

Temple Israel of Northern Westchester
Board Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2018

Call to Order: At 7:34 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: Helen Lynn delivered the D'var Torah. Lynn Bogin for March, Neal Freiman for April and Alan Brott for May.

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

Good and Welfare: Refluah Shleimah: Anne Beier; **Deaths:** Richard Weintraub, brother of Bobbie Seewald; **Mazel Tov to:** Ethan Lewis received a full scholarship to Tulane.

Introduction – Director of Community Engagement: Glen introduced Michelle Minoff as our new Director of Community Engagement. Michelle spoke about her goals to: (1) survey our temple community about all of the communications that are going out; (2) improve/streamline communications; (3) improve our use of social media; (4) establish best practices guidelines to be more specific and careful about what we say and how we engage in messaging; (5) establish benchmarks for our measurement tools to measure success/efficacy of our social media work; (6) new database to enhance our customer relationship management databases; and (7) go through the Learning Tool Survey to utilize results as a jumping off point to probe members of the community. Michelle asked the Board to look at the posts on Facebook and to participate by liking, commenting and sharing the posts.

Yorktown Property/Campaign for the future: We are maintaining our tax-exempt status. The trail has been created. The first cleanup has happened. We have to put up our trail markers. We are now considering how we must treat the funds that were raised for the Yorktown property through the *Campaign for the Future*. Lynn Fielden-Smith spoke about the history of the fundraising efforts concerning TINW's intended move dating back to the 2000's. Lynn next addressed the topic concerning, "what happens to the donated funds if and when we sell the land?" There are two situations under which the organization can keep the donated funds. The donors can permit TINW to keep the funds and the donors release the restrictions for the use of the funds. Alternatively, Courts have allowed institutions to keep the funds and Courts have released or modified a restriction on the funds if the restrictions have become impracticable or wasteful, or if the restrictions impair the management or investment of the fund, or if, because of circumstances not anticipated by the donor, a modification of a restriction will further the purposes of the fund. If we followed this route, we would need to: apply to the Court; notify the donors; notify the Attorney General; and the modification, to the extent practicable, has to be made in accord with the donors' probable intention. Lynn proposed that TINW hire an attorney with

expertise in this area in order to address our legal obligations to: (i) track down donors; (ii) heirs of donors; (iii) sell the land before addressing these issues; or (iv) can we commence this process while we still own the land? Glen sought consensus from the Board as to whether the Board feels that we should hire an attorney to investigate this process further. Neal moved “to provide funding to hire an attorney to examine whether we can legally repurpose the money that was for the Campaign for the Future’s land.” The motion was seconded and all were in favor.

Cantor Search Update: Glen provided an update concerning the work of the Search Committee and he thanked the Committee for all of the work that has been done thus far. A brief discussion ensued regarding whether the committee has had an opportunity to review the feedback that was sought from the entire temple community. Evan explained that the Committee has received and reviewed all feedback.

Nominating Committee: Glen addressed the need to form a Nominating Committee. Michelle Neill volunteered to be the Chair.

Spring Fundraiser Update: Lori asked the Board for two favors. First, Lori asked the Board to make a donation of a basket to the event so that the Board can create a basket filled with hundreds of dollars of lottery scratch-off tickets. Next, Lori asked for the Board to reach out to people for big ticket items, including people who have a second home to donate a weekend away; a golfing foursome; hotel stays; airline miles; sporting tickets, etc.

Code of Ethics: Steve Samuels spoke entitled, “MeToo# as WeToo#,” a program addressing the power imbalance that happens at temples as well. Steve brought back to TINW an exemplar “Ethics Code for Jewish Leaders” created by Sacred Spaces. Steve proposed that TINW should adopt our own Code of Ethics for all leaders to be bound by. Steve further discussed that we must also have a mechanism and a protocol to address what shall happen when certain infractions occur. We must avoid situations in which we are making rules up on an *ad hoc* basis. Andrea Wertheimer responded that the Sisterhood is interested in running a workshop program on the topic of creating a safe workplace. Sylvana addressed her professional experience on this topic, including having addressed issues of abuse within synagogues. In doing so, Sylvana, in accord with Steve’s prior comments, addressed the importance of having rules to address these situations when they occur.

Reports:

- **Rabbi** – Our choir and our cantor represented TINW with great distinction at two MLK events (one in Croton and one in Peekskill). A benefit of getting out into the community is that one of our new village Board of Trustee members, Sherry Horowitz, came to TINW and visited Rabbi. Rabbi participated in her very first Webinar meeting for the Women of Reform Judaism concerning the State of Reproductive Rights, which commemorated the anniversary of *Roe v.*

Wade. Rabbi addressed that she has been busy with the Cantor Search, which is going well. Rabbi is very excited about having Michelle join our team as the Director of Community Engagement. Additionally, Rabbi is extremely excited to go on the Civil Rights trip next week.

- **Cantor:** We are gearing up for Purim. We are happy to announce that the Shpiel theme is “Esther, a Persian Story”. Our parody is inspired by Hamilton. We purchased the rights to this Shpiel. Our goal is to involve a lot more of our music-related resources in our Shpiel. We have a great cast. We are involving Hallel B’Shir, the Glee Club and Selah. Purim falls on Wednesday, February 28th. This will coincide with our CJL session. We will have a community dinner. Cantor invited everyone to come eat and stay for the comedy. Approximately 40 people are participating. Separately, Cantor is looking into utilizing the “One License” service. Through this service, URJ and Trans-Continental Music Licensing can grant us the rights to use music and archive our streamed services.
- **President:** Planned Giving sub-committee created. This is vital for our temple. We’ve been talking about it for years and it is time to get us moving in the right direction. Glen had a fantastic breakfast with all but one of the past temple presidents *that are still alive*. Glen shared challenges that he has faced and asked the past presidents to share the challenges that they faced during their terms. It was a fulfilling breakfast. At this breakfast, Glen discussed the current By-Law rules that the Past-President serves on the Executive Committee for 9 years following their presidency. The general reaction is that we need to propose an amendment to the TINW By-Laws. Glen read the Education Report.

Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded. All were in favor. The meeting concluded.