

December 14, 2023

Rabbi Merow- lit the menorah and announced all of the various Chanukah events that have occurred. We need more calm in the world for another miracle.

Heidi- thank you for being here on the last night of Chanukah.  
The financial people are on their way so we'll wait for their report.

75<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee meetings are underway. The catering committee has contacted 5 caterers and now they are going to narrow it down by asking for more specific details. We are trying to keep the dollar amount lower. The catering committee will make a decision by March.

We have 4 honoree couples that we can announce that will be honored on Saturday night for the May 4<sup>th</sup> gala:

Linda and Michael Grenis  
Lori and Michael Feldstein  
David and Alison Politzner  
Arlene and Henry Opatut

Women of Valor will be honored on Friday night. It will be the elderly women who have been here for a very long time. There will be a big dessert celebration Friday night to honor these women.

Apartment- We are told by the end of 2023 it should be ready. We'll see but we are hopeful.

Security- Tom Will—we are meeting Monday and will have an update.

Heidi-We have a mid-year congregational meeting this Sunday. It's an update meeting and financial report. It's amazing how many things we did in 6 months.

Men's club update—we have been busy. We have run a number of events, including a Torah on Tap last night. We had a visitor from the National association of Men's Club. We held the poker tournament at game night, and we have a series of events coming up in the new year.

Social Action—thanks to Joel to getting out the word on Munchies for Menches. We are delivering next Friday. Almost all the delivery links are filled.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4AAEAC2AABFE3-45161935-munchies#/>

We would like to have food drives on other days; not just at the HH. Food insecurity is in the Spring and Summer also. Cornerstone kitchen sent us a thank you letter for the food drive collection. We are collecting coats for Cornerstone if you want to drop off coats.

Bob Karp initiative is a curriculum and document that talks about about what committees are doing for social action, housing, environmental issues, etc.

Heidi: Bob Karp has been on the social action committee for many years. He wants the social action groups to write up something about what they do and the document can be used to show new and potential members all the social action we do at TJC and he also wants to use this book for educational purposes.

Jeremy- School- this Sunday will be our school wide breakfast. There are a handful of school trips planned coming up. This year every grade is going on an age appropriate trip. Meet and greet from 9-11 so we can overlap with the school breakfast, and we can thank the Police with breakfast, on Sunday.

The school breakfast, the police breakfast and Mid Year meeting all overlap. Please come.

Heidi- Judy, I heard game night was fantastic. An amazing fun night that everyone loved. The bar and decorations were great. The food was great. A great vibe that night. Judy you did a great job—thank you! We raised at least 5K that night.

Judy- arts and cultures are looking for more arts events for the spring. If you hear of anything, please send the ideas our way.

Religious Affairs- anything news. We are working on T'bshvat program with the synagogue in Israel. It will be on January 21 and it is going to be a study session and a seder with the shul. We are going to host a dinner and they will host a lunch since there is a time difference. There will be a study session. It will all be in English. The shul is very easy to work with, so we have to get organized at our end.

Moshe- Israel and us- we are meeting with the Rabbi next week to talk about things for next semester. Our committee is broken into 2 parts—most of the members and Riva who do the Israel social action and work on the visuals and cultural programs. I work on the special programs like t'bshvat seder and brining in speakers and it works really well. The committee is great.

Harry Cummins- we have meetings scheduled for the rest of the year so we are meeting.

Heidi- Michael Goldin and I discussed setting up a serious “greeters program” to have someone sitting in the lobby to be a greeter. After the New year we are hoping to build a group of people to volunteer for this role for 2 hour time slots to welcome people to the building. We'll see how it goes. Hopefully it will help people feel welcomed and give them direction when they enter the building. This is for Tuesday through Friday during the day. If you are new to the shul, you don't know what to do when you enter the building. So we are going to try to get this going,

Rabbi- I would love it if we could get greeters for this Friday and Saturday at services because we are going to have a lot of out of towners for the bar mitzva. We need Shabbat greeters to help seat people and welcome them to the bar mitzvah.

Leah- Financial update-all good news. We think we will make up the deficit we predicted based on fundraising efforts and donations. We have some new members and some new school students. Up to 152 school students. We are doing well in Life and Legacy but that doesn't throw off any money right now because we have to build up the fund some more. Annual fund is on track but we need everyone to make the phone calls to get the donations.

We could try to have a matching fund drive at the gala as a fundraising challenge. So for example, get a private donor to give 3K and tell everyone, if we match that then the person will give 3K. This could work well for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Maybe even 75K?

Joel- annual fund—yes we can track new donors and new amounts. We are at 225K on annual fund for today. There are 150 members that have given. 350 members have NOT given any—they have given ZERO. The names we sent out today are the people who have NOT made any donation yet to date. We need to call these people and ask them to donate. We want to expand the base of donors—even if it's a small amount. We could solve all the budget problems if we make the phone calls and raise the money.

We will report the detailed numbers on Sunday, but these are the high level takeaways.

RAM—are we getting first time donors?

Heidi- we have had people increase their donations for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary so it's positive.

Heidi- any new business?

Melissa Hager—I don't understand the by laws change. I emailed Heidi a change to change the dissolution sentence. It's nothing major but I think we need to make that change.

Heidi- we don't have a quorum right now so we can't change it And we can't change it anyway because it has to be sent to the congregation 2 weeks before we vote on it. So, at the Congregational meeting on Sunday, please bring up the change during the discussion session and we can vote to make the change and then vote on the by law change.

Joel- someone can vote to change the language at the meeting. We can't change it now because we don't have a quorum.

Heidi- I will talk to the attorney in advance of Sunday's meeting.

Heidi- New business good and welfare-

Charlene- my granddaughter was born today, 12/14/23, Dana Shelly

Heidi- you were all emailed 12 names and a script to make phone calls for the annual fund. Please call them before the end of the year. We appreciate you spending the time to make the calls. Thank you in advance for doing the calls.

Joel- the Palmer Square menorah lighting was held without incident, but it was a smaller crowd because Palmer Square was shut town for the event, so there was less foot traffic. But it was a nice event. Mr. Weiss of Palmer Square Management hosted, sang and got a new menorah. It was a great event with a lot of police presence for safety.

We will have the daffodil reveal ceremony in Palmer Square but we are trying to pin down a date. It's hard to know when because we want the flowers to be in bloom.

We have a 3 part safety series in Jan, Feb. March

Rabbi- we have Non jewish clergy, the mayor and city council all attend the Menorah lighting ceremony. They heard from us that we need their support so they showed up. We also hosted the clergy association for the most recent meeting. There were 12 attendees and they got a presentation about Greenwood house and they had kosher deli and the pastors had latkes and they never had a latke in their life. The police chief also comes to these meetings. It's been a journey since Oct 7 to get the other clergy to empathize with us, and I feel like more of them are now on board and are helping us. So it's good that people are coming together because of the sense of antisemitism and for me and Avi for folks who are here on Shabbat because Saturday night was the crown of Shabbat because there are more new and interesting people coming to services. If you don't like to daven then please be in the lobby minyan. Please spread the word, that shul is the place to be. We have a lot of kids at services and people reading torah. The next shabbat dinner will be hosted by the school but will be for everyone. You don't have to be in the services, you can just come to eat or be a greeter. If you want to be a greeter please let us know.

Jane LaGrange- met some older women who are very excited about TJC, and they want to join TJC. My good news is that my middle daughter finished her PhD at UCLA in Comparative Authoritarian Regimes. She is currently a postdoc at the London School of economics.

Joel- the by law change will be presented at the meeting. You can't change it until it's voted on at the meeting on Sunday.

Move into executive session