

December 19, 2024

TJC Board Meeting

7:06 President Heidi Joseph called the meeting to order

Present: Rachelle Simon, Polly Strauss, Suzanne Esterman, Lew Gantwerk, Fred Appel, Louise Sandburg, Jesse Treu, Adam Pechter, Judy Kutin, Marci Meixler, Jane Legrange, Jen Black, Michael Goldin, Moshe Margolin, Heidi Joseph, Pam Zaifman, Joel Berger, Diane Guvenis, Riva Levy

### Chanukah

Chanukah was celebrated with the community in Palmer Square.

### Budget Update

As Leah Boustan presented at the Semi-Annual meeting, dues and education are on target. Expenses are less than predicted but challenges exist. There will be fundraising events in 2025 to make the budget successful. The Board has 100% participation in the Annual Fund.

Heidi: We are in the process of setting up an Office of Development so each new president does not have to establish a relationship with donors. The VP position will be shared among people who have been asking for donations for a long time.

Joel: We are applying for a Federal Grant for up to \$200k for inside/outside lighting, communication, and security and a generator for if power goes out. The application is due at the end of this week and it takes several months to receive a reply.

## The Great Jewish Laugh Off

Heidi: Saturday 1/25/25 Two comedians have been hired. We are now working on figuring out how to raise more money. The ticket price is \$54. Sponsorships start at \$180-\$2000. There will be a joke competition with people submitting a video. There is not a snow date.

Pam: There will be a punch bowl raffle since we still have a license. \$10/ticket. We have a need for raffle prizes. So far we have a pair of tickets for Mandy Patinkin at Mccarter. There is a form letter created to solicit donations. Donors will get advertising.

Joel: There will be Fb ads.

Moshe made a motion to accept minutes from the last meeting. Suzanne seconded. Minutes were passed.

## New Business

Heidi: A new boiler was installed.

The apartment might be ready in January. We are expecting the township to approve and construction people can do the necessary work in two weeks.

Governance Committee reported at the Semi-Annual meeting. They have been having lots of discussions. Originally there was supposed to be a plan presented at the meeting but now that has been deferred until 6/1. It is a big discussion.

Joel: The meat kitchen has been rented out to the University. Monday morning the dishwasher doors blew off and the kitchen flooded. It has

since been fixed. The University lease was extended to March, hopefully it will not extend through Passover.

Heidi: If they stay past March 31, the contract will be renegotiated. So far, it is going well.

Heidi: Trees Update-Suzanne brought the Christmas tree sales to campus. One old tree fell on Suzanne's car and Bill's truck and Jeremy's car. Several other large dead trees on the property were cut down. We are waiting to hear from insurance companies about the cars.

### D'var

Rabbi: There is a mitzvah of Chanukah besides lighting candles called *pirsum nes*. The menorah is put in the window to publicize the miracle—the oil, the victory, survival of the Jews. That's what we did with the community in Palmer Square this week. It's good for the community to see us gather at a joyful time. We should consider lighting at TJC and having more of a presence at night. We should be "loud and proud".

### More New Business

Joel: Facebook ads have had over 1000 clicks and over 400 clicks on our Youtube pages. 58% rate of emails being opened. Palmer Square and Mayor Freda tagged us after the Chanukah event.

Pam: We are planning for Chesed day, Sunday 1/19/25 9-2:00pm. There will be various activities such as working with social action, making soup for the soup kitchen, crafting with stitchers, blood drive,

acts of loving kindness. It is open to the whole congregation. A partnership with Habitat for Humanity offsite is possible.

Moshe: We have a continuing relation with Kehilat Magen Avraham. There will be a joint program for Tu B'shvat, 2/23/25. Moshe also remarked on how great the newsletter looked and how much activity there is.

Fred: There will be an Adult Ed program Wednesday, 1/22/25 at 7:30. Judge Reif, who is from a family that experienced theft of artwork during WW2 by Nazis, will speak.

Louise: Munchies for Mensches dropoff is this Sunday and Monday 9-12pm. Assembly is Monday 1-3pm. Drop off goodies for workers on Christmas from your friends at TJC.

Jesse: There will be a performance of Here There are Blueberries at McCarter, with a reception that Federation organized on 2/2/25. We can join for a meal after the reception.

RAM: We are changing the time of Friday evening services on a trial basis to 6:00. Services will end by 7:00. 2x/month there are professional musicians, 1x/month congregant musicians, 1x a capella.

Judy: Saturday morning Judy or Michael will be there at "Lobby minyan" for congregants to take a break.

RAM: It's going to be a Wicked Purim. We will do a short family service and a traditional full Megillah reading after. Ginger Schnitzer is working on songs. Heather Salkind and Neil Wise will plan a party.

Rabbi Brad Artzen will be our first scholar-in-residence since Covid. He is the Dean of Ziegler school of Rabbinic Studies in LA. 3/21-23

RAM was in Israel last week for 5 days for the Rabbinic Assembly. She encourages voting in the upcoming election at the World Zionist Organization. The organization controls billions of dollars of funding that goes to the Jewish world. She encouraged voting for Mercaz, a conservative movement and inclusive faction.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:16