

Temple Israel of Northern Westchester  
Board Meeting Minutes  
February 2, 2017

**Call to Order:** At 7:41 p.m., Glen Wolland called the meeting to order. The names of those in attendance are included by reference within the list of attendees.

**D'var Torah:** Barry Feinberg delivered the D'var Torah. Michelle Neill will deliver D'var for March

**Acceptance of Minutes:** Norman moved to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded and all were in favor.

**Spring Fund Raiser/Raffle:** Sue announced that the "save the date" postcards were just mailed out for a "A Very Pleasant Evening," which will be at TINW on May 6th. We are on schedule. Food is being addressed with Robin. The Cantor and Eddie are working on the program. Joe Dropkin spoke about the fundraising component. We will be raffling off a lease to a Mercedes at \$100 tickets. Each board member is being asked to sell 3 tickets. Our maximum profit on this will be \$10,000.00. In the event that we do not sell enough tickets to raffle off the car, it will become a 50/50 raffle. Sue addressed that we will roll out the purchasing ability for the raffle and fundraiser early.

**Treasurers Report:** Arlen provided the report. Pledged amount is almost \$718,000, which is \$50,000 over our budget. We are 12 family member units ahead of where we budgeted. We have 354 member families. We had 353 at this time last year. The average pledge is \$2,028, which is \$66 more than last year's annual pledge. The CJL is ahead of budget. We have just under \$139,000 in CJL funds and we budgeted for 130,000. In February, the Finance Committee will have department heads present their budgets for 2018, with a goal to vote on those budgets in March. The Hanukkah-Thon raised \$31,303. We ended \$3,500 short of actual goal with 195 participants. We had 32 families that did not return as members from last year. We have an upcoming budget meeting with Rabbi Pein, Cantor, and the Building Committee.

**TINW Web Site:** Steve Samuels provided an update on our future website. A presentation was made by J-Village. A follow-up was had with Robin and Sandy concerning J-Manage, the business side of the program. Robin addressed that we need more information. Steve has been in touch with more users to get feedback. We are soon going to be picking the style of the front-end. Sandy participated in the finance demonstration.

**Acceptance of New Members:** Glen announced that we have one new member to submit to the board, Hannah Gross from Ossining. Evan moved to accept Hannah Gross, the motion was seconded and all were in favor.

**Yorktown update:** Glen provided the update concerning the tax exemption. We had a conference with our attorney that filed our certiorari petition. At the time that we got the notice on May 31, 2016, we were already required to pay the taxes. We can argue the amount, but we will very likely have to write a check to pay the full amount levied. The second issue that came out of the meeting is that ad hoc uses of the property were unlikely to satisfy the legal requirement. Our attorney has had success with a case similar to ours with a church. The church built a nature trail on the property. Mike Bogin, who has a 20-year relationship with the attorney for the town of Yorktown, has had a productive conversation with the attorney on behalf of TINW. Glen and Mike will meet with the attorney for the town and with the tax assessor. We advised that we want to work with the town within the law. This may or may not help us for 2016, but it should help us going forward. It is important for us to show up to the future meeting with a plan. A nature trail could be created in conjunction with the CJL. We can go into the meeting with a survey of the property, with a trail marked, and with a plan. We need somebody to oversee the project.

The second part of this update concerns the committee that has been entrusted to research how we should deal with the money donated within the Campaign for the Future. We have two options. Option 1 is to go back to each donor and request that they leave their donation with TINW free of conditions. Option 2 is that we go to the NYS Attorney General's office, pursuant to the Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act, and request permission to modify

any potential restriction that was placed on the gift. There will be a hearing. People have the right to be heard in order to object. Moral and ethical concerns were then raised during the board discussion, including that we should consider going back to the donors to seek their permission to use the funds for a use other than originally intended. Glen responded by addressing that the Attorney General route will not permit the funds to be used in our operating budget and that the AG may require the funds to be used for the capital budget, and, in essence be used for a similar purpose as the original goal, i.e. to improve our facility. Norman raised the idea that we should consider starting a new capital improvement campaign for 2018. Glen will speak further with the Finance Committee and with the sub-committee, while being mindful to not alienate current and past members, and to ensure that we feel good about our course of action.

**Vision and mission:** Glen commended the job that Barry and Evan have done to to draft of our new Vision and Mission statement with efficiency, thoroughness and passion. Following Glen's comments, all board members read the statement. Thereafter, Matt moved to accept the Vision and Mission statements, which motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

**The Shared Statement of Values (Rabbi Jaech)** – Croton houses of worship had a successful event. Six board members came to the opening event and four board members stayed with the congregational leaders. That meeting generated another list of values. Rabbi read the four sentences that the collective clergy felt captured the collective sentiments shared at the meeting: *We affirm that every life holds sacred value. We celebrate the diversity of humanity and uphold the practice of kindness and respect for all. We embrace our responsibility to work for justice and truth. We strive to grow in our understanding of each other and the challenges we face, and to live by the values we articulate.* A discussion ensued about the statements.

**Rabbi's Report:** We had over 200 people show up to the United Against Hate program on MLK, Jr. weekend that was held in Croton. We were also very close to assisting on an inter-faith basis to apply to bring a refugee family here. We are not giving up on the long-term goal of being able to help a family in need. In the last few weeks, many people have contacted Rabbi to reach out and ask how they can help on a social action level. Rabbi will be going to DC with the Confirmation class. The Briarcliff-Ossining Churches contacted Rabbi for assistance. The Clergy runs a shelter for men in the winter months. We have been asked to support the effort by housing men in the evening for one week (February 26th – March 4th) from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. A paid supervisor will be present with these men who will sleep here with sleeping bags and yoga mats. We will feed them dinner; make sure that they have breakfast, and a brown bag lunch. We will seek people to greet these folks, provide meals, and help these individuals.

**Cantor's Report:** In addition to the United Against Hate march, we brought the choirs to Mt. Olivet. Beautiful service. Standing room only in the church. A number of members of our congregation were present. We are preparing for a multi-generational service tomorrow, with Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. The service will honor Guy. Purim Shpiel is off to a great start. We hope to have you join us on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

**President's Report:** As of 3:45 p.m. this afternoon, our solar panel system is generating power. Thanks to a lot of help from Rabbi Pein, we now have a Youth Advisor. Betsy Dechert has agreed to take over the position. Both Betsy and the Youth Group are excited to work together. Robing Goldberg addressed the need to have an active Junior Youth Group for 6<sup>th</sup> graders and up. This could possibly get students more interested in staying on post-Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Last, Glen addressed that one week from today, he is leaving for the Scheidt Conference, run by the URJ, which educates temple presidents.

**Adjournment:** Evan moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20, which was seconded and all were in favor.