

**Temple Israel of Northern Westchester  
Board Meeting Minutes**

**July 9, 2020**

**Welcome and Call to Order**

Steve Samuels called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:35 pm and welcomed everyone.

**D'var Torah**

Alan Brott spoke on *Pinkhas* which is the name of Aaron's grandson. God rewards him for killing a Simeonite prince and the prince's Midianite lover by making him part of the priesthood. God kills 24,000 Israelis. God tells Moses that he will die before reaching Canaan, and chooses Joshua to be the new leader. Why is God sometimes forgiving, but nevertheless punishes Moses, even though he is a passionate servant of God?

At our September meeting, David Speyer will present the d'var on *Ki Tavo*.

**Meeting Guests**

Steve welcomed the non-Board guests, and briefly explained the limits of their participation.

**Acceptance of Minutes**

A motion was made to accept the minutes from the June 4 meeting, it was seconded, and passed.

**Good and Welfare**

Condolences to: Jessica Baily on the death of her mother, Caren Fisher.

Refuah Shleimah to: Mitchell Fogelman, Dan Fogelman's father, who fell and broke his hip.  
Joe Dropkin, who is in the hospital.

Mazel Tov to: Lori and Matt Fraternali on the marriage of their son, Daniel, to Katie.

**Pledges and CJL Enrollment**

Steve Rubinstein presented an update on revenue, noting that we sent out the pledge letter to congregants a month earlier than in 2019. "This time last year we were nowhere. This year we're already somewhere."

Robin said that as of today there are 66 students registered for CJL. In the first month of 2019 enrollment, there were 38 students. Dan Theodore attributed the good response to a better online registration system. Steve Rubinstein said that "our relevance is elevated in times of crisis," i.e. impact of COVID-19. Rabbi Pein said that attendance has been more consistent since CJL went online.

**Personnel**

Steve announced that Donna is no longer working for TINW. The job description will be revisited, and then posted to find candidates.

**Health and Safety**

Steve reported that he has spoken with Dr. Eric Weinberg, a pediatrician who has become an expert on COVID-19. Steve said, "Just because something *can* be done doesn't mean it

*should* be done,” and announced a decision to not re-open the building at this time. “Until there’s a vaccine or until there’s a way to protect ourselves, we will remain closed.”

Glen Wolland stated that the Executive Board supported this decision completely. Steve praised the clergy and staff for pivoting so quickly and successfully in the face of all the challenges.

### **Listening Sessions**

Steve’s intention is to meet and hear from every congregant about their thoughts and feelings about TINW. The first group, hosted by Sue Feir, met last week. Michel Goldberg is putting together a group for the next Listening Session. Steve requested that other Board members think about inviting a group.

### **ChildrenSpace**

Steve said that they have asked to take another double room. “It makes a big difference to us to have ChildrenSpace here, so it’s important to do whatever we can to help them.” They re-opened on May 15.

### **Yorktown Property**

Glen reported that the Real Estate Committee met with three brokers, “I think we will be represented well by any of them.” All three proposed that TINW undertake a feasibility study as a next step, which will help determine a price for the property. The cost for the study is \$7,900. A vote was taken and all were in favor of using money from The Campaign for the Future to fund the study.

### **HHD Streaming / Zoom**

Steve showed a chart displaying the different HHD services, and asked who should receive what: should it depend on a donation? Being a TINW member? Pledge submitted?

Dan Theodore said we could have a link with a request for a donation, “but it’s not an appropriate time to ask for money.” Melissa Frey said that organizations that present free streamed events often see a rise in donations. Terri Ochs thinks everyone should receive the livestream, but could charge for “a more private Zoom meeting, like a discussion with Rabbi Jaech and Professor David Sperling.” Cantor Fogelman said that she’s thinking about making available a series of videos of the choir.

### **Board Member Goals**

Steve brought up the fact that each Board member must be part of (at least) one committee, and wanted to hear what people are thinking about. He called on each member to share what they are interested in; themes included keeping people connected and engaged, attracting more people to sustain TINW into the future, and making TINW relevant to people’s lives.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made, which was seconded. It was voted on, and the meeting concluded at 9:02 pm.

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 7:30pm**

**Please mark your calendar.**