

TEMPLE AHAVAT SHALOM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
May 11, 2010
MINUTES

Attendance:

Debby Lieber, Jerry Hilecher, Marc Zev, Howard Schnee, Lloyd Cutler, Robyn Blachman, Stephanie Howard, Jill Cullen, Esther Saritzky, Joel Lowell, Al Lapidés, Ken Miles, Barry Pearlman, Lisa Kantor, Robin Mandel, Bruce Hatkoff, Steve Mermell, Janice Schneider, Jennifer Kosoy, Wendy Krowne and Rabbi Lutz.

Lisa Kantor called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. We received the agenda and recited the blessing.

The Minutes of the April Board meeting were approved.

President's Report by Lisa Kantor:

Lisa participated in a phone conference with Rabbis and a Sofer (repairer of Torahs). Rabbi Kleinman asked that the money raised from his event (about \$2000) be made part of the Torah repair fund. They will put together a program that is self-sustaining, with educational programs and fund raising programs, etc. It will be the seed money to get the program off the ground.

June 8th is our next Board Meeting and it is a combined meeting with current and new Board members. Our new members will be Marla Lorsch, Neil Bernstein and Sheila Reback. Mike Thornhill is the new Men's Club President, which makes him a member of the Board. Gail Karlin will become a member of the Executive Committee (EC) as a VP and will be invited to the June 2nd Executive Committee meeting. The July Board Meeting is July 20th and the calendaring meeting takes place at 6:30PM, just prior to the Board Meeting. We will invite Touch of Class to attend that calendaring meeting. Debby Lieber and Wendy Krowne will notify everyone who should be contacting Smadar by June 21st with dates to calendar events so that the draft calendar can be prepared by the July Calendaring Meeting.

Rabbi Lutz's Report:

The search for an interim Cantor has received 8 or 9 applications and Lynn Miles, Melissa Kassin and Rabbi Lutz have conducted 30-minute phone interviews with each as a first step in the evaluation process. We have 5 viable candidates whom we wish to invite out to TAS next week and the following week. This is an interim position. The candidates have asked if they can reapply for the permanent position and they have been told that they can. Three are in town and will do an audition and an interview with the search committee. Lynn and Melissa are checking references.

Al Lapidés asked if the candidate would be asked to lead a Shabbat Service so that the congregation can meet and hear them and that is not going to happen. We will check with the American Conference of Cantors (ACC) guidelines to find out if that is even allowed. The committee has not met yet and so they have not made determinations on what we want the position to be and whether it will be a Cantor or a Soloist. The committee will go out and check best practices at other congregations, etc. Stephanie Howard asked if this person will work with the Bar and Bat Mitzvah students and the answer was yes. It will be a thorough investigation and evaluation.

We would like to have an interim Cantor as soon as humanly possible. Esther Saritzky suggests, if possible, that the interim Cantor meet with the B'nai Mitzvot as soon as possible, even if that means before their official start date. We will do that. Rachel Goldman will stay until August and be with the kids she is training. We need to fly two Cantors in from Detroit and New York. Do

any Board members have miles to donate? One candidate just graduated in NY, but she is from Beverly Hills and would love to move back here. Esther Saritzky complimented Lisa and Rabbi Lutz on the process.

Confirmation is coming up on May 22nd at 4:30pm and Rachel Goldman will be the Cantor. Rabbi Lutz will bless every child. Dinner will follow.

Congregational Meeting: Lisa Kantor will present the President's Report, which will address the major issues and accomplishments during this past year. Alan Kassan will do the Power Point presentation of the recommendations of the Long Range Planning Committee, Barry Krowne will give the Capital Campaign report, Barry Pearlman will present the personnel report, Ken Miles will present the Budget. Bice Recht will present the new Gift Membership Program. The two items on the agenda that require actions are the Budget and the Board Nominees.

The Budget and 2009 Congregational Meeting Minutes will be sent by email to the Congregation, prior to May 16th.

The EC has begun making plans for next year. Lisa Kantor asked the members of the Board to think about their portfolios and whether they would like to keep their current responsibilities or try something different for next year. Bice Recht and Laraine Miller are meeting with Lisa next week to discuss LRPC restructuring of the Board and those responsibilities. Lisa wants to think about the LRPC and start implementing Low Hanging Fruit and determine which funds that are in sequestered accounts can be used to implement the recommendations of the LRPC. The Sequestered Funds will stay within the purview of the Budget and Finance committee.

The EC talked about a Board Retreat over a weekend in early October. Lisa encouraged the members of the Board to go out into our TAS community to engage people to get involved and begin to mentor them and do leadership development. It is also our intention to document committee work to create a trail to pass from committee chair to committee chair. Stephanie Howard suggested that we look seriously at projects that are worthy of applying for grants and Esther Saritzky (and others) recommended Cathy Bernstein, Judy Seligman, Diane Levine, Gena Divine, Stephanie Howard, and Abbey Klein to possibly take on the grant writing. There are also Awards given for special programs and we have had and do have programs that are worthy, but we must apply.

Janice Schneider reminded us of the ECEC Luncheon on May 23rd.

Robyn Blachman shared that the Sisterhood freezer died. Fortunately, for our congregation, Sisterhood budgets for and maintains reserves in anticipation of unexpected maintenance costs, such that the freezer could be replaced right away and without negatively impacting any of our Temple events.

Samuel Liberman passed away. The funeral is Thursday, May 13th at Eden Memorial and we will gather at TAS following the funeral. Esther Saritzky encouraged our Board members to participate in the Shiva week minyanim.

Jerry Hillecher announced that there will be a Summer Camp here. Please make announcements at the Friday night Shabbat Services and spread the word.

Al Lapidus motioned to adjourn at 9:00pm. Joel Lowell seconded.

Respectfully submitted

Wendy Krowne
Recording Secretary