

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Meeting August 17, 2020
(Via Zoom)

Call to Order pm

Attendees: Cheryl Braude, Jim Donenberg, Steve Elisco, Ellen Grossman, Marjorie Maxwell, Teri Robins, Ray Rokni, Robyn Rosengard, Randy Samborn, Seth Schrank, Dan Sher, Howard Sigal, Tanya Solomon, Bob Spector, Alan Zelkowitz

Judy Balter, Rick Dissen, Ari Footlik, Howard Freidin, Myra Holman, Susan Lampert, Rachel Laven, Diana Lewis, Karyn Liss, Bret Maxwell, Wesley Nissen, Jill Olefsky, Norman Padnos, Fern Roseman, Neil Rosengard, Jill Roter, Brad Shaps, Beth Sher, Bill Shulman, Laura Shulman, Jay Silver, Steve Warshawsky, Sara Weinstein, Steve Zaacks, Harry Zoberman,

Michael Balter, Joel Greenman, Larry Grossman, Jack Knopoff, Brian Miller, Glen Roter, Marc Schwartz, Lily Zoberman

Excused: Debbie Solomon

Absent:

Staff: Rabbi Melman, Rabbi Ferratier, Susan Karlinsky, Eric Golberg, Stacy Ybarra, Leanne Blue

Absent: Cantor Stoehr

- D'var Torah
 - This week's Torah portion encourages trying to make peace before you go into war. Good message for a new Board year, especially this one with all of the challenges and unique opportunities. Try to stress the positive and embrace the new, like distinguished speakers over the summer. Many people say they are feeling more connected now.
- Approval of March Minutes and Committee Reports. Moved by Seth Schrank; Seconded by Robyn Rosengard

Passed unanimously.

- President's Report: Tanya Solomon
 - Welcome to the Board. Thank you for all of your time, passion, and caring. There will be challenges this year relating to Covid, membership, and budget. All I ask is that discussion to stay respectful and confidential. Please engage in the community and read the reports.
- High Holiday Update: Seth Schrank

- High Holidays will be entirely streamed. Thank you to the Clergy and Staff – it is quite impressive how they are all working together.
- Recording of the parts of the service that will be recorded is mostly complete. Will be getting pre-recorded portions for Rick Recht and others. Kids services will be on demand, not at a set time.
- There will be opportunities to test the technology in September.
- High Holiday brochure was sent out. There is a High Holiday hotline to help with issues. There will be a person answering the phone during services to help with tech issues.
- Rabbi added Torah reading, Haftorah reading, Shofar blowing, speeches were all recorded without any issues. Everyone was very well prepared and it went very well. Wanted to publicly thank the High Holiday Committee, Seth as Ritual VP, and everyone who came.
- Password for the services will be shared with members who are in good standing.
- Cantor Maytal agreed to defer the second year of his contract to next year.
- Question posed about guest tickets and access to books. Susan responded that it has been discussed, but not all questions have been resolved. We have told the Loop Synagogue that their members can purchase guest access because that synagogue is not offering streaming.
- Rabbi Melman
 - Some members will begin leading weekday minyanim this week.
 - Covid protocols – temperature upon entrance, then record name and temp with a clean pen.
- Ritual: Seth Schrank
 - B'nai mitzvah are being addressed in many different ways including Zoom, changing the date. Any reasonable request is being considered.
 - Lily added that HUGS is also adapting. On Friday Cantor Stoehr was recording doing a modified HUGS service and that will be on demand and open to the entire HUGS community. We have arranged a HUGS goodie bag that will be distributing them on the Sunday before the Holiday between 1-3 via drive by. Cantor Stoehr will blow the Shofar at 3 pm with everyone in the car.
- Yachad and Membership: Randy Samborn

- Won't have any good membership numbers before the High Holidays, although we all know that membership is a unique challenge this year. As of yesterday, we have roughly 600 families that have acknowledged membership commitment. We have just under 500 member households that we don't know where they stand, but that is not unusual. There is an outreach committee and it will be outreach to those households.
- A lot of young members have recently moved to suburbs recently. Hillary Elkins (Marjorie and Bret Maxwell's daughter) has been recruited to help with that reach out.
- Yachad – been working on creating affinity groups for about 2 years, and now really ready to get things off the ground. We finished laying the ground work last Spring. Michael Garlin's departure left a gap in leadership for this program, but Leanne Blue and Lisa Orloff have expressed great enthusiasm and commitment. Created a sub-committee of the Membership Committee to lead Yachad and Sue Lampert has agreed to lead. There will be a bulletin article coming out in September with more details.
 - This initiative will unite members around common interest and hobbies. It will help to retain and recruit new members and show why CBS is important even when the building is closed or when the kids leave Religious School. It will allow people to not be anonymous.
 - Surveys will be going out about what kind of interests people have and if you are interested in leading any group.
- Yom Beth Shalom Update: Tanya Susan Karlinsky
 - Sunday, August 30 from 9-11am for school families. There will be a drive through to pick up a bag with school supplies, projects, etc., meet the teachers safe distance from the car, and pick up books for High Holidays and get ice cream
 - Stacy added they have purchased boxes for all of the students to hold the books without bending. In it will be white boards and dry-erase boards. The teachers have prepped art projects for through November so they can do projects together. The theme this year is Hiddur Mitzvah. Every week the kids will get a sticker to decorate their box to make their lives more beautiful.
 - Starting at 11am it will open to congregation in full to pick up books, information, etc. No printed calendars this year. Yizkor book will be ready the week before Yom Kippur. There are dates and times listed in the High Holiday brochure.
 - Need volunteers to drive books to those who can't come.
 - Congregants really want to see people, so need people to come help on site.

- Select Committee Highlights
 - Programming: Ellen Grossman
 - Distinguished Summer Speaker David Harris in July. We had been 175-200 people log in. He was very informative about racial issues. Thanks to Hope and Randy Samborn for suggesting their cousin. We have more books available. He requested we purchase
 - Billy Plainer this Thursday. He was the one who led the CBS Civil Rights trip. “How to be comfortable having uncomfortable conversations.”
 - Andy Slavitt on September 8. 1 of top 10 influential people in US on Health Care. Giving information and hope during Covid.
 - Adult education classes were offered over the summer. Had huge success thanks to Lisa and Leanne. Will continue to use Zoom going forward. Look for a new series coming “Cooking Across the Continents.” Some congregants will be helping with menus from their countries of origin.
 - Youth: Dan Sher
 - Eric Golberg shared Youth programs have been thriving over the Spring and Summer. Camp CBS was launched this summer. We have over 400 downloads of 40 programs. Have been meeting with USY leadership. We will be offering new Monday programs to engage our teens and Kadima kids. We are giving the most programming to our teens compared with other chapters in the region. Thanks to Rabbi Warner for being a huge resource to our teens. We will also be streaming some new programming for young families for both kids and parents after the kids go to bed.
 - Eric and Adam Blue were 2 of the 4 finalists for major award for most effective youth leadership (LEAD Award).
 - School: Alan Zelkowitz
 - Full School Board will be at Yom Beth Shalom. Parents are being given an earlier time slot so they be there. Teachers will all be there for a “mask to mask” introduction.
 - Definitely virtual for now
 - Just above 50% of our school enrollment total from last year with 107. We are calling every school family. Decided against a Town Hall because people like the calls.
 - Men’s Club: Steve Elisco

- Working on creating a flu shot drive on a reservation basis with Walgreens. Would usually put it with the blood drive, but the drive is delayed until November due to High Holidays, so want to do it earlier.
- Financial Report: Cheryl Braude
 - June year end numbers came in consistent with what we expected. We are showing surplus of \$32,000 for the year, which is pretty incredible given the challenges, which is hats off to Susan Karlinsky and Michael Garlin. Revenues were in line with what was expected.
 - Glen Roter noted that rolling the surplus to next year requires a motion. It will be presented next month.
 - We are not sharing financials for July because it's just too early with people making their commitments every day. We'll have a better picture when August is over
 - PPE loan has not been taken into income but is reflected as a liability because it has still not been forgiven.
- Reopening Update: Tanya Solomon
 - Our product that is out there is as good or even better than what we have put on before.
 - We are following local and state guidelines and are talking with other congregations.
 - We have the medical task force which is being expanded to include staff and other leaders. Dr. Rob Citronberg, head of infectious disease for Advocate Health Care, presented at the last task force meeting.
 - Learned any people gathering together presents a risk. We want to limit that risk. Beginning to investigate certain lower risk activities. We've installed the thermometers, will have waivers, will use outside areas whenever possible, physical distancing and mask wearing will be required inside and outside.
- Old Business
 - None
- New Business
 - None
- Good and Welfare

- Shared life events of the Board and congregants
- Steve Elisco shared Mens' Club Night of Recognition was held last month. Shared he received several very positive comments as encouragement for High Holidays.
- Ari Footlik commended Steve Elisco on another great blood drive over the summer.

Moved to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:57 pm by Steve Elisco Seconded: Ellen Grossman
Approved

Executive Session – Executive Director Plan

- Motion passes appointing Susan Karlinsky as Interim Executive Director with select controller duties from Monday, August 17 – December 31, 2020 or until a permanent Executive Director begins work, whichever is first.
- Board approves the appointment of a Search Committee: Randy Samborn (Chair), Ray Rokni, Cheryl Braude, Steve Warshawsky, Michel Balter

Moved to adjourn at 10:34 Pm by Joel Greenman..... Seconded by Steven Elisco

Respectfully submitted,

Teri Robins