

TJC Board Meeting 8/20/26

Present:

Lew Gantwerk
Rachelle Simon
Bob Levine
Moshe Margolin
Lynne Ross
Charlene Borsack
Diane Guvenis
Dina Shaw
Ed Simon
Michael Shapiro
Len Grossman
Judy Kutin
Edye Kamenir
Brad Bailey
Ginger Schnitzer
RAM
Joel Berger
Jane Legrange

7:05 Lew called the meeting to order

Minutes approved

1. Welcome back

2. Report to the Board on the Search for a new School Director

Lew: We are working with a transition team to guide the Religious School and writing a job description for a search for a Rabbi/Educator. The job should be posted next week. Ellen Pristach has agreed to be the Interim

School Director. Cynthia Richman will take on added responsibilities. Sharon's last day is October 5.

3. Goals for the coming year

Joel: We are trying out a Mercer County USY with Beth El for one year. Their Youth Director will have a presence on our campus to recruit kids. We are restructuring the Sulam program. Instead of Sunday nights, we will have it right after Religious School. Most teens are RS volunteers and will stay after lunch for the program. Ellen will run Sulam.

Judy: Tomorrow we are hoping to send out a letter explaining the restructuring.

Moshe: We have two goals for the Israel and Us committee: maintain the quality and diversity of our programs and to pay for them and get partners to help.

RAM: We are partnering with Federation of Philadelphia on a trip to Israel.

Edye: We want to diversify our Membership Committee. We don't represent to younger members. We want to find cohort captains who can be a point person to different demographics. We want intentional outreach to increase engagement. For administration, we want to look at the Governance Committee report and see what can be enacted. I found out there is an Operations Manual made around 10 years ago. We need to look at that. Our Employee handbook is almost 20 years old and we should consider updating it. We are looking at people with lapsed memberships to have them consider rejoining

Jane: I have a suggestion for House. The Torah holders on the Bimah are flimsy.

Edye: We can get Ari to look at it.

Jane: For Religious Affairs we want to continue the momentum and get more participation. One Friday night a month we want to have a tot service. We hope to get more people to read Torah, including getting Bar Mitzvah parents to come back.

RAM: On October 10th, we are dedicating a new Torah that is a gift of the Kurshan family. The family will be here for services that day.

Brad: The goal of Security is to keep TJC as safe as possible. We are working with the police.

Joel: Funded through JFed, we installed facial recognition technology on one of our cameras. We are installing it on another camera connected to a database. We are working on upgrading our lighting and fulltime security, Brad is taking on a lot of this.

Moshe: As a greeter, what do I do if I see someone suspicious?

Joel: We have armed guards right there.

Ed: The goal of a greeter is to be welcoming. We have guards for security. We need more Greeters and Ushers. I'd love to try to fill the void of no JCW and Men's Club, especially local trips.

Edye: Many of our programs are aimed at over 50 year olds. How can we tailor events to the younger crowd?

Ed: Between me, Joel, and Ronit, we are working on this.

Lynne: Social Action. Our first meeting is next week via Zoom. We're working on Pizza in the Hut and highlighting our garden. It can be difficult to get people involved in projects. We are always looking to engage people.

4. Financial report

Bob: Dues account for 50% of expenses and we rely on fundraising to make up the difference. Last year the Annual Fund did generate more than expected. It's important to continue and we need a fundraising event. We are reorganizing the assignment of the Finance Committee and one person of the four on the Committee will work with each of the other four committees.

I've been in discussions with the Jewish Community Foundation about how they are managing our Life and Legacy funds. I don't like how they are managing the funds. I don't want to leave JCF unless, in my fiduciary role, that is my responsibility.

5. Board members and fundraising

Lew: Every Board member must contribute to the Annual Fund. It doesn't matter how much. Also, we need to find people willing to organize a fundraiser. Dina is taking on a big part of it and we need to help her.

6. High Holiday plans, needs, questions, concerns?

7. Our General Welfare

Joel: There is a sign up sheet for B'nai Mitzvah gift Board Member. If you'd like a table at our food Truck event for your committee, please let me know.

8. New Business

9. Adjournment

8:52 Meeting adjourned