

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees
The Jewish Center of Princeton
Thursday, October 15, 2015**

Board Meeting Attendees: Naomi Perlman, Jeannette Timmons, Fred Appel, Susan Kanter, Ginger Schnitzer, Phil Carchman, Michael Bloom, Jonathan Gershen, Jon Shavel, Bob Garber, Gil Gordon, Steven Hubert, Polly Strauss, Helaine Isaacs, Linda Milstein, Judi Fleitman, Heidi Shegoski, Linda Grenis, Dan Brent, Suki Wasserman, Rebecca Sarett, Dina Shaw, Alexandra Bar-Cohen, Naomi Neumann, Jerry Neumann

TJC Congregants in Attendance: Elliot Freeman, Evy Grossman, Martin Schwartz

TJC Staff Attendees: Rabbi Feldman, Hazzan Dulkan, Phil Nordlinger, Neil Wise

1. Call to Order (Naomi Perlman)

(a) Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm by President Naomi Perlman.

2. D'Var Torah (Judi Fleitman)

3. Good & Welfare (Naomi Perlman)

- (a) This coming Shabbat will feature special Torah scroll donated by Ruth Fath.
- (b) Mazel tov to Linda Grenis's son for having run his first charity marathon.

4. Approval of Prior Minutes and consent agendas (Naomi Perlman)

- (a) A motion was made by Gil Gordon to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 17, 2015 – and to approve the consent agendas prepared by the Vice-Presidents and distributed to Board members before this meeting. Bob Garber seconded. The minutes and consent agendas were approved.

5. Israel dialogue update (Helaine Isaacs & Phil Carchman)

- (a) Rabbi Melissa Weintraub (RMW) and her organization will be visiting TJC on October 21 and 22, 2015. Two evening workshops will be run with 40-50 congregants each.
- (b) During her visit RMW will be available to meet with members of the Board for lunch on those days; spots are still available. RMW will also meet with TJC staff.
- (c) RMW's organization will administer a congregation-wide survey in December.

6. Life and Legacy Endowment Fund (Elliot Freeman, Evy Grossman, and Martin Schwartz)

- (a) The Board was reminded that the Life and Legacy Endowment Fund is administered by the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Mercer. Martin Schwartz, financial consultant and

Vice President, Investments, Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Mercer, made a brief presentation.

- (b) TJC Life and Legacy campaign met its first year goal and is working toward achieving its second year goal. Over the last two years 47 congregants at TJC have promised legacy gifts to this Fund – all of which are bequests to be transferred posthumously (through an insurance policy, retirement account, property, cash on hand, etc). The Harold Grinspoon Foundation contributes a certain amount to TJC when we meet our annual goals.
- (c) This December 12th TJC's Shabbat service will honor those involved in the Life and Legacy campaign.

7. Fundraising and Annual Fund (Neil Wise)

- (a) To date 56 families have made contributions to the annual fund, totaling almost \$76,000, including 8 families who have never given before.
- (b) A phone campaign involving the fundraising committee and clergy will be launched later this fall.
- (c) 100% participation in the Annual Fund by the Board would be appreciated.
- (d) A thank you event for the most generous donors will be held on Sunday October 18, 2015.
- (e) A new fundraising initiative will be launched in December 2015 involving "party boards." Information will go out to the synagogue shortly.
- (f) Saturday December 5th evening will see a fundraising event featuring a comedian.

8. President's Report (Naomi Perlman)

- (a) An update on the negotiations with U League was provided. A deal for sharing the school building is very close. The total package is still being negotiated.
- (b) The service and dinner held on September 18, 2015 in honor of Mark Merkovitz, the inaugural recipient of the Richard B. Fishbane Leadership Award, was a big success.
- (c) A Shabbat family dinner in the Sukkah featured over 100 people, with representation from all demographic categories, also was a success.
- (d) Thanks were offered to clergy and staff for how well the High Holiday services and Simchat Torah event went.
- (e) Naomi P encouraged Board members to attend meetings of various Jewish Center committees to develop a greater appreciation of the synagogue's operations.

9. Clergy Report (Rabbi Feldman, Hazzan Dulkan)

- (a) The focus of the clergy is now on classes and teaching in the wake of the High Holidays.
- (b) Hazzan Dulkan will lead a trip to Israel in December 2016 and preliminary meetings about this trip will begin soon.
- (c) RAF will lead a trip to Poland in July 2016. More information will be forthcoming.
- (d) RAF explained that the Princeton Police Department has requested help from the town's clergy in its effort to improve its relations with the community.
- (e) The Conservative Movement's new Siddur will be released no later than January 2016 and discussions with the Religious Affairs Committee have been conducted to discuss how it can enhance liturgical life at TJC.

10. Administration Report (Polly Strauss)

- (a) TJC's existing communications guidelines policy of 2011 was discussed. The policy remains in place. Questions or concerns about the policy can be addressed to Polly or the VP of Programming, Jeanette. It was noted that Phil Nordlinger was unaware of this policy until recently.

11. Financial Report (Jonathan Gershen)

- (a) As of September we have collected 72% of dues for the present fiscal year.
- (b) Dues owed from the last FY in the amount of \$25,000 have also been collected since the start of the current FY.
- (c) We are ahead of budget this year in many categories, with slightly lower expenses.
- (d) The status of the upcoming audit was discussed. The last outside audit at TJC occurred 26 years ago. An audit firm has been selected.
- (e) Dan Brent moved that the Finance Committee be accorded discretion to proceed with the outside audit. Jon Shavel seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.
- (f) It was suggested that an outside audit is a responsible financial practice that should be done annually.

12. Executive Session

- (a) Items discussed in this section concern confidential matters – such as (but not limited to) personnel.

13. Adjournment

- (a) Naomi P. adjourned the meeting at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Fred Appel
Recording Secretary