

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Meeting April 13, 2020
(Via Zoom)

Call to Order 8:13 pm

Attendees: Tanya Solomon, Raymond Rokni, Laura Shulman, Randy Samborn, Ellen Grossman, Howard Freidin, Alan Zelkowitz, Sara Weinstein, Dan Sher, Teri Robins, Cheryl Braude, Marjorie Maxwell, Debbie Solomon, Steven Elisco, Robyn Rosengard

Judy Balter, Debbie Bell, Ifaat Bosse, Harold Dembo, Rick Dissen, Suzy Hakimian, Myra Holman, Susan Lampert, Arlen Lasinsky, Sandee Levin, Diana Lewis, Bret Maxwell, Wes Nissen, Jill Olefsky, Norman Padnos, Fern Roseman, Jill Roter, Seth Schrank, Brad Shaps, Beth Sher, Bill Shulman, Lee Shulman, Howard Sigal, Bob Spector, Stephen Zaacks, Harry Zoberman

Michael Balter, Joel Greenman, Larry Grossman, David Hakimian, Jack Knopoff, Howard Michaels, Brian Miller, Tami Rokni, Glen Roter, Marc Schwartz, Michael Zaransky, Lily Zoberman

Excused:

Absetn: Jim Donenberg, Fred Blitt, Ari Footlik, Karyn Liss, Steve Warshawsky,

Staff: Rabbi Melman, Cantor Stoehr, Rabbi Ferratier, Michael Garlin, Susan Karlinsky, Eric Golberg, Stacy Ybarra, Leanne Blue

- D'var Torah Rabbi Melman
 - “The whole world is a narrow bridge, but the essence is to not be afraid.” We all find ourselves in a narrow place right now, but we need to hold on to these words and try not to be afraid and we’ll be able to sing once again.
- Approval of February Minutes and Committee Reports
 - Correction – Susan Lampert’s name was spelled wrong.

Passed unanimously

- President’s Report: Tanya Solomon
 - Motion to push the CBS Annual Meeting from May 18, 2020 to a date to be determined in June in order to allow us to hold the meeting in our building.
 - Discussion – Because of the possibility that we cannot meet in person in the building.
 - Seconded: Rick Dissen

- Thank you to all our clergy, staff, and lay leaders for all of the great work that they do.
- Nominating Committee Report: Debbie Solomon
 - The slate has been shared. Thank you to the committee who worked to put the slate together.
- Committee Reports
 - Fundraising: Ray Rokni
 - We have to delay the fundraising honoring Rabbi Melman to October 18, 2020. The entertainment is still able to be there.
 - A lot of the fundraising had been collected. About 200 people had already signed up before it was moved. We have about 24 sponsors at this point.
 - House Report: Laura Shulman
 - We are going to hold on projects that were going to be discussed at the March meeting that had to be cancelled including the replacement of the HVAC for the library.
 - Membership: Randy Samborn
 - Presented the formal launch of “Affinity Groups” which will be called Yachad, meaning together. Program will create new opportunities to enhance personal connections and make them stronger by uniting small groups of people with similar interests. They will strengthen relationships with each other and the synagogue and will enhance recruitment and retention efforts. Examples, hiking, Israeli conversation, canasta, etc., etc. Michael Garlin was able to secure a \$5000 grant to seed the program from Rabbi Wolkin’s fund.
 - Discussion: Differ from the Chavurah program in that they were focused on Jewish life and synagogue connection whereas this is to connect around activities that they enjoy that might not have a connection to Judaism or the synagogue but connect them to each other and thus the synagogue.
 - Programming: Ellen Grossman
 - We will not have any further speakers this year. Given the situation we have decided not to plan anything until January 2021; there are so many variables right now that the committee felt it made sense to plan for later when things were more settled.

- Leanne Blue added that adult education classes on line are going great. Many more people are participating than expected.
- Ritual: Howard Freidin
 - Thanks to the efforts of the Clergy we have continued to have services every morning and evening. We have at least as many and often times more people than we have in person.
 - The Ritual Director search has been put on hold due to the current financial and world situation. We will hire a B’Nai Mitzvah coordinator and will hire a Ritual Director in the future. Duties outside of b’nai mitzvah coordinating and tutoring will be shared with clergy.
 - B’nai Mitzvahs are still on schedule to release 2022-23 dates in early May and to have an early planning meeting probably via Zoom.
- School: Alan Zelkowitz
 - Schools been going great. Stacy Ybarra and her teachers, with the support of Rabbi Warner, have been working hard and reaching out to the students and families.
 - Stacy added that they have created a craft for kids to pick up. Eric Golberg has been helping with crafts and videos. Zoom classes are going well. Zoom meetings are invitation only for security purposes. We are having 75-80% attendance, which is better right now than it is typically in person.
- Social Action: Sara Weinstein
 - We delivered 24 food bags for Hunger Free Northbrook in March and 27 more bags in April. We need a handful more food bags for May.
 - We have made financial donation to PADS because they have moved their residents to hotels.
 - ARC has been making food deliveries but having some difficulty having ARC shoppers go to the grocery store and shop.
 - Northfield Food Pantry has a lot of open shifts in May if you are your kids are available and interested in helping.
- Youth: Dan Sher
 - Eric has been doing a phenomenal job for youth and families during this time. CHUSY has looked at what he’s done and following his lead.

- Eric Goldberg shared the Youth Dept has had a great month: lots of virtual activities with the Youth and families including a cooking class, tot Shabbat, etc. We've been hanging out with alumni over Zoom and been having programming every day for USY. Rabbi Warner has been helping with a weekly parsha discussion and how it relates to teens. Wednesday nights there is a discussion about Israel and Thursday is a virtual lounge night.
 - CHUSY held its spring convention online. CBS USY brought home 4 programming awards – most of any chapter - and Chapter of the Year.
 - We had three CBS members elected to the regional board Jeffrey Gittles, President; Ashly Starr, Regional VP, and Brandon Wagner, Social Action/Tikkun Olam
- Men's Club: Steve Elisco
 - Distinct Honor that 2020 Kivod Recipient is Ray Rokni.
 - Blood Drive is moving forward with new protocols for social distancing, including strictly holding appointment times, two stage check-in including a COVID screen, no open food/drinks. Currently there are 62 signed up and there are only 3 slots open. We have 10 people who are not members of the congregation but are coming from the community. Could be the largest drive in years in these uncertain times. Could use 4 more volunteers because some of the older volunteers have decided they cannot help this year.
- Financial/Budget Update: Cheryl Braude
 - Ideally we would present a budget to review and then discuss next month. We have spent hours talking about various pieces of the budget. We have decided not to present now because it is still a moving target. Everyone will receive a budget prior to the May budget with some explanation and there will be an opportunity to discuss prior to and at the meeting.
 - Susan Karlinsky filed for the PPP grant under the SBA, which was tremendous work. We have been approved for \$385,000 to cover a couple months of payroll and allows us to retain our staff. There are some reporting rules and assuming we spend it according the requirements, which is the intent, it will all be forgiven.
 - YTD financials – there are still dues to collect, and will probably will not be collecting all we expect to be collecting. On the flip side there are savings that are being recognized as a result of the building being closed. We are on track for breaking even this year even without the PPP money.

- Discussion: preschool is planning on paying, but having some difficulties; fundraising event collections are being pushed to next fiscal year; because there are members who pay monthly are income stream is in fact being impacted by the pandemic
 - Office staff is working from home fairly efficiently. Maintenance staff is working a few hours a day. We are committed to pay all of our staff, including teachers and madrichim. The purpose of the PPP grant is to keep people employed.
- Executive Director Report: Michael Garlin
 - I am in the building every day to get mail, check the building, etc. Maintenance staff is working alone doing deep cleaning. Staff all misses each other, but all working hard at home. Never worked harder with no one walking into the building.
 - Part of the rules of the grant is that we cannot fire anyone. You will see the budget before the next board meeting; we have to do the work to protect against the unknown.
- Rabbi Melman
 - We are sad to report that our regular security guard Gary Kurland passed away yesterday as a result of COVID related illness. We have had a number of congregants battle with the virus both hospitalized and not.
 - We have had people attending live streaming from around the world and having more people attend for Passover services than we would in person. It is a way to connect in some way.
 - Everything we are doing now is so contrary to our religion and tradition, and yet we have managed to continue to bring all that is incredible about Beth Shalom to our members and beyond. We are all working hard to keep everyone connected. One week we gave out Challah on Friday afternoon, the next week we gave out candles, and last week we received a large donation of bouquets of flowers that were shared with congregants in special need. We called all members of the synagogue and will start again after Passover.
 - Every B'nai Mitzvah up to the second shabbat in May have been postponed. I have been in touch with the families with all of the families that have B'nai mitzvah scheduled through the end of the calendar year. Families have been offered a few different options including a future Shabbat morning not in the main sanctuary because there will probably be another B'nai Mitzvah taking place, a mincha B'nai Mtizvah; or stick with the original date in a Zoom service and a loaner Torah.

- Morning minyan has been moved to 8 am, recognizing that people don't have to be up as early as they usually do when they have to leave their houses. There will not be early Yizkor this Thursday, rather it will be part of the service Thursday morning. The complete Yizkor book is a PDF on the website.
- Thank you to lay leadership, support staff, and fellow clergy.
- Old Business
 - Jill Olefsky – bylaw change at the end of the nominating list. Debbie Solomon responded it should not have been on there; it is not that important and will hold off until next year when we can give proper notice.
- New Business
 - None
- Good and Welfare
 - Shared life events of the Board

Moved to adjourn at 9:45 pm by Suzi Hakimian

Seconded: Debbie Solomon

Respectfully submitted,

Teri Robins