

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Meeting 2/13/2023**

Call to Order 8:10 pm

Zoom Attendance: Hillary Elkins, Bob Goldwin, Sandee Levin, Diana Lewis, Bret Maxwell, Marjorie Maxwell, Rosalyn Mohktarian, Amy Offenbach, Neil Rosengard, Edna Schrank, Dan Sher

Executive Board: Cheryl Braude (via Zoom), Linda Foster, Howard Freidin, Suzy Hakimian, Ellen Grossman, Sue Lampert, Arlen Lasinsky, Steve Lessman, Raymond Rokni, Robyn Rosengard (via Zoom), Randy Samborn, Seth Schrank, Bill Shulman (excused), Tanya Solomon (via Zoom), Bob Spector, Andy Wagner (excused), Jackie Zelkowitz

Attendance: Judy Balter, Harold Dembo, Rick Dissen, Steve Elisco, Annie Goldman, Andy Lebovitz, Jill Olefsky, Leslie Rogoff, Fern Roseman, Elana Schrank, Brad Shaps, Laura Shulman, Howard Sigal, Jay Silver, Charlotte Stern, Sara Weinstein, Adam Weinstock, Alan Zelkowitz

Past Presidents: Michael Balter, Larry Grossman, Tami Rokni, Glen Roter, Debbie Solomon,

Past presidents via Zoom: David Hakimian

Clergy and Staff: Rabbi Melman, Rabbi Chapman, Michael Garlin, Susan Karlinsky, Leann Blue Michael Schneider, Stacy Ybarra

Clergy and staff excused: Cantor Stoehr

Excused: Jack Knopoff, Alyssa Weisbach, Lily Zoberman

Absent: Jim Donenberg, Ari Footlik, Mitch Padnos, Alan Shapiro,

Past Presidents Absent: Barbara Gelfeld, Joel Greenman, Fred Katzenstein, Donald Levine, Leonard Mason, Howard Michaels, Brian Miller, Barbara Petasnick, Henry Rabinowitz, Marc Schwartz, Jerry Stanton, Joe Wolke, Michael Zaransky

- D'var Torah presented by Rabbi Chapman
  - Rabbi discussed this past weekend there was an Artist in Residence, Caroline Rothstein. 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders, mechina students, worked on writing "praise poetry".
  - Rabbi shared an excerpt from one of Caroline's poems. Caroline encourages us to be expansive in how we think about G-d, and spirituality and don't be afraid when spirituality gets "messy."

- Motion to approve January minutes. Jill Olefsky asked if we needed addendum to January minutes with nominating committee members. We will include committee member names in the February minutes.
- January Minutes Approved
  
- President's Report
  - Bob shared with BOT that Cantor Stoehr's mother passed away.
  - Bob hasn't formed a Cantor Shenei exploratory committee yet. He will start after strategic plan is completed.
  - Bob is starting new item at BOT meeting –“Mission Moment”. Share experiences that are exciting, affirming and send to Bob before BOT meetings. Bob talked about CBS religious school students participating in services a few weeks ago.
  
- Executive Director Report-Michael Garlin
  - Change in staffing. Pamela resigned from the religious school administrative position. This position will not be filled for the end of the school year.
  - Library is missing a library committee and a person to run the library because Pamela resigned
  - Calendar information "wish list" due to Michael by February 22<sup>nd</sup>. First calendar meeting March 1st
  - JNF having a breakfast program at North Suburban Synagogue Beth El Wednesday March 22<sup>nd</sup>. We have been asked to have a table, need volunteers.
  
- Tanya Solomon, immediate Past President-nominating committee
  - Members of the nominating committee are: Bob Spector, Tanya Solomon, Jackie Zelkowitz-Sisterhood, Steve Lessman-Men's club, Neil Rosengard, Lily Zoberman, Debbie Solomon, Sue Lampert, Roz Mokhtarian, Hillary Elkins, Jill Olefsky.
  - Executive committee slate is completed. Contacting current BOT members to see if they are interested in staying on the board. Tanya thanked everyone on the committee and BOT for their time and effort.
  - Bob thanked Tanya and the committee for their energy and thoughtfulness to help create the best possible board.

Stephane Pessis Weil led a group activity. Everyone picked a picture or word that represented their connection to the synagogue. Stephanie said that the board members are the “story tellers” of the organization and that it is hard work being on the BOT. Stephanie encourages us to remember the picture/word that connects us to CBS.

Stephanie will help the synagogue with governance, strategic planning and communication.

Governance-Debbie Solomon reported that she has reached out to USCJ and will reach out to others for guidance.

Jill Olefsky has looked at synagogues in the area to see what their boards look like.

Governance committee will look at how the board functions and if we need to decrease the size of the BOT.

Strategic Planning-reviewing information from BOT retreat. Want this to be a “working board”

Strategic Planning Initiatives:

1. Achieve and maintain financial sustainability
2. Enhance religious participation, congregant spirituality, and community
3. Align programming to meet community’s needs
4. Re-create our resources and infrastructure to support our needs and aspirations
5. Effectively connect with our members and the broader community
6. Develop a governance structure and leadership experience that stewards the organization

Tami indicated we are trying to have one vision. Communication group will look at how we can improve this area. We want every member to feel like they belong and that they have given and received value.

- Had a meeting with the staff today, we want them to feel valued and that their expertise can be shared.
- One outcome so far is the creation of the executive VP position.
- Hope to be able to present by April/May of this year.

## VP Reports

- Membership – Sue Lampert
  - No verbal report
  
- Programming – Randy Samborn
  - No verbal report
  
- Sisterhood – Jackie Zelkowitz
  - No verbal report

- Men's Club – Steve Lessman, Andy Wagner
  - Men's club-Lox Box March 12
  - 2023 Kavod honoree is Norm Padnos. Shabbat April 15-50<sup>th</sup> year of the Kavod award. All past honorees will be invited.
  
- Ritual Committee – Bill Shulman
  - No verbal report
  
- Youth – Seth Schrank
  - Michael Schneider reported to the BOT that the Purim Carnival is March 5<sup>th</sup>. He needs volunteers and also is looking for raffle prizes.
  
- School – Robyn Rosengard
  - No verbal report
  
- Social Action – Suzy Hakimian
  - March is an action word. A month to do!
  - We are involved with Maot Chitim, food pantry, animal shelter.
  - April 16 is Mitzvah day.
  - Involved with HIAS. They will connect us with an immigrant family. We will need to do fundraising, set up an apartment and mentor the family.
  - The synagogue has donate \$1000 for emergency assistance for Turkey/Syria earthquake victims. Money came from the Sophie Binstein tzedakah fund.
  - If interested in giving checks to the Northfield food Pantry, please give them to Fern Roseman.
  
- Finance committee-Cheryl Braude, Howard Freidin, Ray Rokni
  - Ray reported:
    - Membership has collected 97% of what is budgeted.
    - School-budget 178 students, actual 176. K-2 budget 30, actual 41.
    - Preschool "Little Ones" has signed a 5 year lease for classroom rentals
    - Filed for another \$150,000 FEMA grant
    - Positive for revenue for year end. Will meet expenses per budget.

- Fundraising: Ellen Grossman
  - Annual event will be June 11<sup>th</sup>, Sunday night.
  
- House Committee – Arlen Lasinsky
  - No verbal report

Rabbi Chapman noted he will be at a table representing Beth Shalom at the Northsuburban YMCA cultural fair Sun February 26<sup>th</sup> from 3-5.

- Old Business
  - No Old Business
  
- New Business
  - Jill Olefsky noted that May 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> will be the formal installation of Rabbi Chapman
  
- Good and Welfare
  - Linda read a thank you note from Edna Schrank
  
- Meeting moved to adjourn at 9:30 pm by Arlen Lasinsky    Second by Fern Roseman

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Foster