood will be there!

More information can be found at [templeshalomdallas.org/sisterhood](http://templeshalomdallas.org/sisterhood)

