

Temple Israel of Northern Westchester, Board Meeting Minutes, September 8th

Call to Order: At 7:35 Glen Wolland called the meeting to order.

D'var Torah: given by Sue Feir, October, Evan Janush, November, Steve Krisky

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

New Member Families: Susan Arbeit & Chris Yerkes, Adam & Stephanie Dunn, Kevin & Elexis Koch, Diana & Kalvin Kolev, Lori & Larry Merker, Allisson & Naveen Murthy, Michelle & Brian Platt, Mike & Laura Polizzi, Jeanette & David Sandor, Sarah and Steven Schnall, Michael Goldberg & Cathleen Baker, Marta & Gary Flaum (returning), Rhonda & Jeffrey Berkowitz (returning)

Good and Welfare:

Mazal Tov: To Norman and Marilyn on the birth of their granddaughter, Layla Jocelyn. To Lynn Bogin who earned her PHD in psychological counseling.

Refuah Shleimah: Muriel Helbraun

Deaths: Edward Blumberg, father of Andrew Blumberg, Cesia Blitzer, grandmother of Daniel Schwartz, Mother of Helena Schwartz, Zach Bassin, son of Alfred and Phyllis Bassin, Judy Schwartz, sister of Sally Schechter, Laurence Hertz, father of Judy Wexler, David Gittleman, husband of Alexandra and Father of Daniel and James Gittleman, Stuart d'Adolf, husband of Lila d'Adolf, Sidney Decker, father of Andy Decker.

URJ Biennial will be held in Boston, December 2017. Board members, interested in attending, should speak to Glen Wolland. If TINW submits eight registrations we will be an official delegation. Ellen Greeley and Carolyn Kunin, congregants, then gave a presentation, on behalf of Reform Jewish Voice, about a proposed resolution concerning Gerrymandering and Redistricting. The resolution calls for interfaith and government organizations to advocate in state legislators for legislation that transforms power to create both state and congressional districts to a nonpartisan/bipartisan commission. Support of this resolution would allow a committee to work on this issue resulting in a vote at the Biennial.. The board voted to support the resolution, 17 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention

Scout Shabbat: Congregant Michael Lewis and Board Member, Melissa Frey, asked the board to sponsor a "Scout Shabbat". Local boy and girl scout troops would be invited (probably in February) to attend and participate in a Shabbat Service. This is a good opportunity for Scouts to learn about Judaism and for us to support scouting. Discussion ensued regarding the Scout's position, LBGTQ rights, Melissa Frey affirmed that the Scouts bi-laws are inclusive to everyone. The board recommended supporting a Scout Shabbat Service.

Refugee Banner: Steve Samuels spoke about making our temporary banner "Welcoming the Stranger" permanent. He suggested using vinyl letters over our entrance way. Rabbi Jaech will suggest a few biblical quotes and the Building Committee will review.

Director of Community Engagement: Glen Wolland and Steve Samuels together announced that a congregant will make a sizeable, multi-year commitment to fund a new staff position, which will be a "Director of Community Engagement." The donor wants to ensure, "we remain here." The staff position will focus on outreach to the current membership and the community at large using a variety of outreach mechanisms including social media.

Rabbi's Report: Rabbi Jaech began with a "thank you" for board support of her professional development. This past summer she attended a writing workshop at Kenyon College for interfaith leaders. Rabbi Jaech reviewed the High Holy Day schedule including a Community Dinner on September 22nd.

Cantor's Report: Cantor Ellerin announced that this year we will welcome new soloists and a new cellist for the High Holy Day Services. This past summer he advised our lay leaders on conducting services and was able himself to attend services elsewhere, an important part of his professional development.

Education Director Report: Rabbi Pein announced the official opening of the CJL is September 10th. At the time of this meeting we have 184 registered students. In addition many teen events have been planned.

Financial Report: Arlen Epstein announced that as of late August we had 214 pledges, an average being \$2230 per year.

Administrator's Report: Robin Safarowic said that we have invited the homeless to come and stay with us for two consecutive weeks in December. She will be coordinating the meals for all of the participating Houses of Worship. Robin also announced that in the future email correspondences to the Board of Trustees will always include "Board Communication" in the subject. For the second year we are continuing to deliver hospitality baskets to new members. The feedback has been very positive.

President's Report: Glen Wolland announced that Live Streaming of our services is up and running. He spoke briefly about the results of the Brandeis University "Profile of Thriving" membership survey. Our response rate was higher than average, and the survey highlighted both strengths and areas for growth. A letter will be sent to former members inviting them back as returning members. Norman Newman drafted the letter and Glen Wolland will review and the letter will be sent out the following week. There will be a board retreat in the late fall moderated by the URJ.

Sisterhood: Sisterhood Co-President, Andrea Wertheimer said "get your babka orders in". This is a huge fundraiser for the Sisterhood.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Submitted by Sue Feir.