

Temple Shalom Board of Trustees Meeting

December 5, 2023 7:30pm

@Temple Shalom

Members Present:

Lory Rothstein
Diane Rosenthal
Amy Katz
Howard Seiler
Martin Gitlin
Dan Guller
Steven Kaplan
Cecilia Mesh
Lisa Hayes
Mona Brown
Ryan Johnson
Jeff Pivor
Lisa Pomeranz
Eric Przybisiki
Sarah LeMieux
Lisa Mastrotta
Marcus Forman
Karen Cummins
John Church

Others Present:

Rabbi/Cantor Shirah Sklar
Rabbi Jason Greenberg
Executive Director Stacey Cohen

Lory Rothstein called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM

Rabbi/Cantor Shirah Sklar delivers the opening prayer..

CLERGY REPORT

Rabbi/Cantor Shirah - last month was very active with:

The benefit concert for Israel

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Combating Anti-semitism in college

Upcoming, there is a presentation by Gil Harel on Leonard Bernstein - Dec. 17

Rabbi Jason Greenberg - Bingo was a success

Latke throwdown - Shabbat, Friday Dec. 8 - please attend

Menorah lightings all over Fairfield County

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Lory began with a thank for those who donated to contribute in memory of Jordyn's mother, may her memory be a blessing. 18 trees were planted in Israel and a donation was made to Gan Yeladim in her name.

Last month, they had discussed an Executive session for tonight. Matters related to this are still being worked on so the Executive Session will be rescheduled for the Jan. 9 meeting.

Email is the primary means of communication h– please check your emails.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Broadcasting security – Marty Gitlin spoke about the security implications about broadcasting. We do broadcast to our Facebook page. These broadcasts result in positive engagements with our brand. Members of the broadcast team will meet with the security committee with the goal to continue to raise presence on social media without compromising our security.

Security Committee – Howard Seiler spoke about the current security measures being taken. Night locks have been installed on interior doors throughout the building. The next step is to create trainings for the congregation for awareness on appropriate steps to take in an emergency.

Preschool Governance – Sarah LeMieux spoke about a complaint escalation and resolution structure for parents and staff. This may entail formalizing a currently informal staff role below the director-level for the complaint escalation steps. There is also a focus on staff training and development. There is an opportunity to provide an online training for free through a reputable provider. Finally, an update on security protocols was provided.

Personnel Committee – Lisa Mastrotta spoke about the goal to create an Employee Handbook; we are currently negotiating the terms with OperationsInc, the potential vendor. Lory Rothstein will project manage the Handbook, Stacey and staff will be heavily involved, and Personnel committee will review before signing off.

Advancement Committee – Lory Rothstein said there were nearly 50 adults on Saturday evening and nearly 50 participants as families the next day for the two bingo events hosted by the Temple.

Lisa Hayes said that the Gala will be Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024. The fundraising piece of the Gala is the silent auction.

To-do: **Each Board member** donate one or two auction items.

Lisa Mastrotta and Audra Good will put together a list of places that have been approached so we don't duplicate efforts.

Save the date cards will be going out soon.

Membership/Marketing Committee – Karen Cummins discussed the most recent marketing committee meetings. It is important to connect with the Marketing Committee prior to each event being announced to make sure it is promoted. The Committee discussed generating content for revamping our Instagram presence, as well as how to revamp the newsletter. One overarching Marketing goal, that overlaps with the Membership Committee, is promoting our events outside of our own ecosystem.

Donation campaign Committee – Cecilia Mesh stated that the campaign has a launch date of Feb. 3. The intent is to launch the campaign at the Gala. There is lots of subcommittee work to do between now and then.

DECISIONS

Approval of the Minutes:

Lisa Mastrotta moved to pass the minutes of the Nov. meeting.

Marcus Forman seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn from Cecilia Mesh.

Seconded by Lisa Mastrotta

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Church

Secretary