

August 25, 2022

Board Meeting

Convening at 7:03 pm by President, Alexandra Bar Cohen

- 1) President's message—Month of Elul- time of looking deep into our deeds and all of the planning we are doing for the HH.
 - So much goes into the HH.
 - Please be flexible with staff and Clergy.
 - The Board is returning to our sacred work. We are coming back. "I am my beloved and my beloved is mine" Elul is the time to establish the closeness to G-d and the days of Awe, not of fear but of love. We should reflect on our love for our TJC and the community. This is the kick off of the new year, the gala, and the new programmatic year and religious school.
 - Challenge of this month is engagement. We want to increase connection to make a vital and sustainable TJC. Think about your regrets and hopes for your time at TJC.

- 2) Accept minutes
Motion to adopt made by Moshe Margolin
Second – Harry Cummins
Vote—26 yes; 2 abstentions (since those people were not at the previous meeting.)

- 3) Rabbi Merow:
 - Alexandra acknowledged Rabbi Merow's shiva and period of mourning for her mother Sunny.
 - Rabbi Merow said it was a gift knowing she had the support of TJC during Shiva. Shalom Hartman Institute in Israel was wonderful. And, she went with Nancy, Gila and the Bar Cohen family to see Alexandra's son get his RED BERET in the IDF, as a para trooper. The moment was so special to see the TJC president support her child.

 - D'var Torah – If there is a needy person among us....what is a needy person? Someone without means. But you could also have a need for acceptance and support in other ways. Such as friendship or education. As we begin to serve others what is our need? What will fill our soul? Do some of that work on the board to fill your soul and look for the needs of others in the community and bring them in.

- 4) Joel Berger- Ex. Dir. Report
 - a) Gala Sept. 10
 - a. 203 people signed up to attend; max allowed is 250
 - b. 163K has been raised in sponsorships
 - c. 17K in ticket sales

- d. Betty the Caterer will be catering
- b) HH
- a. Same plan as last year but kids can go into the main sanctuary
 - b. Tent in lower parking lot for family services
 - c. Tent in staff parking lot for Riverside—Linda Milstein working on who will lead the service
 - d. Tickets will be going out shortly
 - e. Brad and Jeremy organizing ushering with JCW
 - f. Would be great if everyone on the board signed up to usher—put board member on the name tags so congregants know the board members are active
 - g. Security schedule is set up
 - h. Police will have the bomb dogs on site and an overnight guard for the electrical equipment overnight.

5) Finance Update—handouts went out before the meeting with all the information.
Neal Masia via Zoom; Finance report

- -First finance committee meeting a few weeks ago and was very productive
- -a lot of energy on the committee
- -investment policy for cash on hand
- -restricted fund use
- -dues notices went out late and HH ticket sales haven't started yet. But we seem to be on track with the budget.
- -membership numbers are on track with expectations and are picking up well
- -Gala sponsorships are going well.
- -We are on track and things are going well.
- -Happy to take any questions or suggestions

Membership VP, Andrea Hoberman Martinez—wants all board members to call the congregants to say Happy New Year and some talking points to all congregants.

6- Lewis Gantwerk—Board Member Spotlight-Went to Israel with his wife in 1965 to do something different and a change from living in Brooklyn. “We became immigrants in Israel . We worked with kids who had neurological problems. In 1967 the war broke out and we stayed even though the US embassy told us to leave. Our Israeli friends said not to worry. “ Lew went on a tour of the captured territories with a friend. He borrowed a uniform with medals of a high level officer, so he had to take the medals off. He grew up a Jewish boy in Brooklyn but when he got to Israel, he realized how much more it means to be Jewish and Israeli. The Israelis were so proud to be Israeli. “The Jewish journey of my heart started in my time in Israel. “

7- JCW update- Debbie Orel

- I'm cochair with Debbi Gitterman.
- And also partners with Men's Club .
- We decided to do more combined programming this year with sisterhood and brotherhood to PEOPLEHOOD. We hope to get more people involved. We want to spread the web of programming more by interest and get more people involved.
- The first event of this year is a collaborative effort of a "Big Apple Bake Off". An event for everyone to participate in.
- Event is on Sept. 18, 2022. The dishes will be Dairy; veg; and contain apple. Pre-registration is required.
 - Lynn Ross-All committees should jump on board and get involved in this day with Apple related ideas.
 - Gabriel and Samantha—what time is the event ? Kids programs should be from 12 noon on, so the kids are already here. Need to change the time for the kids so that they can go right after religious school to keep attendance higher.
- Heidi-include these recipes for the cookbook.
- This will be a great welcome back event. We need volunteers.

New Business—

- A) Alexandra – Thanks to Tom Will for getting the \$150K NSGP grant for security. 10K for PA system; and \$140K for safeguarding the perimeter of the TJC campus with the concrete barricades (bollards) around campus.
- B) Great Debates LectureSeries
 - a. Our TJC was torn apart on Israel and we need to heal the rift in our community.
 - b. We had restrictions on Israeli programming because of the infighting. But Israel is our homeland and in a world of rising antisemitism Israel is plan B for a lot of us.
 - c. We need to address Israel
 - d. Rabbi Merow and Alexandra are focusing work on Shalom Bayit and bringing Israel back to TJC.
 - e. The new committee is called "Israel and US", instead of "Israeli affairs".
 - f. We have reintroduced new Israel programming, like song of the month; Yom Ha'atzmaut.
 - g. We have brought Israel back in a cultural way but we want to bring back Israel in other ways.
 - h. Rabbi Merow, Alexandra, and Moshe brought in Professor Waxman to help put together the Great Debates of Jewish History Lecturer series . We will hear the lectures and have peaceful discourse after the lecture with trained facilitators for group discussions.

- i. Participants will be required to attend at least 2 lectures before being allowed to attend the 5th lecture.
- j. Opened only to our community and we hope everyone will attend in person.
- k. The program will be announced soon—if you hear anything negative about this we need to know so we can address the issues. We want to change our negative reputation.
- l. This is NOT a lifelong learning event. They have their own events. This is a Presidential-Rabbi event, so it is funded differently than a committee event. So we need board approval and this is new business. We will vote on this next month.
- Moshe Margolin—funding for great debates
 - 19K in the adult education fund and this will contribute in part to pay for the Great Debates Series
 - We are going to solicit more contributions to help support the program.
 - You need to vote to give up to the budget of \$7500 from the Adult Ed. Fund to Great Debates Series.

Questions and discussion?

- Corey Langer- Why not have virtual component?
- Alexandra—we want the discussion to be in person. We prefer in person , but if we have to have a virtual component we will figure it out.
- Rabbi Merow—we want to have good in person attendance and give Zoom as an excuse to stay home.
- When we are paying speakers to come in person we should have good attendance.
- Barbara—maybe we can arrange drivers for older people who don't want to drive at night.
- We have a membership committee that will offer rides.
- Polly Strauss- this is a great program and love what we are trying to do. I think the words are important and I don't think the word "Debates" is good. I think we should take out any negative words, such as "debates" and "argument" .
- Rabbi Merow – the reason we have these words is important because the first lectures are about history from the top scholars. The purpose of the series is to show how people worked things out when they really couldn't get along throughout history. We cant ignore the fact that there is a debate and there is an argument.
- Susan Falcon- Rational of requiring one or two attendance at lectures and then to attend the last lecture? The reason is because we are attending a lecture and then participating in a discussion and learning how to politely debate. We feel it's important that the process is modeled in the first 4 lectures before they show up for the last lecture.
- Moshe—the 2 questions that will be discussed in the group will be given to us ahead of time by the scholar so people will be prepared and the facilitators can do their job.
- They are starting to give us bibliographies and articles so we will make up a source book so people will take this seriously.

- Alexandra-- Send us any questions before the next meeting so we can vote on the restricted funds next month. And if you know any donors, please tell us. We believe this is very directed to education that our entire congregation needs, so it's a logical use of the restricted funds of adult education.

9) Good and Welfare

- Rabbi Merow --We will have an Israel trip this summer – it's the 75th anniversary.
- Share what you want to do as a board member:
 - Moshe- Widen our audience to bring in younger adults; we have 2 younger members joining the adult ed committee and we will program during Hebrew school so young parents can attend.
 - Barbara Abramson – co-charis of religious affairs an initiative we have this year to offer more training to get people to become daveners, andshamishim, so that our services can run smoothly. Ethan has an online system to sign up but people don't always feel comfortable, so we want to help them feel more confident. If you want to learn reach out to Barbara Abramson or Nancy Lewis.
 - Cory Langer—Thanks everyone—this is my first board meeting after 36 years; I'm chair of the safety committee . I was hoping Covid would be in the rear view but we have to contend with this . I want people to join the safety committee and we have to get to the nitty gritty of what is safe during services and we have to get our rituals back in a safe way.
 - Rabbi Merow—please come to classes to learn with me before the HH. Three classes. There are many classes in October and November. Please come to classes
 - Jerry Neuman—membership- We want to accomplish
 - ten new members since June
 - twelve exploratory members last year and 8 out of 12 joined. Great statistic.
 - Two have declined but still 2 to be heard from

Deadlines and dates:

- Sept 22- next Board meeting
- Oct. 27 Board Meeting—we will have dinner and then the retreat, so we will start at 5:30
- submit your committee reports 1 week before the meetings
- October 7 is deadline for the November Newsletter submission
- The next newsletter is a double edition and is going out this week.
- Working on a style guide to have consistent grammar, etc. for our publications

Thank you Joel for everything you do.

Meeting moved to Executive Session.

Motion to close meeting- Dana Molina; second; Jerry Neuman