

Board Meeting Minutes

8/24/23

Heidi- call to order at 7:15 pm.

Please send your committee reports to Charlene 1-2 weeks before the meeting

Please do not send out TJC emails on shabbat

Approve minutes from July 20, 2023 Board Meeting -- Ari Meisel so moves

Second- Michael Leopold

Unanimously approved minutes from last meeting .

RAM- D'var torah- Enlarge the size of your tent and bring joy. Joel is ordering large tents for the HH. Our charge is to make our shul a place where people want to be in peace and wholeness. We want our tent to be large. We should have a good foundation but be open on all sides. There are many ways in. We are diverse. As board members we need to widen the tent joyfully and bring people in and make people want to be here joyfully. And with a sense of loving kindness.

Heidi-

Apartment update: the construction contract has been signed . We started on Monday and should take 8 weeks to complete. Thank you to Alexandra Bar Cohen (ABC) for your work on this.

Dorot Committee lead by Helaine Isaacs has been working on the new dues structure. The next phase is to interview different congregants to get their opinion on the new dues structure.

From Catering perspective, Lox Stock and Deli and Betty the Caterer are both out of business. We have a committee headed by Bernie Abrahamson to find a kosher cater or multiple caterers. There is a review going on. We are looking for caterers who can provide various price points so there are options and choices for our congregants who want to sponsor kiddush or parties.

Joel—Betty the caterer is closing labor day and will be returning any deposits.

New business

I'd like to thank Seth Cohen and Ari Meisel and his boys for building our new Gaga pit in the front yard. (Gaga is an Israel game.)

Israel and us Committee—Moishe reported that we learned a lot from the Great Debates last year. We learned quality matters and that people can discuss things intellectually and calmly. This year we are going to talk about Zionism because we think it's important that when we talk about Israel it's good for many of us to get refreshed about the history of the creation of Israel. We are going to start out with a member of the World Zionist Organization who will come and

talk from his point of view of the political situation the day he speaks. He is known as being a very good speaker. It will be a nice taste of what we have in mind.

We will have additional sessions; content sessions about prestate Israel; founders of Israel; new variations of Zionist movement.

Then finally we are going to have the culmination event on Zionism, Israel and American Jewish Communities today. We will have 2 speakers that take opposing points of view and they will have a conversation.

We are going to keep the speakers local to make it cost effective and the first talk will probably be a free webinar over Zoom. We propose \$3,750 for budget for the whole program. The board will have to vote on the budget for this. We have 1K in our budget so we will need extra funding.

RAM- I want to thank Lynne, ABC, Moishe who have spent so much time planning this and the committee is nimble and making changes based on the situation in Israel as it changes. Sept. 10 is a big day at TJC at 3 pm. On Zoom only, will be this first speaker. This will be a Board of Rabbis event with participation by other local shuls.

Heidi:

HH phone calls is something the board does every year. The board calls every member and people are very happy to get the calls. Please make these calls in the next week to 10 days and you will have a lot of nice conversations and leave a lot messages.

We divided our list amongst the board, and everyone gets about 15 names. We highlighted the names of the elderly, who are 80 or older so you will know you are calling an elderly person.

Send a script with the minutes

Jeremy- ushers for high holidays are needed. Please use the sign up link that was sent with the board emails, It's a 1.5 hour shift to help people to find seats or in the case of an emergency. We are going to build the sukkoth a little earlier than usual because of the timing of the holidays.

Heidi- it's really important if everyone would sign up for at least one session and we really need your help to do that. **The link to sign up will be included in the next email.**

Heidi- 75th anniversary has a lot of events being discussed and planned. We hope you will be excited and engaged. We are counting on this big fundraiser for our longevity, so we are counting on you.

The board retreat is 9/7 from 6-10 pm, We have outside consultants who are leading the retreat so we are expecting it to be fun and informative.

A few updates;

1) Lew Gantwerk will become an *ambassador at large* on the board. Appointed by the current president; will attend board meeting and does not have any voting rights. It's an advisory position.

2) Alison Resnick- has resigned as co-chair of Social Action

We have 2 openings-

1. co chair of social action
2. Co chair of education committee

If you have any suggestions for who can fill those spots please let me know.

Heidi- we have a Life and Legacy program which is really our endowment program. It is very easy to sign up using the Promise Form. It is a way for you to think about any gift that you will give to TJC as part of your legacy to TJC. We already have 300K in the fund today managed by the Jewish Community Foundation. Ruth Fath gave a gift of 100K. The largest gift we have gotten. It's very generous and lovely. I am passing around the forms. Please consider it.

ABC- I just want to say I am a Promise Maker. So I'm happy to talk to anyone who wants to know why it's so important to make a promise.

Dana Molina—I brought a guest, my daughter Catalina . She set up 2 beehives at Princeton High School and is the Bee Keeper there. We wanted to discuss the possibility of having bee hives on the TJC campus. A Bee Hive and bee keeping would be a beautiful way to connect the kids with the Jewish faith and holidays like Rosh Hashana. Sometimes people get afraid of bees. But the Honey bees are generally calm and do not all exit the hive at once. They fly a 3 mile radius from their hive. They could be located by the entrance sign and put a beautiful sign and hive there. And if we have the right equipment for our students, we can have the students operate the hive. The hive could also be on the roof. Or it could be places near the property next door. The hive is not very big and would be about 3 feet off the ground.

In addition to putting a beehive on our campus we also propose to support a bee keeper in Mexico as an interesting collaboration.

ABC- This is an example of being stewards of the earth as written in Genesis.

Ari Meisel- I think it's an excellent idea, but I don't think we should put it on the roof for many reasons.

Jerry Neuman- how about putting the beehive next to RAF tree in the park in Princeton?

Dana/Charlene- it's a public park so it probably won't work

Heidi- Dana, can you come back with a formal proposal and include details about who is going to be the beekeeper and how we would educate the community and the school about the bee hive?

RAM- I want to thank our staff who have created an amazing weekend of welcome, starting on Thursday with Ritas ice cream on 9/7 from 4-6. We need the Board to help us with marketing. Please friend us on Facebook and then repost the posts. Just don't like it but you have to repost it and tag it.

On 9/8 we have an incredible day starting with art and cocktails in the courtyard. Wine and cheese before services 5-6—we are starting services at 6 pm on Fridays. There will be music.

While we are in services 4 members of the mens' club will be outside at their new beautiful propane BBQ and they will be grilling Shabbos dinner so everyone could have a shabbataQ. We hope you will come and bring people.

The first bat mitzvah on 9/9 is the daughter of board member Alison Schneider so please come to support the family.

Saturday night is the opening of the HH season. So we hope you will go to Slichot at Beth El in West Windsor to be part of the greater Jewish Community. It begins at 8:45 with a film and a brief service. It rotates amongst the shuls and next year we host. So we should be good neighbors and go to other shuls.

Please ask your Jewish friends to come check out TJC and maybe join.

Board desert in my sukkah on Oct. 3 at 7:30 pm for you and your spouse.

Oct. 4- pizza and beer in sukkah

There is a lot going on so please come and join in and get your friends to attend.

Roberta Sternthal—JCW is having an apple bake off on 9/10. Please bring a baked good with apples. We have a couple judges.

Joel—a lot of activities are going on Sept. 10

On Nov. 18 there will be a speaker about Einstein and a traveling exhibit.

We have a lot going on and we thank the staff and all of you for all of your work. It's awesome and great. There is so much going on.

Heidi- good and welfare—

Tom Will- my son got engaged; wedding next year

Michael Goldin- I'm flying out for a wedding in Cleveland and to visit the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Thank you RAM and Joel. We are going to move into executive session.

