

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

**September 5, 2019**

**Call to Order**

Steve Samuels welcomed Board members and called the meeting to order at 7:29pm. We continued the thumb ball activity, with a limit of 10 minutes. Several of the questions involved ethical decision-making, which prompted some serious thought and debate.

**D'Var Torah**

Melissa Frey delivered the summary of the *Shoftim* section (Deuteronomy 16:18-21) about Moses's instructions to the people prior to entering the Promised Land. For example, there must be two witnesses to any crime before the person is found guilty; no cutting down fruit trees so there is always food; reasons for being exempt from military duty; criteria for choosing a king.

Arlen Epstein will present the D'Var at the October meeting.

**Acceptance of Minutes**

A motion was made to accept the minutes as written from the July 11 meeting. The motion was seconded, and all were in favor.

**Good and Welfare**

Mazel Tov to: Beth and Mark Deckert on the birth of their granddaughter Andie Rose, daughter of Samantha and Riley Moeller; Millie and Richard Jasper on the engagement of their daughter Lily to Brandon Zaccardo; Laura and Gary Turco on the wedding of their son Ross Shahinian to Nicole (Cody) Berliner.

Condolences to: Stewart Frey on the death of his father Larry Frey; Hannah Gross on the death of her friend Janet Braunstein Foner; Peter Szendro on the death of his sister Judith Szendro; Roy Marcus on the death of his mother Lilian Marcus; Leslie Hochberg on the death of her uncle Tom O'Brian.

Refush Shleimah to: Carol Theodore's mother Elaine, currently in hospice.

**Treasurer's Update**

Dan Theodore is in the process of producing a full report. He did an analysis of pledges by date (26 days prior to the HHDs) vs. year ago: \$442K for 204 families vs. last year \$439K for 189 families. The current-year figures account for about 60% of total TINW families.

Average pledge amount is slightly lower. Arlen Epstein posited that the amounts are lower because families are including the new security fee as part of their pledge total rather than a separate line item. Robin Safarowic knows of only 4-5 people who did this.

We expect more pledges as the HHDs get closer.

## **Security**

- MG Security – Contract has been signed. Two security guards will rotate between Fri and Sat services, Sun and Wed CJL. They have already met the staff. They will wear appropriate clothing (not uniforms), and will be armed.
- Entry during HHD / Passes – Sent by email to each family, who need to print a copy for each family member, to be shown to security guard.

Robin explained the location and activation of the emergency buttons. Glen Wolland suggested that clear signage be placed at each button, e.g. “Push this button only in an emergency.”

- Community Security Services – Arlen spoke about this org which conducts security classes specifically for synagogues. 19 TINW members will attend the upcoming class at Temple Beth Shalom (Mahopac).

## **Cantor's Report**

The cantor announced that she is due in February and is making arrangements for coverage during her maternity leave. She will probably continue to work with bat/bar mitzvah students during this period.

## **CJL Report**

Rabbi Pein announced a new 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher as well as other new faculty. Ofek, our Israeli community volunteer from Hebrew Union College, will run a program for the hour between school end time and CJL start time; his background is in physical education.

Currently, 141 students are registered, and the number continues to grow; this is 95% of the expected registration. Majority of students are 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders. Twelve student volunteers have signed up (they have to be in 8<sup>th</sup> grade minimum *and* have become bat/bar mitzvah).

Presentation of TINW's policy about minimal requirements to qualify for bat/bar mitzvah. One recommendation was to require parents to fulfill attendance at four services, not just the child. There was considerable discussion about this. No vote was taken. Also, there was discussion around how to entice students to remain engaged after bat/bar mitzvah – not one of last year's class of 34 has registered for this year.

Rabbi Pein will revise the policy document and re-present in October.

## **Sitting on the bimah during HHD / calls to congregants**

Robin reminded that last year the Board signed up as hosts for the HHD and the judgment was that it was a successful action. She passed around a sign-up sheet for this year as well as sign-up sheets for sitting on the *bimah* and for presenting gifts at bat/bar mitzvah services throughout the year.

She explained the process of New Year calls: each Board member will get list of whom to call at their home number to wish them “good new year,” and encourage them to call if they have any questions or concerns. Once calls are made, let Robin know.

### **ADP- HR**

Steve has signed up with ADP for personnel services. They will begin by doing background checks on new faculty before the start of CJL. They will also work on producing a staff manual by next month.

### **Yorktown Update**

Glen stated that the negotiations with the potential buyer fell through. The Real Estate Committee agrees that we should engage a real estate broker and put the property on the market immediately.

### **Upcoming Events**

- 1st day of CJL – this Sunday, Sep. 8 (K-5<sup>th</sup> grades) and Wed., Sep. 11 (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades).
- Max Frey Eagle project – Sun., Sep 8, 12-5p, he'll be constructing a gaga pit. Materials are being delivered tomorrow. About half of the materials were donated by Dain's Lumber.
- Rosh Hashanah ambassadors, parking – Steve reminded everyone of what an ambassador is supposed to do, and that each person attending a service must have their own pass (not one per family).

### **Leadership Development**

Lori Fraternal spoke about the need for more people to be in line to be TINW leaders. She attended a leadership development course, and expressed the need for other potential candidates to do some of the course modules. She stressed that the modules are fun and informative. If interested – or you know someone who should be invited – contact Robin.

### **Youth Members**

Jack Eisinger said that they've had the first meeting. There will be two events per month – one that's service-oriented, one that's more social.

### **Adjournment**

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

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, October 3 at 7:30pm.