

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Meeting January 15, 2021
(Via Zoom)

Call to Order 8:10 pm

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

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

Michael Balter, Larry Grossman, David Hakimian, Fred Katzenstein, Jack Knopoff, Howard Michaels, Brian Miller, Norman Padnos, Tami Rokni, Lily Zoberman

Excused:

Absent: Jill Roter, Barbara Gelfeld, Joel Greenman, Donald Levine, Leonard Mason, Barbara Petasnick, Henry Rabinowitz, Jerry Stanton, Joel Weinstein, Joe Wolke, Glen Roter, Marc Schwartz, Michael Zaransky

Staff: Rabbi Melman, Cantor Steven Stoehr, Susan Karlinsky, Eric Golberg, Stacy Ybarra, Leann Blue

Absent: Rabbi Ferratier

- D'var Torah presented by Rabbi Melman
 - Discussion of Martin Luther King, Jr. Hope that we will soon be able to say "Free at last" from the plagues that have fallen on our nation.
- Approval of December Minutes and Committee Reports
Motion by: Laura Shulman Seconded by: Debbie Solomon

Passed with 87% of responses.

- President's Report: Tanya Solomon
 - Will be sending out list of member names to check in with congregational family.
 - Hopefully you were able to see the 2020 video. A lot of hard work went into that and it was very well received.

- Goal setting information from small groups was consolidated and was sent out to exec board so the VPs can share with their committee meetings and use that information to start setting goals.
- Thank you for completing staff reviews. Debbie Solomon has consolidated them all and has shared with the appropriate VP. That VP will share with their staff member.
- Executive Director Report: Susan Karlinsky
 - The building is closed right now in an abundance of caution. Everything is business as usual, just no need to have anyone in the building right now.
 - Nominating committee will be electronic this year. The program does all of the tabulating.
- Nominating Committee Election: Debbie Solomon
 - Debbie Solomon presented the rules for the nominating committee.
 - Voting for the nominating committee commenced.
 - Nominating committee:
 - 45 ballots submitted. App did 55 rounds of voting.
 - Sue Lampert, Rachel Laven, Randy Samborn, Seth Schrank, Brad Schaps, Alan Zelkowitz, Lily Zoberman plus Debbie Solomon, Tanya Solomon, Robyn Rosengard (Sisterhood President) and Steve Elisco (Men's Club President)
- Rabbi Melman
 - Synagogue life is still very busy. We continue to offer a wide array of programming and continue to reach out to congregants.
 - Thank you to the board and staff for the outreach and beautiful basket that was sent to my parents in recognition of the passing of my grandmother.
 - Applying to become a Chaplain with the Illinois National Guard. It will not take away from my commitment to CBS, but as I thought about new and different ways to use my sabbatical time. Always wanted to be a military chaplain although also knew I wanted to be a pulpit Rabbi. Now the timing has become right to try to do this work. The process is almost complete. I ask that you keep this quiet so that if it does not pan out, I am not embarrassed. The time away – two days a month and 2 weeks a year - will be vacation or sabbatical time. It is unlikely that I will be deployed for several years at least until I have more training.

- The board offered it's full support to the Rabbi in this endeavor.
- Sisterhood: Robyn Rosengard
 - Sisterhood is donating \$20,000 to the synagogue for the live streaming system.
- Social Action: Bob Spector
 - We have a new family member in our community - our Myanmar family that we sponsor have a new baby girl.
 - In the month of December under Susan Karlinsky we collected over 60 winter articles of clothing for children in our school districts.
 - Fern Roseman has been taking charge of collections for the Northfield Food Pantry. Collections of food or cash donations should be delivered to her and she will deliver to the pantry. Fern Roseman, 847-564-9266, 2415 Auburn Lane, Northbrook.
 - Leatte Gelfeld has been coordinating with Hunger Free Northbrook program. WE are providing 18 students in the Northbrook community.
 - We continue to work with PADS and Ark families.
- Programing: Ellen Grossman
 - Normally in September, Programming comes to the board and requests money for the year. This year, obviously, we have not been able to plan that way. We do have a program planned for February 13, 2021, at 8pm to kick of Adar, by YidLife Crisis. They will send us questions and collect some pictures to personalize this program for CBS.
 - Other programming is being considered, but speakers are not increasing their rates to normal rates as compared to zoom rates that many were offering before.
 - Motion: Requesting \$6000 from EETP to fund this program.
 - Query if EETP funds were appropriate as EETP is meant to be used for education and this program does not appear to be educations.
 - Leann Blue commented part of the mission is to aid in the resurgence in the Yiddish life and culture, so there is an educational piece. It was also noted by Susan Karlinsky and others that the definition of education is liberal in the EETP bylaws.
 - Discussion ensued.

- Jay Silver noted that education with humor is important. Jay Silver moved that we allocate the \$6000 funds from EETP to fund the program.
 - Rick Disen seconded.
 - Discussion continued. This is a program for the community. We are proposing this is part of the Distinguished Speaker program. It was noted that Harvey Gold would often push for programs such as this from the EETP.
 - Passed with 81% of the vote.
 - Link to register for An Evening With YidLife Crisis.
<https://congregationbethshalomnorthbrook.shulcloud.com/form/YidLife%20Crisis>
 - Andy Slavik, who was our speaker in September, has been asked to be on President Elect Biden’s COVID task force. Thank you again to the Sher’s for making the connection.
- Fundraising: Howard Sigal
 - Exciting program to celebrate Rabbi Melman on May 23: BBQ, Blues and Bourbon.
 - In the process of signing a contract with Chicago Blues Network – a cooperative that provides Chicago Blues masters that teach kids and donate social impact groups in the Chicago community, so mix of good fun and good work in the larger community.
 - Virtual program with a really good food and drink component.
 - There will be a tribute book and a raffle. Information can be found on the “give” portion on the website. It will be put back on the front of the webpage.
 - If you have contributed to the cancelled event from last year, your information will be transferred to this event.
 - On the CBS website is a tab called “give.” There is information there on the CBS gift card program and Amazon Smiles and the Hineynu program – don’t forget that if you are a donor of \$5000 or more if you have made 60% of your donation your name will be on the donor plaque.
- House: Ray Rokni

- Life Streaming Project – thank you to Sisterhood for the generous donation. A live streaming committee has been established to look at all of the options available. Looking at all elements of the streaming system.
- Preschool license has been signed. They are working through the state licensing process. They have been getting positive feedback and have options to add more rooms. They have hired a former teacher to be the director of the preschool.
- The Memorial Plaque project is continuing. There have been a few names that have been identified that require additional research to ensure they are in-fact appropriate to move. The list will be posted for the members at large shortly.
- Even though we are not in the building, there is a lot going on in terms of maintenance.
 - Footlik Family Foundation granted funds to upgrade to all automatic faucets, soap dispensers, and hand towels.
 - The windows in the Winter Garden will be sealed.
 - Elevator annual maintenance.
 - Updating/correcting all internal signage.
 - Little library will be installed in April between the 2 benches by the front door.
- Susan Karlinsky – FEMA grant was approved in December for houses of worship to “harden the building.” There is an assessment with FEMA on Thursday and are working with a local grant writer that has had great success with helping synagogue’s with grants. There is a House sub-committee working on prioritizing security needs.
- In March of last year, House approved a project. Just got an update 2 hours ago and so bringing here now. Rabbi Melman’s bathroom is in the need of an upgrade. Last year, Laura Shulman and Harold Dembo got quotes and house committee approved. It was tabled due to COVID. The quotation has been updated and the Melmans are ready to allow a crew in the house to tear down and rebuild the house.
 - Rachel Laven moved to renovate the Melman Parsonage master bathroom and to install can lights and exhaust fan in the second bathroom not to exceed \$20,000 to remodel the bathroom in the Melman Parsonage. These funds are part of the Parsonage budget funds, not a building fund.
 - Brad Schap seconded.

- Purim Fundraiser – “Don’t Panic, It’s Purim” Mishloach Manot project. Pick up will be the day of Purim through the 28th, not including Shabbat.
- Youth: Dan Sher
 - Submitted written report
- Ritual: Seth Shrank
 - Submitted written report
- Finance Committee: Cheryl Braude
 - Submitted written report
- Men’s Club: Steve Elisco
 - 2021 Man of the Year is Scott Rogoff
 - Youth of the Year and the to be announced Kavod winner will be announced at the Men’s Club Shabbat.
 - Men’s Club has a lot of programming coming up, check out the flyers and information on the website.
 - Lox Box – pushing as a donation event even more than before. There is no delivery this year. The boxes will be smaller to allow for easier, more efficient pick-up. There will also be an opportunity to make a donation in someone’s honor. If you normally donate chatchkes, we are requesting a cash donation and you will be listed in the tribute book.
- Old Business
 - Jay Silver - Question regarding whether goal setting and the strategic plan are connected. Response was that a true strategic plan requires an outside professional to help create. The goal setting is the beginning to the process though to give us direction as to where we are headed.
- New Business
 - None
- Good and Welfare
 - Mazel tov to Cantor Stoehr on his book.

Moved to adjourn at 10:15 pm by Robyn Rosengard. Ellen Grossman seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri Robins