

Temple Israel of Northern Westchester
Board Meeting Minutes
January 12, 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: Norman Newman delivered the D'var Torah.

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

Good and Welfare: **Mazal Tov** to Harvey Harlem on the birth of his granddaughter; **Deaths** Sybil Mintz, aunt of Debra Janush; Robert Picciano, father of Ellen Roth; Ellen Kellerman, mother of Janine Mclear; Robin Bhavnani, sister of Tara Keiter; Sidney Fielden, father of Lynn Smith; Julia Curtis, mother of Linda Zinn; **Refuah Shleimah** Cherie Marcus.

Education Report: Rabbi Pein addressed that in order to have a vibrant school, our teachers have to be learners. At workshops attended by Rabbi Pein, our temple is the most represented by our teachers, who reflect that we are a learning community that can learn from one another and share ideas with each other. We also have a goal to increase a greater sense of community within the CJL.

Treasurers Report: Steve Rubinstein provided the report in lieu of Arlen. Pledged amount \$50,000 ahead of budget. We are 12 family member units ahead of where we budgeted. We have 352 member families. We had 353 at this time last year. The average pledge is \$75 higher than budgeted. Religious school fees \$7700 ahead of budget. 201 students. In February, the Finance Committee will have department heads present their budgets for 2018, with a goal to vote on the budgets in March.

Spring Fund Raiser: Sue addressed that "save the date" postcards were just mailed out. The date is May 6th and the event, named, "A Very Pleasant Evening," will be at TINW. It will include cocktails and dinner. Eddie is taking on a prominent role in the program. The program and music will be wonderful. Fundraising efforts will start as of tomorrow.

Hanukkah-thon update: Mark Casso addressed that the Hanukkah-thon is being concluded this week. We raised \$29,350 from 192 donors. We are short of our goal of \$36,000. We had 254 donors last year.

TINW Web Site: Steve Samuels provided an update on our future website. A demo from J-Village happened last weekend, which covered the back-end business. We are now in an evaluation mode with J-Village to probe their responsiveness and the quality of the program's functionality. A more extensive demo will be set up in the next few weeks.

URI – “The Tent”: Laura Copel spoke with us about “Yammer” (the mobile app platform) and “The Tent (URJ) Network.” The “Tent” is a social network for the Reform Jewish Community. Melissa Frey joined Laura to help lead the discussion and explain the benefits of this Jewish social platform.

President’s Report: Glen addressed that the solar work is completed. There was one transformer that was bad. It has since been replaced. We will soon start generating solar power.

Yorktown Property – We haven’t heard anything back from the Yorktown attorneys. In the spirit of being proactive, we are planning for worst case scenario and setting up a meeting with our attorney, Mike Bogin, Jim Rice, Evan and Glen to strategize how we will proceed concerning the loss of the tax exemption and we lose the grievance concerning the tax valuation. That meeting will take place in the next week or two. We do have a relationship with the Yorktown attorney to speak directly. On a parallel course, Lynn Fielden-Smith is running a sub-committee of the Finance Committee that will continue to meet to determine our options regarding any monies that could result from the sale of the property.

Norman addressed a meeting he attended at CSI concerning the Westchester Refugee Committee, which would like to bring a family into Ossining.

Glen addressed that the Brotherhood would like to see the entire Board of Trustees at Comedy Night.

We are getting ready to roll out the “Thriving Synagogue Learning Tool”. Glen will be putting together a team of 2-4 people to liaise with the community. This is a survey. It takes about 15 minutes to complete. We must have 100% board member participation.

Rabbi’s Report: Rabbi joined the meeting and began a discussion concerning what the core values are of our community. As we prepare for our interfaith discussion on Sunday, Rabbi asked us to consider and state the core values that we stand for at Temple Israel. The list of core values that were discussed is appended to the minutes.

Croton Clergy – Core Values – Sunday Program: We will meet at Asbury Church at 12:30. The workshop for board members will start at 1 p.m.

Adjournment: Evan moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and all were in favor.