

TJC Board of Directors Meeting
October 26, 2014

Attendance: Fred Appel, Jen Black, Dan Brent, Randy Brett, Denise Cheskis, Harry Cummins, Rabbi Feldman, Barbara Gantwerk, Bob Garber, Jonathan Gershen, Gil Gordon, Joe Herrmann, Susan Kanter, Moshe Margolin, Jerry Neumann, Naomi Perlman, Nicole Soffin, Jeanette Timmons, Suki Wasserman, Amy Zacks, Josh Zinder

Vice Chairs: Evy Grossman, Helaine Isaacs, Miki Mendelsohn

Guest: Elliott Freeman

Meeting commenced at 7:05 pm.

1. Moshe moved to approve the September minutes and Joel seconded.
2. Evy Grossman – co-chair of Life and Legacy with Elliott Freeman
 - a. Annual Fund - 100% Board has pledged or given to the Annual Fund
 - b. Life and Legacy
 - i. It's about tomorrow
 - ii. It begins with a "promise"
 - iii. "We are stronger because of you" - Amy Zacks' quote
 - iv. Elliott Freeman
 - a) This fund urges all of us to place funds in an endowment - this guarantees TJC's future
 - b) Legacy - most people have a will at a young age - include your kids/grandkids to become interested in Tzedakah - families should get involved together
 - c) Goal - 24 promises for this year
 - d) \$7, 180 check presented to TJC (Grinspoon Foundation plus JCF bonus)
 - v. The range is up to the individual -- \$5,000 - \$25,000 or a percentage
 - vi. This doesn't need to be a one-time gift - a statement from an IRS account with a promise of percentage is fine instead of a specific number amount
3. RAF Report
 - a. Thanked everyone for help for HH - Dan thanked clergy as well
 - b. Ruth Messinger from the American Jewish World Service will be the speaker on November 15th during Shabbat morning Services - JFCS will cosponsor along TJC - it's suggested to donate to AJWS.com Emergency fund
 - c. Shabbat mornings
 - i. B'nai mitzvah students
 - a) They are becoming more involved with Shacharit
 - b) The tallit presentation is earlier than it was previously
 - c) The Chesed Reporter will be a handout in the Sanctuary on Shabbat morning, taking the place of Chesed report at Friday night service
 - ii. Question was asked if the clergy do or do not sit on the bimah any more?
 - a) RAF answered that he now sits with the congregation and with the students
 - b) No Board members are sitting on the bimah either
 - iii. The B'nai Mitzvah bag of gifts from the congregation are still presented by a Board member
 - iv. There will be different church groups coming to Services; please welcome them and help them
 - d. After signing all Annual Fund letters, RAF stated that he enjoyed seeing the contributions
4. Gil said he wished everyone could arrange to be at Friday or Saturday Shabbat Services occasionally, and when there for Shabbat morning offer the Shabbat Guide to visitors

5. Financial Report - Joel
 - a. Revenue - the Religious School is not making profit; however its enrollment has increased
 - b. The ECE budget is down a lot but enrollment has increased by five/six students
 - c. Joel will be looking at budget and enrollment numbers with Joe this upcoming week
 - d. Checking to make sure Kesef is putting money in the correct areas
 - e. Amy Zacks - the Annual Fund is up to \$112,000 - last year the fund was at \$120,000 five weeks after Rosh Hashanah
 - f. TJC is on a cash basis so the budget report reflects only hard cash given
 - g. Kesef will be coming in Thursday morning to meet with Joel and Joe
 - h. Expense anomalies - nothing major at this time
 - i. We don't have an exact number of unit memberships at this time
 - i. ~540 paying units but a total of 600
 - ii. "Pending" category in Chaverware - Jonathan doesn't understand
 - j. Finance lay leaders and Joe are working hard to get caught up
 - k. Evy asked if and when the Endowment Fund will be ready
 - i. Someone needs to sit down and write the language for it
 - ii. This is money that people give for the future
 - iii. There is great consideration on who spends the money, when the money is spent, what the money is spent on
 - l. \$7,180 check was received as incentive bonus from Grinspoon Foundation for Life & Legacy achievements - Evy wants to see this go into the Endowment Fund
 - m. Gil wants the money protected - it will NOT be spent as of this time
6. Susan
 - a. Gift Boutique - please shop and spend money
 - b. More sponsors are needed
 - c. More baking for the Café is needed
 - d. Please donate big items to the Silent Auction
 - e. Joan Levin is the unofficial chair with Elana Sulla and Jill Schwartz
 - f. Neil will be leaving for New Orleans with a small class for the NJEA weekend
 - g. Tichon enrollment is at budget for enrollment
 - h. Religious School's enrollment increased
 - i. ECE has 25 students now
7. Shabbat Fiesta - November 14, 2014 following Kabbalat Services - Mexican food will be served
8. ULeague - we are waiting for Princeton Zoning as well as ULeague's intentions for pursuing us
9. Constant Contact blasts - problems with Verizon or MSN account from Tuesday thru Sunday (today)
 - a. Many congregants have been "unsubscribed" around October 9, 2014 but it will be fixed quickly
 - b. Resend emails from different committees or events
10. Jonathan
 - a. Membership had another In-house for potential members and new members - Rabbi Feldman, Hazzan Dulkan and Gil were all present
 - b. Jonathan and Nicole (Marketing Chair) will use FaceBook and the TJC website to assist in this endeavor
11. Judi said the November newsletter is going out in a week with programming listed
12. JCW
 - a. There were 45 women at Lori Simon's Sukkah
 - b. Nov 12, 2014 - there will be a cooking demonstration at Robin Persky's home
 - c. Focus groups consisting of ~30 people
13. Adult Education - Miki Mendelsohn and Fred Appel

- a. "Soul Sisters" a class with Hazzan Dulkan beginning in November
 - b. Lunch and Learn talks by prominent people in the community
 - c. 55+ topics are not age focused - they take place one time per month
14. Nicole asked Rabbi Feldman when the next Adult B'nai Mitzvah class is. Rabbi Feldman said that 10 people need to be interested to begin the class. In order for that to happen perhaps recruiters are needed. Place an article in the newsletter every month to gain interest.
15. Israeli Affairs - Jerry
- a. Magen David Adom in July
 - b. JNF program
 - c. Technology boom in Israel
 - d. Ethiopian absorption
 - e. Yom Ha'atzmaut
16. Religious Affairs - Naomi
- a. High Holidays
 - i. Very busy
 - ii. A huge "thank you" to Jeanette - especially with honors - as well as Rabbi Feldman and Hazzan Dulkan
 - iii. Please send email feedback with comments
 - iv. Rabbi Feldman and Hazzan Dulkan are purposely bridging the gap between the two services.
 - v. Rabbi suggested to meet with the core people from Riverside to discuss the davening of lay leaders
 - vi. Youth High Holiday Services - during the last School Committee meeting, the most positive remarks were about Hazzan Dulkan's "visit"
 - vii. Gil thanked Naomi, Jeanette, David and Joe - a great effort was put forward
 - b. Does Religious Affairs know why the Riverside Service was not fully packed?
 - i. Mostly because of historical reasons - there was a need several years ago
 - 1. Congregants wanted to participate in the actual service
 - 2. Congregants wanted a small space
 - 3. Congregants wanted to sit close to clergy
 - ii. However, many people would like to be with our clergy now
 - iii. Rabbi Baird received very positive comments
 - c. Break the Fast
 - i. There were 42 people
 - ii. There were several new families this year
 - d. Committee members are taking on more tasks
 - i. Shamashim
 - ii. Minyan
 - iii. Shiva calls
 - e. There will be consideration by asking for a Teen Liaison to the committee
 - f. November 7, 2014
 - i. 8pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service with dessert reception following
 - ii. There will not be a 6:30 pm service - Zamru will take its place
 - iii. More 8 pm services will be added to the calendar
 - iv. Barbara - Friday night Service is a beautiful service with Hazzan
 - g. Kiddush Connection - people donate money for "honor of" or "memory of" and the money is pulled from different contributions
17. Moshe thanked TJC members for his wife's mother's shiva
18. Rabbi Review discussion will take place at the November 23, 2014 Board meeting
19. By-laws - the report is coming with EC's comments

20. Long Range Planning - Moshe and Josh

- a. Survey is ready to go out to follow up from the 2009 survey

21. Gil

- a. There have been multiple emails about the room use policy
- b. "I am fully cognizant of what should have been done differently."
- c. Whatever we decide to do, it needs to be consistent with its process
- d. I hope we can all look at this with an objective to get past this.
- e. "I realize there are strong feelings on both sides of this issue."
- f. "Since our rabbi has an opinion we should follow through"
- g. "This places the rabbi in a horrible position"
- h. Kasdin report seemed like a sound conclusion
- i. It was suggested there needs to be separation regarding the issue of JStreet. People want to have open conversation.
- j. "I don't need to go to the programs I don't want. I want the rabbi to have an open dialogue. His opinion should not be from the rabbinate."
- k. "Tax status should not be the deciding factor of who is invited into our synagogue"
- l. "We need to protect our C3 status"
- m. Tax status is about rental not programming - C3 and C4 is just a "test"
- n. "I wish we were out of the rental business except for life-cycle events"
- o. "The rabbi has the contractual ok to make a statement. We need to produce and maintain the Jewish components for the future. This is a complicated issue. Even in Israel they are working on this."
- p. "We need an agreement on the process; talking and talking is not good for morale"

Meeting adjourned 8:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Denise Cheskis.