

TJC Board Meeting February 20, 2025

7:05 President Heidi Joseph called the meeting to order

Attendees: Heidi Joseph, Jeremy Spiegel, Marci Meixler, Judy Kutin, Diane Guvenis, Lynne Ross, Rabbi Merow, Lew Gantwerk, Moshe Margolin, Suzanne Esterman, Michael Goldin, Abigail Rose, Adam Pechter, Jesse Treu, Louise Sandburg, Rachelle Simon, Edye Kamenir, Allison Schneider, Harry Cummins, Jane LeGrange, Bruce Goldstein

I. D'var Torah

RAM: "Aaron was silent", the word used indicates profound shattering silence, due to the idea that God would kill his child. RAM led a prayer for the hostages.

II. Budget Update

Heidi: The Finance Committee agreed that we need to continue to look into possible investments. Paying off the mortgage makes sense due to low interest rates.

Religious Affairs, School, and Israel & Us Committees have provided budgets and Joel is working on the rest.

USCJ charges dues of \$30k/yr. Last year we said we would only pay \$20K. They agreed and we're doing that again this year.

III. Nominating Committee

Heidi: An outgoing trustee must be chair of the Nominating Committee and that will be Michael Goldin. We need two board members, so Suzanne and Moshe are also on the committee. There must be four congregants and we have three, Naomi Richman Neuman, Dina Shaw, and Andrea Hoberman Martinez. We are asking for a suggestion for the fourth. We are also looking for VP's of Education, Finance, and Religious Affairs .

IV. Apartment Update

Heidi: Work was completed. The fire escape and ladder were built, but the insurance company refused to insure the apartment, as not all

requirements were met. The town code insisted on a larger window for emergency egress. This will cost \$700 and take a little more time.

V. Restricted funds

Heidi: Work has been done on all the requirements for restricted funds. Paperwork could not be found on the Refugee Resettlement Fund. It seems the paperwork was never completed. Allison and Louise wrote up what's required and Randy Brett will draft the paperwork to be passed by the Board. Heidi was asked to approve a check for \$18k for I-RISE in Highland Park for Refugee Resettlement. This was a large check. But there are no guidelines for who can authorize a check and for how much. The check wasn't approved yet since we are waiting for the guidelines. We have about \$100k, in the Refugee fund, making it the largest fund. The money is not just from TJC.

Jesse: Why can't Randy include I-RISE in the paperwork?

Edge: There is no one on our Board who sits on the I-RISE board because that would be a conflict.

Moshe: 18k is a significant amount. Are there any bylaws stating that such a large amount must be approved by the Board?

Heidi: Not in the bylaws.

VI. Upcoming Events and Holidays

RAM: There will be a Purim Carnival and celebration 3/12. We need lots of Board support to pull in young families. There will be pizza in the lobby. There will be a Family Service in the Youth Lounge for 5 and under. 6:30-7:30. Then to the ballroom for a party or fast megillah reading in the Bet Midrash. Lana Sambol is in charge of food. Neil Wise is in charge of decor.

Four mitzvahs of Purim-to read the Megilla, give mishloach manot, eat a festive meal which will be for staff and Kiddush Krew, and a Social Action table about projects to help the poor.

Moshe: There will be a Tu B'Shvat Zoom February 23 with Magen Avraham, our sister congregation in Israel. 30 people signed up. The program is reflections from the two Rabbis and a talk from the Israeli social worker in charge of evacuee resettlement. We will break into smaller groups to get to know each other.

Mar 21 - 23 is the Scholar in Residence Program with Rabbi Brad Shavit Artzon. Contemporary theology is the topic on Friday, Inclusion on Saturday lunch, the Future of Judaism Saturday evening and a Talmud piece about African female warriors on Sunday. There is no cost as this was underwritten by congregants, but we are concerned about attendance. There will be child care.

VII. Committee Updates

Heidi: The catering committee is doing research. We are working on kosher caterers for TJC at various price points. In the past, we haven't always been happy with the caterers who have been here and we want to have control. We hope to have a list for next month.

Moshe: We are coordinating a solidarity mission to Israel of four local congregations 11/1-9. We have an itinerary. Jackie Schreiber is the representative. There is no price yet. Federation was asked to subsidize the educational lectures. The orientation will be in March with the trip guide.

VIII. Good and Welfare

Heidi: We extend our sympathy to Dana Molina on the passing of her mother.

Lew will be in a show in March with the Somerset Valley Players.

Mazel Tov to Abbye Cornfeld on her son's upcoming Bar Mitzvah.

Minutes approved by Moshe and seconded by Suzanne.

7:51 Meeting adjourned