



The Jewish Center
PRINCETON • NEW JERSEY

August 13, 2017
General Board
Meeting Minutes

Date and time of meeting:

August 13, 2017

Attendance List:

Executive Committee

<i>President: Linda Meisel</i>	✓	<i>VP Adm: Judi Fleitman</i>	✓	<i>Rabbi: Adam Feldman</i>	
<i>VP Fin: David Politziner</i>	✓	<i>Rec Sec: Russell Feder</i>	✓	<i>Director: Debbie Orel</i>	✓
<i>VP Ed and Y: Nicole Soffin</i>	✓	<i>Trust: Barak Bar-Cohen</i>	✓	<i>Trust: Naomi Richman-Neumann</i>	✓
<i>VP Rel Aff: Linda Milstein</i>	✓	<i>Trust: Moshe Margolin</i>	✓	<i>Trust: Ginger Schnitzer</i>	
<i>VP Prog: Helaine Isaacs</i>	✓			<i>Past Pres: Naomi Perlman</i>	

General Board

<i>Adult Ed: Jeremy Kasdin</i>	✓	<i>HR: Harry Cummins</i>	✓	<i>Mens: Steve Hudis</i>	
<i>Adult Ed: James Rosenberg</i>		<i>Israel: Debbie Gross</i>		<i>Mens: Aaron Bellows</i>	
<i>Finance: Benny Soffer</i>	✓	<i>JCW: Charlene Borsack</i>		<i>Relig Affairs: Barbara Schwartz</i>	✓
<i>Fundraising: Bret Jacknow</i>		<i>JCW: Debbi Gitterman</i>	✓	<i>School, Youth, Family: Rachael Cooper</i>	✓
<i>House: Eric Jaffe</i>	✓	<i>Long Range: Edye Kamenir</i>		<i>Soc Action: Lew Gantwerk</i>	
<i>A&C: Heidi Joseph</i>	✓	<i>Members: Martha Friedman</i>		<i>Soc Action: Abigail Rose</i>	✓

Agenda

1. Call to order and President's Report
2. D'Var Torah → Special Presentation on TJC Recycling and Sustainability
3. Trustee, VP and Committee Reports
 - a. Finance
 - b. Administration
 - c. Programming
 - d. Religious Affairs
 - e. Education and Youth
 - f. Special Event Presentation
4. Executive Session
5. Adjournment

1. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes: 7:34 and minutes approved unanimously

- Board HH Call Assignments “Head Up” announcement
- EC Met with Jennifer Stoffman from United Synagogue to discuss staffing strategies. Process has started and EC is working hard to have smooth, consensus driven decision making.

2. D'Var Torah = Board Members Training on TJC Sustainability System

Presented By Alexandra Bar-Cohen and Jenny Ludmer on TJC recycling and general sustainability policies and practices

3. Trustee, VP and Committee Reports

3A. Finance Report:

- Working on outstanding collections and improving collections processes in order to collect dues and payments in a timely manner
- Because of delayed July release of year bill we are behind on collections but things are accelerating and should catch up to budget up to HHs
- Membership numbers are key for finances. Now tracking membership with a “Full Time Equivalent” FTE number. Aiming for 400 FTEs, at about 380 FTEs right now. FTE accounting helps to account for effective number of paying families since we have different categories.
- Annual Fund letter being sent out shortly. General Board writing message and signing all AF letters at Sept 10th meeting. Sept 13th all letter sent out to get to people before RH. %100 Board participation.
- New Corporate Sponsorship Program: Augment Annual Fund which is focused on congregant giving. Win-Win for TJC and Vendors. Good marketing for companies, focus on various vendors that already work with TJC.
- Authorization for President and Finance VP to sell donated stock through UBS. Occasionally members donate stock and TJC then needs authorization to immediately sell. Board unanimously approved motion to allow authorization and paperwork was signed.

3B. Administration:

Building Services:

- In the next few weeks while on recess, the school building will thoroughly cleaned including waxing floors, etc. to prepare for new school year. Also gearing up for High Holidays in main building.
- Personnel: We are still seeking 2 part-time custodians for the weekends. Put an ad in Craig’s List but did not produce any candidates. Looking for suggestions or ideas.

House:

- We will be discussing Jessica’s Garden with the original donors and will keep you posted as we move forward with the project.
- Several necessary repairs have been made to the school building, per ULNS request.

Security:

- As you know we have received a Secure-NJ grant from the state of \$50,000 for security. This week, Judi Fleitman and Debbie Orel attending a seminar explaining the protocols for getting project bids, submitting payments online, etc. All projects must be completed within 2 years.

- o Parking lot security lighting, video surveillance system and other security improvements recommended by Princeton police after a thorough review

Membership:

- Membership is holding the second of 2 parlor meetings this coming Thursday night to engage in discussion and subsequent action to better serve the needs of our current membership and effective membership recruitment.
- We provided light morning fare to parents dropping their kids off for the JCC Camp bus in order to cultivate prospective members. Linda Meisel and Debbie Orel represented TJC.
- Each month we will be giving you 2 membership reports
 1. New members and resignations each month
 2. Membership stats by category

3C. Programming:

JCW

- Rosh Hashanah cards deadline 8.27
- JCW Nature Walk 9.28
- Sangria in the Sukkah 10.8
- Monthly Nosh and Drosh 10.19 1st meeting
- TJC Reads – Three Minutes in Poland by Glenn Kurtz date TBD

Men's Club:

- Grilling at Splash Back to Shul 9.10
- Recruiting ushers for the High Holidays
- Torah on Tap dates TBD

Joint JCW and Men's Club Shabbat 1.27

Social Action:

- Yom Kippur Food Drive to benefit Arm in Arm
- Continuing focus on Sustainability, Hunger and Homelessness, TJC Interfaith Resettlement committee and TJC Garden
- Interest in programs on gun violence prevention and race relations/white privilege
- Looking to partner with Tichon's community service projects and Mini Mitzvah Corps
- Chavuret Chesed

Adult Education:

- Rabbi Feldman's Israel Milestones Class through the Hartman Institute – 1st session 10.17
- Justus Baird topic and dates TBD; tentatively scheduled for October

- The Archeology of Judaism taught by Gary Rendsburg, Professor at Rutgers 11.16, 11.30, 12.7 and 12.14
- “The Origin of the Jews” presented by Steve Weitzman, Professor at U Penn Sunday, 11.12
- Judaism and Science series – discussion with Rabbis and scientists on a variety of topics Dates TBD
- Program on LGBTQ issues presented by Keshet – Tichon session followed by congregational program 11.29
- Conversational Hebrew with Edna Bryn-Noiman Sunday mornings on RS schedule
- Weekly Yiddish class beginning Thursday, September 7, 1:30-3:00
- Weekly Talmud study group meets on Wednesdays at 12:15
- Monthly Great Minds Salon – 1st session Thursday, 10.26 with Phil Carchman and David Silverstein

Israeli Affairs:

- Fun for Foodies Series – 1st program In Search of Israeli Cuisine Sunday, 10.29

Arts & Cultural Affairs:

- TJC Film Series – Films TBD Sundays, 10.15 and 11.19
- Onstage Seniors 1.14
- Polish trip lecture 1.28 in partnership with Tichon
- Congregational social/entertainment program Saturday evening, January or February
- Comedian Event Pitch from Heidi with detailed cost scenarios
 - I am Sarge (<http://www.iamsarge.com/>) event planning
 - *A board discussion followed on costs, possibility of raising significant funds and how this event replaces other possible fundraisers (replace last years Soiree?), other possible events*
 - Board agreed to move ahead with preliminary planning and clarification of planning

3D. Religious Affairs:

- High Holidays: Planning for all services underway. First round of honors are being sent out via e-mail.
- Summer Shabbatot: Visiting hazzanim have been conducting services in place of Rabbi Feldman. Good attendance at Shabbat Under the Stars Friday evenings.
- Torah repair: Last done in 2008. Need for some repairs noticed, sofer will come at end of August to examine all 9 torahs and recommend necessary repairs.

Religious Affairs Committees

New Ticket Policy

- Main changes are in age of adult children included in family membership and option to purchase tickets for older adult children for either and/or Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Reflected on ticket order form.

Friday Night Greeter/Usher update

- Going very well; there's a warm and welcoming feeling at services, greeters/ushers as well as guest are enjoying the interactions they have with one another
- summer greeters/ushers schedule filled for Friday evenings

Sukkah Preparations underway

Saturday Morning Greeter/Usher update

- Barbara working on condensing the guidelines for Saturday Morning Services
- Looking for a volunteer to take over the task of sending out the signup genius for Saturday Mornings and Friday Night Services going forward

Shabbat Worship Guide Update

- Sending out to a graphic designer, working with Debbie Orel; want it more attractive, and formatted properly; in house printing

Update on Siddur Hadash Distribution

- Debbie Brett has arranged to send two hundred copies of our previous prayerbook, Siddur Hadash plus some machzorim to a congregation in Ethiopia. If that works out, there may be another congregation in Africa that could use them.

Yahrzeit Honors

- Polly Strauss began calling congregants to ask if they would like an honor on the Shabbat of a yahrzeit they are observing. People appreciative, some have taken honors.

3E. Education and Youth:

→ Report Missing, Recording Secretary fault...

3F. Special Event Presentation

Sunday, Sept 10 11-2 pm "Splash Back" to TJC year event

Attract new members and welcome everyone back

Beer Garden for older members

Men's Club Grill, free for students, at cost for adults

5. Adjournment

Adjournment: 9:45 PM