

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

**June 4, 2020**

**Welcome and Call to Order**

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

**Introductions**

Steve Samuels asked everyone to give their name, where they were born, how long they've been a member of TINW, and one fun thing about themselves or something that others would probably not know about themselves.

**D'var Torah**

Rob Falk spoke on Numbers 4:21 – 7:89 *Naso*, which means *Take a census*, and is about census taking of men 30-50 years old in certain clans, what to do with ritually unclean people, and the obligations of one who vows service to God.

The July D'var Torah presenter will be Alan Brott.

**Acceptance of Minutes**

A motion was made to accept the minutes from the May 7 meeting, it was seconded, and passed.

**Good and Welfare**

Condolences to: the family of long-time TINW member Charlie Linz.

Mazel tov to: Rabbi Wendy Pein for completing an Executive Master's degree in Jewish Education, from Hebrew Union College.

**Board Responsibilities**

Steve reminded everyone to read and understand the document that covers this area. "You're a Temple leader [and how you behave] is looked at by the congregation." Decisions that we make require respect and realization that each of us is part of a Sacred Community.

**Estelle Linz Award**

Steve Rubinstein gave background information about awardee Alan Brott, "a voice of reason" of value and respect in our community. Alan spoke about joining TINW, and a turning point in his (Jewish) awareness and life due to something Rabbi Emerita Helene Ferris said to him.

**Re-Opening Protocols**

Rather than creating a committee to address this, Steve Samuels announced that a few Board members will study the issues, consulting experts in the congregation as needed (e.g., medical, security, legal...) "We were quick to close the building, we'll be slower re-opening it in order to be careful."

**B'Nai Mitzvah Scheduling**

Rabbi Jaech talked about families wanting to move their dates, and the need to develop principles to address this situation. She wants to 1) strongly urge families to keep their scheduled date, 2) no longer hold dual ceremonies, but separate them on the same date: one at 10:30am, the other at 1:00pm, 3) families planning for events in the future can use the online calendar to reserve an open date.

Janine McLear commented on how beautiful her son's bar mitzvah was, despite the non-traditional aspects. She offered to speak with any family who may be having considerations.

Michael Goldberg asked how these principles will be communicated to CJL families. Rabbi Jaech stressed that the hope is that families will keep their scheduled date, and that the principles will help to maintain consistency.

### **High Holy Days**

Rabbi Jaech said that this is another thing that is not going to be "normal" this year. She mentioned that usually there's little time to spend together because of the need to quickly return prayer books and get to cars. Since the ceremonies will be virtual, she wants to create opportunities for small group discussions. Cantor Fogelman wants to work with bandleader Brian Gelfand to record the choir.

David Speyer asked whether a special pdf will be made from the HHD prayer book for congregants. Rabbi Jaech replied that she would like to make the service such that there is no need for any kind of prayer book. However, we hope that the Ritual Committee will deliver a prayer book to any congregant who wants one.

Norman Newman asked if there will be a Book of Life. Rabbi replied that a physical version is possible, but it might also be on the website. Norman reminded that this is an income source.

### **Rabbi Professional Development**

Over her summer break, Rabbi Jaech will continue working with a professional writing coach. "Of course, I always have a long list of summer reading." She will also be taking a course on Greek and Roman mythology.

### **Yorktown Property**

Glen Wolland reported that 3 real estate brokers are interested, and will meet with the committee next week. He hopes to be able to select one of them after those meetings.

### **Paycheck Protection Program**

Steve Samuels announced that the 8-weeks period has been extended to 24 weeks.

Conversations with all TINW members will begin shortly, with the focus on what TINW means to each person.

### **Response to Racism**

Steve Samuels asked people to read the attachments emailed earlier this week, especially the one called "White Tears."

Norman Newman commented about the lack of social distancing at protests. Rabbi Jaech said that she attended a rally in Peekskill where everyone wore a mask. Norman also suggested that there be a national database of police who have had instances of committing brutality, so that they cannot move to another state and continue the same behavior.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made, which was seconded. It was voted on, and the meeting concluded at 8:56 pm.

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, July 9, 2020 at 7:30pm**

**Please mark your calendar.**