

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees
The Jewish Center of Princeton
Held on Sunday, February 22, 2015
at The Jewish Center**

Board Meeting Attendees: Moshe Margolin, Joshua Zinder, Bob Garber, Evelyn Grossman, Dina Shaw, Nancy Lewis, Jeanette Timmons, Amy Zacks, Ginger Schnitzer, Susan Kanter, Naomi Perlman, Rebecca Sarett, David Greenberg, Dan Brent, Marc Wisotsky, Jerry Neumann, Melissa Hager, Alexandra Bar Cohen, Miki Mendelsohn, Fred Appel, Barbara Gantwerk, Harry Cummins, Jen Black, Randy Brett, Martha Friedman, Jonathan Gershen, Judi Fleitman, Gil Gordon

TJC Clergy Attendees: Rabbi Feldman, Hazzan Dulkan

Meeting called to order at 7:08 by President Gil Gordon

Gil thanked Hazzan Dulkan, Helaine Isaacs, Martha Friedman, Judi Fleitman, Men's Club and JCW for their work in organizing the Gerard Edery Concert last night (February 21).

Gil thanked Adult Education Chair Fred Appel and Vice-Chair Miki Mendelsohn for this afternoon's (February 22) program on U.S.-Israeli relations with Jonathan Tobin of Commentary Magazine.

A. Approval of January Minutes

Josh Zinder offered correction: no detail provided for his presentation to the board on Long Range Planning Survey. Minutes should be revised with an attachment he will provide to include the details Susan 1st/ Fred 2nd with Josh's attachment

A motion was made by Susan Kanter to accept the minutes with the provision to include Josh's presentation as an attachment to the minutes. Seconded by Fred Appel. The motion passed unanimously and the minutes were approved.

B. Clergy Update (RAF/HJD)

1. Hazzan Dulkan began with a "D'Var Shira" in which she stated her plans to institute a "*niggun* (melody) of the month". She described *niggun* – it has no words but can transport the chanter deeper into a new place – connecting without Siddur for prayer.
2. Hazzan Dulkan announced this year's Egger Shabbaton to be held the weekend of March 27-29. We are hosting Eddie and Merle Feld. Eddie Feld was head of Princeton Hillel for many years and was chief editor for new Machzor Lev Shalem and new forthcoming Siddur Lev Shalem. He will shed light on putting together the new Siddur and discuss his translation of Psalms. Merle is an accomplished poet and will share insights on deriving meaning out of text. There will be several opportunities to learn from them Friday night (there will also be a dinner), Shabbat morning and afternoon and a Sunday morning Talmud study.

3. Rabbi Feldman asked for feedback regarding an opportunity to broadcast weekly on WPST. It would cost \$120 per hour to air. His vision is for him and Hazzan Dulkan to prerecord an Erev Shabbat program. Feedback from the Board was favorable and Rabbi Feldman will investigate the opportunity in more depth.
4. Hazzan Dulkan encouraged the Board to attend Friday night services. Moshe Margolin commented that the service has reinvigorated him and his wife, Judy.

C. Proposed policy on disposition of bequest income (Joel)

Joel Reichbart announced that a TJC Endowment Fund has been created with Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Mercer and proposed the following motion:

"The Board moves that unrestricted gifts as a result of both the Life & Legacy campaign and unrelated gifts from wills to be designated to the Endowment Fund to be governed in accordance with the policies of that fund."

Jerry Neumann suggested changing the wording to "The Board moves that unrestricted gifts as a result of both the Life & Legacy campaign and unrelated gifts from wills, *insurance policies; annuity contract, stocks or any other forms of monetary bequests* to be designated to the Endowment Fund to be governed in accordance with the policies of that fund."

Joel re-proposed the motion including Jerry's suggestion.

Seconded by Susan Kanter; Motion passed unanimously.

D. Discussion of ECE Vision and Young Family Engagement (Susan/Gila/Ginger)

1. Susan Kanter reported that if we should receive notice on our permit application from Princeton within the next 2 weeks. That should make it possible to have a Board vote next month vote on whether to rent early education classrooms to U-League beginning Fall 2016. TJC would occupy the middle floor with 2 classes and U-League the top and bottom floors.

She reported that we have confirmed 2 new students for the ECE for the Fall and is proceeding with budgeting for 18 students.

2. Gila Levin reported on the 3 ways she is advertising the ECE program to the community:
 - digital media – facebook/ google etc.
 - Print media
 - Personal Outreach to community

The meetings she has had with current enrollee families have been positive.

3. Ginger Schnitzer reported on the her committee's work to set a long-range vision for educating children hand-in-hand with family engagement. This may or may not be pre-school per se, but an opportunity for the synagogue and families to engage.

The committee is gathering feedback from current EC parents; Shabbat Katan parents; and past ECE parents to keep them engaged and offer them the opportunity to participate/

Discussion: Rabbi Feldman remarked that reimagining our schools and how we engage will mean an investment of time, effort and funds.

Still looking at whether the 2 schools will share the building or whether Jewish content will augment the U-League program J. Zinder suggested that an adjunct program down the line without a base program could be pitched to other preschools

Currently there is a family Shabbat every week; and Shabbat Katan once a month;

E. Update on Replacement of Ark Curtain (Barbara Gantwerk)

Barbara Gantwerk reviewed the proposal distributed to the Board by e-mail prior to the meeting. Current curtain ripped to shreds; commission a work of art to enhance sanctuary – maintain translucent quality; make it durable. The RFP gave artists a range of \$8-12K; in addition to artists' commission, there is a plan to wallpaper and back-light the interior of the Ark, and to have a carved, wooden door handle.

Discussion: Josh Zinder commented that this historically has been done 3 times without moving forward; also said that we will have to consider the fire rating; wallpapers need to meet fire classification – will need to be considered

This is a need; and will be funded through an independent fund; Door handle to be done by congregant; lighting costs? Expectation of durability; Barbara will consult with Josh;

Gil Gordon said this is to be paid through an independent fund, The Sapoff Fund which has a balance of \$14,500. He has been in communication with the originators of the fund. We will be dipping into principle. Expenditure of \$3K or more needs board approval;

Dan Brent proposed a Motion to approve expenditure of up to \$8000 from Sapoff Fund to put towards new parochet; Motion seconded by Fred Appel.

Motion carries unanimously

F. Proposal for award in honor of Richard Fishbane - see attached (David Greenberg)

Gil Gordon reported formation of the Congregant of Year Committee which includes Jerry Neumann, Chair, Sara Korn, Bob Lebeau, Neil Wise, Rebecca Sarrett, Bob Garber
May 29th is the date for Shabbat of Appreciation

David Greenberg provided background for establish award in honor of Richard Fishbane (z"l): Richard was the "president's president". Deeply involved in TJC and the greater Jewish community. His leadership was instrumental in creating TJC's annual fund, affiliation with the Conservative Movement, and served as Regional President of USCJ.

David offered a proposal, copy attached, creating a leadership award in Richard Fishbane's memory:

Motion: proposed by David; Dan Brent seconded.

Motion carried unanimously;

It was suggested this be a Fall event to kick-off the annual fund.

G. Director of Administration search update (Jonathan Gershen)

Jonathan reported on the Director of Administration Search. Harry Cummins, Susan Falcon, and Gila Levin comprised the committee. There were 25 responses to ad; settled on 5 to interview; 2 finalists; The 2 finalists interviewed by other staff and EC members

References are being checked and offer will be made after that.

Currently – Joe is working 1 days and we are trying to fill in;

H. Opportunities for Shabbat Greeter re-start/different approaches (Naomi Perlman [Rel Affairs] & Dina Shaw[Membership])

Naomi: Used to be standard to rotate and have Shabbat greeters; last RA meeting bring it back to the Board; invited discussion

Dina Shaw reported on her positive experience as a greeter. She has started to reach out to other Zion parents to sign up. It was agreed that the Board also serve as Friday night and Saturday morning Shabbat greeters.

Rabbi Feldman thanked those who are working on this; he also request that the Sanctuary doors remain open during services in lobby; no one should be in main office during services

Hazzan Dulkan urged Board Members to come on Shabbat on regular basis; be welcoming

I. New Business

Melissa Hagar: Remember Purim Food Drive

Josh Zinder: Congregational Survey should go out in next few weeks;

Gill adjourned meeting at 8:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Judi Fleitman
VP Programming