



General Board Meeting, August 8, 2019

Present:

Bernard Abramson	Edye Kamenir	Robert Schwartz (phone)
Michelle Bellows	Jonathan Katz	Ed Simon
Randy Brett	Moshe Margolin	Nicole Soffin
Dane Dickler	Kim Marks	Michele Spektor
Rabbi Adam Feldman	Linda Meisel	Polly Strauss
Judi Fleitman	Warren Mitlak	Harlan Tenenbaum
Lew Gantwerk	Liz Nayden	Cantor Jeff Warschauer
Bret Jacknow	Abigail Rose	Sandy Wilson
Heidi Joseph	Richard Rosenberg	

Minutes:

1. Meeting called to order at 7:33 PM
2. **D'var Torah** by Bret Jacknow
3. **Approval of Minutes**
The minutes of the June Board meetings were approved, see www.thejewishcenter.org/Resources/Board-Minutes.aspx.
4. **Discussion of Federation Statement on H.R. 246 and BDS**
 - 4.1 Randy Brett introduced the discussion by referring to his recent congregational letter regarding a resolution passed by the US House of Representatives on BDS (HR 246). Feeling that this is a political matter, he left it to each congregant to determine her or his position on the resolution as well as the vote of our congressional representative. He has received a wide range of feedback on both the content and the propriety of sending the letter to members. Randy distributed a draft statement (attached at A along with the final, published, statement) from the Jewish Federation of Princeton Mercer Bucks. This statement was being discussed at a Federation meeting concurrently with this Board meeting.
 - 4.2 In light of the proposed statement from Federation on the topic, Edye Kamenir withdrew the motion which had been distributed earlier in the week and proposed a new motion: "that we stand with the Jewish Federation of Princeton Mercer Bucks on the issuance of their statement on HR 246." Seconded by Kim Marks.
 - 4.3 Lew Gantwerk felt that there was insufficient time to consider the distributed statement and moved to table discussion. Seconded by Abigail Rose. This motion was defeated.

- 4.4 A wide ranging discussion followed of the Federation's position statement, the role of TJC as a synagogue rather than a political organization, and how best to show support for Federation without sounding political.
- 4.5 An amendment to the motion was proposed by Judi Fleitman to prepend the phrase "Acknowledging that the Federation is the right vehicle for this type of expression" to the motion. Edye accepted this change. Further changes suggested by Robert Schwartz were also accepted. The amended motion read:
"Acknowledging that the Federation is the right vehicle for this type of expression, we stand with the Federation in its statement issued in support of the State of Israel and in opposition to BDS, and its appreciation of the action taken by the House of Representatives supporting the interests of the State of Israel on July 23, 2019."
- 4.6 Randy explained the Board by-laws on voting: officers have one vote; each committee has one vote shared equally among the co-chairs present; a person with more than one office or chair has one vote.
- 4.7 The motion was approved with 14 votes in favor, 3 against and 1 abstention.
- 4.8 Randy will send the Federation statement to the congregation with a covering note. He will say that the Board approved a motion in support of the Federation statement.
- 4.9 Bret Jacknow, Kim Marks and others noted that TJC remains free to make a public statement on this matter.
5. **VP reports** – See Attachments
- 5.1 Finance. Warren Mitlak explained the financial dashboard and balance sheet:
- the balance sheet shows the strength of TJC finances
 - the dashboard includes several items billed in this year where the work was performed last year. We will work on a policy to ensure that un-invoiced items are correctly accounted for in future budgets
 - school enrollment has been added to the dashboard. Nicole asked that last year's numbers be included for comparison
 - membership: Judi pointed out that only about half of expected commitment forms have been sent in so the numbers will increase in future.
- 5.2 Religious Affairs. Rabbi Feldman on behalf of Polly Strauss:
- High Holiday planning is in good shape. Most aspects are unchanged from last year
 - Board members are encouraged to visit services other than the one they regularly attend and to provide feedback to Religious Affairs.
- 5.3 Administration.
- Ed Simon was thanked for organizing the schedule of HH greeters, ticket takers, and ushers. Every Board member is expected to take at least one shift
 - Board members are requested to respect the due dates for newsletter submissions (attached) and to work with (not around) Sandy Wilson
 - Peter Smith and custodian Robert Torrez were thanked for the excellent renovation of the stage in the Social Hall
 - Membership: Board members can help with recruitment by attending membership events

- Ed Simon explained the sign up procedure for HH greeters etc. There will be a practice run through on September 28 to familiarize everyone with their roles.

6. **70th Anniversary Gala**

Linda Meisel spoke about preparations for the gala on September 14. \$118,000 has been raised and costs are expected to be approx. \$50,000. The organizers are still seeking to sell tickets, sponsorships, and adverts. Thanks to generous sponsors some tickets are available for families and individuals who might be unable to afford the full price – anyone in this situation should contact Rabbi Feldman who will handle the matter in complete confidence.

7. **ULeague**

Randy reported that August rent was paid. The League is very satisfied with Robert Torrez's custodial work on the facilities. We have no reason to change our view of the future arrangement.

8. **Other Business**

8.1 Security: Randy reported that Michael and Beatrice Bloom have stepped down from their roles on the security committee having done a great deal of good work. He will appoint new leadership.

8.2 Randy will be out of the country until the end of August. As stipulated in the by-laws, VP Administration, Judi Fleitman, will be responsible in the President's absence.

9. **Executive Session**

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Minutes recorded by Bernard Abramson

Attachment A – Statement from The Jewish Federation of Princeton Mercer Bucks

Draft distributed at Board meeting:

The Jewish Federation of Princeton Mercer Bucks adds its voice to the chorus of approval from Federations around the country and partner organizations such as ADL, (add here) in appreciation of the overwhelming bi-partisan Congressional support in passing House Resolution 246 by a vote of 398 to 17, a strong affirmation decrying efforts to isolate and destroy the State of Israel, the only true democracy in the Middle East.

Although boycotts have been properly undertaken in in the past both here and abroad in support of just causes, discriminatory boycotts and exclusionary economic tactics targeting, isolating, and portraying Israel and its citizens as the world's only immoral actors unfairly ignore the context in which Israel struggles to deter decades of violence by forces that threaten its existence. The BDS movement apparently condones the violent actions and tactics of political groups and countries while condemning only Israel. Israel serves as a beacon of democracy, justice and hope for millions of its citizens--Jewish, Muslim, Christian, and Druze.

The Board and staff of your Jewish Federation are proud to endorse the principles on which Israel was founded as a Jewish homeland, and to support the efforts of American citizens, through their government, to protect Israel's right to exist, to fight anti-Semitism here and abroad, and to work together toward a just solution of the problems confronted by Israel and its neighbors.

Final version issued by Federation:

The Jewish Federation of Princeton Mercer Bucks adds its voice to the chorus of approval from Federations around the country and partner organizations such as the Anti-Defamation League, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, and the Jewish Federations of North America, in appreciation of the overwhelming bi-partisan Congressional support in passing House Resolution 246 by a vote of 398 to 17, a strong affirmation decrying efforts to isolate and destroy the State of Israel, the only true democracy in the Middle East.

Although boycotts have been properly undertaken in in the past both here and abroad in support of just causes, discriminatory boycotts and exclusionary economic tactics targeting, isolating, and portraying Israel and its citizens as the world's only immoral actors unfairly ignore the context in which Israel struggles to deter decades of violence by forces that threaten its existence. The BDS movement apparently condones the violent actions and tactics of political groups and countries while condemning only Israel. Israel serves as a beacon of democracy, justice and hope for millions of its citizens--Jewish, Muslim, Christian, and Druze.

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Attachment B – VP Reports

Finance

	June 30, 2019 YTD Actual	June 30, 2019 YTD Budget	Variance	June 30, 2018 YTD Actual
<u>Operational Revenue</u>				
Dues	142,429	137,175	5,254	149,178
Security Assessments	14,931	14,000	931	-
Capital Assessments	6,330	6,330	0	18,792
CapEx & Building Development Fund	7,417	-	7,417	-
Other	9,248	7,408	1,840	8,932
<u>Operational Expenses</u>				
Professional Salaries	(50,050)	(46,517)	(3,533)	(49,724)
Buildings	(42,031)	(20,978)	(21,053)	(22,462)
Administration	(13,543)	(11,460)	(2,083)	(3,802)
Membership	(2,083)	-	(2,083)	(2,316)
Mortgage Debt Service	(6,088)	(6,088)	(0)	(6,088)
Finance	(6,739)	(6,709)	(30)	(6,116)
CapEx	-	-	-	16,918
Information Systems	(2,325)	(3,583)	1,258	(1,661)
USCJ Dues	-	-	-	-
Security	(2,296)	(5,123)	2,827	-
Other	-	-	-	-
Operational Expenses Subtotal	(125,156)	(100,457)	(24,699)	(75,252)
Operational Net	32,852	50,456	(17,604)	101,650
<u>Education</u>				
Education Revenue	6,688	-	6,688	32,208
Education Expenses	(15,108)	(26,153)	11,045	(30,695)
Education Net	(8,420)	(26,153)	17,733	1,512
<u>Fundraising</u>				
Annual Fund Income	500	-	500	2,339
Contributions	1,505	-	1,505	876
Security Grant	49,697	50,000	(304)	-
Other Fundraising (Events)	20,316	-	20,316	175
Fundraising Expense	(1,750)	-	(1,750)	(20,343)
Fundraising Net	20,570	-	20,570	(16,953)
<u>Programming, Committees, Other</u>				
Revenue	12,031	4,084	7,947	14,681
Expense	(22,428)	(6,180)	(16,248)	(7,450)
Net	(10,397)	(2,096)	(8,301)	7,231
<u>Restricted Funds</u>				
Revenue	3,900	-	3,900	15,836
Expense	(1,526)	-	(1,526)	(13,811)
Net	2,374	-	2,374	2,025
Total Revenue	274,993	218,997	55,996	243,016
Total Expenses	(165,969)	(132,790)	(33,178)	(147,552)
Net Income	109,024	86,207	22,817	95,465

Membership as of 7/16/19		
Category	# Families	\$ Billed
Household	87	237,162
Single	15	24,690
Senior Couple	57	92,886
Senior Single	38	35,340
Subtotal	197	390,078
Associate	-	-
Friend	-	-
Remissions	3	752
Non-Paying*	8	-
Total	208	390,830
FTE @ full household du		143

*Non-Paying includes 2 Exploratory, 0 Young Household, 2 Clergy, 1 Staff and 3 Exempt

School Enrollment as of 7/16/19		
Grade	# Children	\$ Billed
Yad B' Yad	1	-
Ganon	3	350
Gan Katan	4	3,408
Gan	5	4,260
Alef	7	5,112
Bet	10	8,520
Gimmel	5	6,445
Daled	17	21,913
Heh	7	7,734
Vav	22	28,358
Zayin	20	32,480
Sulam	14	10,560
Total	115	129,140

**The Jewish Center
Balance Sheet
As of June 30, 2019**

	Total
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
10500 0 Petty Cash Other	150
10600 0 55 Plus BoA 5994	7,323
10601 0 Board Restricted Funds - UBS	25,090
10602 0 Donor Restricted Funds - UBS	337,082
10603 0 Northfield Bank Money Market	149,975
11106 0 TD Bank	260,698
11107 0 TD Bank - Money Market	92,667
11108 0 TD Bank - Security Deposit Acct	78,124
Total Bank Accounts	951,109
Other Current Assets	
10303 0 Library CD	7,300
10304 0 JCF Investment - Endowment Fund	91,917
10304 1 JCF - Unrealized Gains and Loss	11,659
Total 10304 0 JCF Investment - Endowment Fund	103,576
11203 0 Rabbi Parsonage Equity Deposit	200,000
1299 Undeposited Funds	28,676
Total Other Current Assets	339,553
Total Current Assets	1,290,662
Fixed Assets	
15000 1 Land	280,000
15001 1 Building & Land House Next Door	368,826
15002 1 Lutheran Property	460,438
15003 1 Building	209,711
15004 1 Improvements	4,205,965
15005 1 Furniture & Fixtures	846,066
15006 1 Software	7,224
15007 1 Amortizable	13,861
16000 1 Accumulated Depreciation	(3,540,612)
16001 1 Accumulated Amoritazion	(3,773)
Total 16000 1 Accumulated Depreciation	(3,544,385)
Total Fixed Assets	2,847,706
TOTAL ASSETS	4,138,368
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
20300 2 Accrued Expenses	80
20702 3 Mortgage Payable - TD Bank	490,722
21800 0 ULEAGUE Security Deposit	78,124
21900 0 ULEAGUE Rent Escrow	96,000

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31129 0 TJC Tzedakah Box	712
59999 0 Unapplied Credit	7,335
Total Other Current Liabilities	672,973
Total Current Liabilities	672,973
Total Liabilities	672,973
Equity	
30000 0 Restricted Funds	-
31012 0 Security Fund	14,213
31013 0 Steven Levine Special Education	3,434
31018 0 Feldstein Israel Travel Fund	1,686
31021 0 Fabian Fund	10,070
31022 0 Egger Fund	1,446
31023 0 Wallack Cultural Series	1,486
31024 0 Prayer Books	12,728
31028 0 Rabbis' Discretionary Fund	48,064
31029 0 Building Development Fund	(4,154)
31030 0 Silver Circle Endowment Fund	5,639
31031 0 Hazzan's Music Fund	3,147
31032 0 J&M Epstein Lunch & Learn Fund	1,182
31033 0 RS Tzedakah Fund	(170)
31034 0 LaShir Fund	144
31035 0 Confirm. Class Israel Trip Fund	22,036
31039 0 Endowment Fund - Library	7,300
31046 0 Religious School Fund	8,457
31049 0 Adult Library	4,677
31050 0 Children's Library	295
31056 0 Rothbart Tapestry Fund	3,620
31059 0 Shabbat Luncheon Fund	8,091
31061 0 Social Action Tzedakah Fund	(418)
31067 0 Gould Nursery Scholarship Fund	4,689
31068 0 Sapoff Art Pur & Res Fund	15,087
31070 0 Torah Repair Fund	46,764
31072 0 Irving N. Rabinowitz CHF	1,525
31073 0 Jackie & Cy Meisel Nur End Fd	6,732
31074 0 Israeli Affairs Endowment Fund	11,808
31075 0 Neimark Senior Mitzvah Fund	19,286
31101 0 Rabbi Tucker Life Cycle Fund	5,165
31106 0 Nursery School Playground Fund	145
31108 0 ECE Parent Association Fund	(1,479)
31112 0 Marchand Espir Holocaust Ed Fd	7,012
31117 0 Cemetery Plots	14,500
31125 0 Nursery Hebrew Immersion Fund	(1,556)
31131 0 Fran Amir Community Svc Trip Fd	2,067
31133 0 TJC Refugee Fund	8,040
31207 0 Endowment Fund	103,662
Total 30000 0 Restricted Funds	396,420
3010 Unrestrict (retained earnings)	(640,605)
3011 Unrestric (Ret. Earnings) - CRF	2,823

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31200 0 Committees	
31201 0 Jewish Center Women	938
31202 0 Adult Education	2,623
31203 0 Arts & Cultural Affairs	1,964
31204 0 Israeli Affairs	(7,781)
31205 0 Men's Club Summary	4,687
31206 0 Social Action	7,760
Total 31200 0 Committees	10,191
33900 1 Retained Earnings - Fixed Asset	3,587,541
Net Income	109,024
Total Equity	3,465,395
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	4,138,368

Wednesday, Jul 17, 2019 11:34:31 AM GMT-7 - Cash Basis

Education & Family



ADULT EDUCATION

FALL/WINTER 2019

INTRODUCTION

FROM JEREMIAH TO THE JEWBU – ADULT ED TOPICS FOR ALL

You'll find a rich catalogue of Adult Education courses at TJC this year, with topics that span Jewish thought, history and the globe.

Professors returning by popular demand include Gary Rendsburg, the Blanche and Irving Laurie Professor of Jewish History at Rutgers University, with a three-session class dissecting "How the Bible Is Written" with word-play, alliteration, and even intentionally confusing language.

Does Judaism believe in an afterlife? Yes, says Reb Simcha Raphael, who will blend storytelling and mystical texts with a discussion of how we encounter death and think about the journey of the soul.

The prophet Jeremiah's legacy as an "influencer" from his own time to today will be the focus of a two-part class with Rabbi Robert Goldenberg, retired Professor of History and Judaic Studies at Stony Brook University on Long Island.

Would Jeremiah have predicted there would be people who identified as an American JewBu? Just as her book hits the stores in November, sociologist Emily Sigalow, Ph.D. will speak about contemporary Jews who are embracing Buddhism and claiming a dual religious identity. (Yes, you can Google JewBu.)

Complete program details and registration forms for Fall/Winter 2019 programs are included in this newsletter.

Please save the dates for the Winter/Spring lineup.

Date(s) and Time	Program Title	Presenter
January 8, 15, & 22, 2020 at 8:00 PM	From Golden Age to Expulsion: The Transformations of Sephardic Culture	Professor Benjamin Gampel
February 6 & 13, 2020 at 7:30 PM	Studies in Kabbalah	Professor Yaacob Dweck
March 12, 2020 At 7:30 PM	History of the Haggadah	Professor Vanessa Ochs
March 26, 2020 at 7:30 PM	The Hebrew Bible: A Translation with Commentary	Professor Robert Alter
May 12, 2020 at 7:30	Visualizing Resistance: Violent Imagery and Ritual Performance in Israel's Huqoq Synagogue	Dr. Ra'anana Boustan

Administration

**THE JEWISH CENTER OF PRINCETON
HARD DATES
FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**

2019 Newsletters

September Issue: August 5th
October Issue: September 5th
November Issue: October 4th
December Issue: November 5th

2020 Newsletters

January Issue: December 5th
February Issue: January 6th
March Issue: February 5th
April Issue: March 5th
May/June/July Issue: April 6th
August: None
September Issue: August 5th
October Issue: September 5th
November Issue: October 5th
December Issue: November 5th

CRITERIA FOR ARTICLES AND OTHER SUBMISSIONS

1. There is a "hard" deadline for every submission. In other words, if your submission is not in the hands of Sandy Wilson by the end of business on the "hard" date, it will not be in the next edition of the TJC bulletin (no exceptions). The "hard" date for the September bulletin is AUGUST 5, 2019.
2. Articles should be reviewed and "vetted" with the Vice President responsible for the committee, in order to prevent duplication/redundancy. Submit them to the VP in time for review so that it can be given to Sandy by the "hard" date.
3. Sherry Rosen has graciously volunteered to proof-read and edit all submissions. Sherry knows what she is doing and, in a tactful way will help everyone write more concisely, with better grammar and minimal spelling mistakes. The best articles are the ones that do not exceed 3-4 paragraphs unless absolutely necessary. Keeping the articles brief, concise, and focused will help us to better convey messages as well as reduce production costs.
4. Program flyers and announcements must be concise and focused. Use Sherry for assistance.
5. Several Board members still need to submit their biography to Sandy for inclusion in various publications. If you have a head shot, please submit that too. Sometime this fall, we will be preparing a publication and/or poster board for the lobby of Board members so that congregants will know who you are and what you look like. This is part of the community building process.

Membership: Busy over the summer

Barbara & Lew Gantwerk and Andrea (Hoberman) & Alan Martinez have each hosted a "meet the clergy get together" for new and prospective members which drummed up much enthusiasm. Martha Friedman will be hosting one on September 10.

We have met the JCC Camp bus both with Bagels in the am and Challah braiding on Thursday afternoons

Our first Shabbat Under the Stars was well attended. Our next is August 16.

We have tried informal ice cream at Thomas Sweets and no prospectives attended. We have another scheduled for August 21.

Our advertising efforts have expanded with ads in NJJN, and local Montgomery, WW-Plainsboro and Princeton ads and continue to list on local info sites.

Still waiting for number regarding new and prospective members. The good news is that 15 exploratories have indicated they are rejoining. Membership is following up to be sure they have.

Membership has been calling any prospective/new members as they receive the information.

Any suggestions for community outreach to attract new members gratefully appreciated.

House/Security

re installing fencing, crash bars and alarms. Peter Smith and Mark (our custodian) refaced the under-stage cabinet doors in the Social Hall. We have a list of security improvements which are dependent upon our Homeland Security Grant which was submitted last May. We hope to hear sometime in August. We also have generous, anonymous private donors.

HH Greeters/Ticket checkers

Look for 2 Sign Up Genius e-mails. One is exclusively for Board Members to sign up to greet and check tickets at the door. It is important, in introducing new security measures, that each Board Member be a friendly face and able to provide information. We will offer training prior to the High Holidays. The second Sign-Up Genius is for ushering during High Holiday services. We encourage you sign up for both duties.

Administrative Business

As we begin another, event-filled year, please cooperate with our newsletter submissions protocol. All materials must be in by the first Monday of the month. You will know ahead of time if our newsletter will be a one or two-month issue. All written submissions must be in by the deadline or will not be published. Flyers must be submitted to Sandy Wilson, hopefully through the appropriate VP. Do NOT send anything directly to our contracted printer. You can contact me if you have any concerns.

Meet our Maintenance Staff

Our new Head of Maintenance is Robert Torrez. He is assisted in the mornings (including most Shabbats) by Mark.

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Our late afternoon/evening maintenance person (here most Kabbalat Shabbats) is Nikita. Khalid continues to work on weekends. We will reviewing our needs for the school building and hire accordingly within the month of August.

Submitted by:
Judi Fleitman, VP Administration

Religious Affairs

Religious Affairs Committee Status Update for TJC Board Meeting · 6/23/19

The Religious Affairs Committee, in partnership with The Jewish Center clergy, works to perpetuate and enhance the richness of our congregation's Shabbat, holiday and weekday worship, lifecycle events and celebrations, and facilitates options for meaningful Jewish observance.

In Progress

1. Recommendation to put up a 'Welcome' poster up in the lobby for Rob Torres, perhaps with his picture
 - a. Forwarded to Administration
2. Torah Tropes Class
 - a. *Reader's Reunion* (1 year)
 - i. *Torah/Haftorah Project*
3. High Holy Days Planning
 - a. Honors
 - b. Seat Reservation Policy distributed soon
 - c. More details on logistics, schedules, security changes, ushers, etc following 8/15/19 RAC meeting
4. *From the pews* English readings, on Shabbat
 - a. Prayers for Country, soldiers, Israel
 - b. More of the congregation *on their feet*
5. Including print of Mishaberach on inside cover of Chumashim
 - a. Large print Siddurim
 - b. COMPLETED!
6. 3-part course in fall to help congregants become more *comfortable* with synagogue and prayer book
7. Torah Readers Chavurah
 - a. Build cohesive team, honor them, build a sense of community, have them serve as go-forward leaders
8. Educational programs to support Sukkot, Pesach and Shavuot mornings
9. Expanding RAC members
 - a. Multigenerational
 - b. School Committee recommendations for high school/college student
 - c. COMPLETED; names to be announced 8/15/19
10. *Why I love attending Shabbat Services...*
 - a. Testimonials published/posted monthly, anonymously
 - i. Please see first one distributed, attached
 - b. Board encouraged to submit a comment to jeremyblack@hotmail.com & rosenberg@alberomed.com
11. Summer D'vei Torah
 - a. Board encouraged to submit presenter recommendations to jeremyblack@hotmail.com & rosenberg@alberomed.com
12. Birthday/Simcha recognition from the bimah
 - a. Recognize all birthdays for the month on Rosh Chodesh(?)
13. More multigenerational singing/choir activities Erev Shabbat, Shabbat, Kiddush Lunch

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- a. Recommendation to have Shabbat Under the Stars more often throughout the summer
 - b. More recommendations (too numerous to list) in progress
14. Multigenerational socializing/*networking* Erev Shabbat, Shabbat, Kiddush Lunch
15. Presentation of 'the gifts' to B'nei Mitzvah
- a. Recommendation to develop/provide written guidelines to presenters
 - i. Preliminary comments: More focus on responsibility to/continued involvement w/TJC; bit less 'gushing'; bit shorter duration