



General Board Meeting, June 10, 2018

Present:

Bernard Abramson	Helaine Isaacs	Andrea Hoberman Martinez
Randy Brett	Bret Jacknow	Linda Meisel
Rachael Cooper	Edye Kamenir	Warren Mitlak
Rabbi Adam Feldman	Moshe Margolin	David Politziner
Martha Friedman	Kim Marks	Ginger Schnitzer
Lew Gantwerk		Nicole Soffin

Minutes:

1. Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM
2. President Linda Meisel welcomed new Board members. She also pointed out that there are still unfilled committee chairs, including JCW and Men's Club, and she would welcome any suggested names.
3. **D'var Torah** – Linda Meisel
Linda described Rabbi David Baum's distinction between transactional and covenantal congregations. In a transactional congregation individuals see themselves as members and expect schooling, religious and pastoral services, et. in return for their dues. In a covenantal congregation, community membership and participation are the central values. The question is how to build a covenantal sensibility among our membership.
4. **Rabbi Feldman's report**
 - 4.1 The Torah project has been very successful. The soferet has completed the second of three sessions in which congregants can perform the 613th mitzvah of writing a Torah. We have exceeded the fundraising goal and brought in over \$100,000, the surplus to be added to the Torah Fund and used for future repairs.
 - 4.2 Cantor Jeff Warschauer, who asks to be called Cantor Jeff, will begin work on July 3rd although he and Rabbi Feldman have already completed much of their High Holiday planning. Linda Meisel explained that a series of "meet and greet" sessions around the community is planned for July and August and will be announced shortly.
 - 4.3 Shabbat, June 16, will see the final and 31st b'nei mitzvah of this year. The families have agreed that this was a successful year despite the absence of a full-time cantor.
 - 4.4 The Rabbi and Cantor have taken steps to ensure that one is always in the Princeton area to respond to congregational needs.
 - 4.5 At the request of the young families, High Holiday services will not be held in a tent and work is under way to see how the Social Hall can be used for Young Family Shacharit services without disrupting the sanctuary services.

5. Staffing

5.1 DCL – Ginger Schnitzer

An offer has been made to an excellent candidate and we hope to have a response in the next few days. There is also another qualified candidate and, should the position remain unfilled, contingency plans have been prepared.

5.2 The Director of Administration, Debbie Orel, will leave at the end of this month. This was a personal decision. A person who can carry out the duties on an interim, 4 month, basis has been identified. A small search committee is being formed. This position does not follow a recruitment calendar as do clerical positions so can be filled at any time. The President has asked Bernard Abramson to conduct the exit interview with Debbie.

6. President's report – Linda Meisel

Linda will be out of the country between June 14 and July 3. As required by the by-laws, the VP of Administration, Judi Fleitman, will be responsible in the President's absence.

7. Trustee, VP and Committee reports

7.1 Finance – David Politziner

- We had a strong finish to the 2017-18 financial year thanks to a great deal of effort from Linda, David, Bret, Debbie, and others. As is normal practice, all expenses incurred prior to May 31st but billed after that date will be charged to 2017-18 and any revenues received after June 1 will be assigned to 2018-19. The surplus will be transferred to the capital expenses account.
- A special account has been established under the 2017-18 budget for maintenance and repair work to the kitchens and social hall.
- 2018-19 is TJC's 70th anniversary. A large social event will be planned with the aim of collecting at least \$70,000.

7.2 Administration

Martha Friedman described a series of events planned for the summer months to attract young families and unaffiliated Jews to TJC.

7.3 Programming – Helaine Isaacs

- TJC is one of 10 synagogues to receive a grant from the John Templeton Foundation's Scientists in Synagogues initiative. A survey has been issued to the Board to begin collecting information on member's thoughts about science and religion. Rabbi Feldman and Jeremy Kasdin are to be congratulated on winning this grant.
- 2017-18 saw an unusually high level of programs. Another survey is to be issued to evaluate the effectiveness of these programs and to guide programming in 2018-19.

7.4 Religious Affairs

- High holiday honors are being assigned. Board members should send any names they wish to suggest to Linda Milstein at linda@themilsteins.net

7.5 Education – Nicole Soffin

- In preparation for a new DCL, Nicole has documented all administrative details with Gila

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- Until a new DCL takes up the post, Nicole, Gila and Rachael Cooper will ensure continuity.
- Linda Meisel commended Gila for continuing to support the school.

8. Other business

8.1 In preparation for producing a new membership directory requests for updated information were sent out with the 2018-19 dues forms. The purpose of the directory is to help build community. It is not to be used for commercial purposes.

8.2 A commitment form was issued with the annual dues form. This will help identify any members who are leaving and this will provide a more accurate basis for budget planning.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Minutes recorded by Bernard Abramson