

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
The Jewish Center of Princeton
Thursday, July 7, 2016**

Board Meeting Attendees: Naomi Perlman, Linda Grenis, Fred Appel, Susan Kanter, Jonathan Gershen, Gil Gordon, Helaine Isaacs, Linda Milstein, Naomi Richman Neumann, Moshe Margolin, Steve Hudis, Jonathan Shavel, Ginger Schnitzler, Michael Bloom, Edye Kamenir, Audrey Straus, Michael Feldstein, Stephanie Will

TJC Congregants in Attendance: n/a

TJC Staff Attendees: Rabbi Feldman, Phil Nordlinger

GUESTS: Jeanette Timmons

1. Call to Order (Naomi Perlman)

- (a) Meeting called to order at 7:45 pm by President Naomi Perlman.

2. Welcome to all new Board members and Introductions (Naomi Perlman)

- (a) Board members were asked to introduce themselves briefly.

3. Introduction of the Sulam Initiative and Nadine Kochavi of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (Naomi Perlman, Nadine Kochavi)

- (a) Sulam is the leadership development program of USCJ. Naomi P reminded the Board that last year's Board voted to bring the Sulam initiative into TJC this current season. Nadine Kochavi described the overall goal of Sulam, focusing on the entire lay leadership of the Shul.
- (b) Nadine let the group in a brainstorming session about the overall goal of Sulam, which is to help the lay leadership develop a compelling vision for TJC.

4. Text Study (RAF)

- (a) Rabbi Feldman noted the Hebrew origin of the term Sulam – a ladder – and its reference in the Torah to Jacob's ladder.
- (b) A Talmudic text was distributed and examined and the lessons gleaned from the text concerning leadership and teaching styles were discussed. The leadership style emphasizing delegation, mentorship, and also the necessity of a central vision or source of inspiration.

5. Sulam (Nadine Kochavi)

- (a) An exercise about leadership vision was introduced to the Board. The current assets/strengths of the lay leadership were identified and discussed. Aspirations/goals for the lay leadership for the upcoming season were also identified and discussed.

- (b) The results of the Board self-assessment were discussed and the Board split into small groups to examine individual sections of the Board self-assessment. Each small group reported to the whole on Board strengths and weaknesses in areas such as leadership, delegation, recruitment & training, and accountability – as identified by Board members themselves in the self-assessment exercise.
- (c) An evaluation form of this Sulam session was circulated and completed by Board members.

6. House rules and meeting dates (Naomi Perlman)

- (a) Expectations for new and returning Board members were reviewed. The importance of confidentiality was stressed, as were regular Board attendance at synagogue services of various sorts and Board participation in the Annual Fund.
- (b) Naomi also requested suggestions from the Board for new ways to disseminate news and reports from various TJC committees at regular Board meetings.

7. President's report (Naomi Perlman)

- (a) ULeague is now active in renovating and improving their new office and classroom spaces in the school building. Their move-in date is in early August, 2016.
- (b) Naomi reported on renovation in the children's library space. New carpeting will be installed in the youth lounge and adult library. Several other minor summer renovations were mentioned under the supervision of the House committee.
- (c) The committee established by TJC on the recommendation of the Israel Dialogue Initiative Committee – concerning future Israel-related programs – is still being formed. It will be a committee of seven; five members are now confirmed.

8. Committee Updates

- (a) Edye Kamenir reported on the recent establishment of a Strategic Planning committee. She and Barak Bar-Cohen are its co-chairs. Potential goals include increase of revenue and the generation of a 1, 3, and 5 year plan.
- (b) Jonathan Gershen reported that financials from the last FY will be ready for distribution soon.

9. Executive Session

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

10. Adjournment

- (a) Naomi P. adjourned the meeting 10:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Fred Appel
Recording Secretary