

TEMPLE AHAVAT SHALOM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
August 17, 2010
MINUTES

Attendance:

Gail Karlin, Sheila Reback, Robin Mandel, Bice Recht, Marla Lorsch, Neil Bernstein, Marc Zev, Bruce Hatkoff, Marcy Hilecher, Mike Thornhill, Howard Schnee, Esther Saritzky, Robyn Blachman, Stephanie Howard, Jill Cullen, Ken Miles, Lisa Kantor, Debby Lieber, Cantor Roher, Rabbi Lutz and Wendy Krowne

Lisa Kantor called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. We recited the blessing.
The D'var Torah given by Marc Zev.

Marc Zev motioned to approve the minutes of the June Board Meeting. Robyn Blachman seconded and the minutes were approved.

President's Report was given by Lisa Kantor:

Announcements regarding the upcoming High Holy Day (HHD) celebration: We will have our board installation at Erev Rosh Hashana. We will all be called up to the bimah as a group and we will recite a prayer that Rabbi Lutz will provide to us.

Honors for the High Holy Days: Please submit the names of those who have worked hard throughout the year and deserve to be honored. We don't want deserving people to be forgotten.

A member of the Board makes announcements at the HHD services. We need to determine a theme for this year and some of the suggested ideas are:

- 1) Long Range Plan and recommendations
- 2) Our welcoming and non-judgmental philosophy. We are unique in our acceptance of ways of practice, inter-marriage, all kinds of people.
- 3) Confirmation student speaks about their enthusiasm having stayed post bar/bat mitzvah.
- 4) Speak of the Temple's extraordinary support of families in times of loss or other times of need.
- 5) Rededication as an overall theme and have a gift membership sponsor family speak.
- 6) The Gift Membership in and of itself is a good thing to discuss and "sell".

These ideas are all good and will be discussed with staff and integrated.

The Executive Committee would like to invite the Board to a board training day on October 2nd and would like to include others who are viewed as future leaders.

Temple Beth Solomon will renew its contract.

The Chinese School would like to renew its contract, and we have proposed \$8,000 for the year (for 32 weeks). They have paid about \$4,500 this year. Bruce Hatkoff has asked us to keep an eye on what the actual costs for their use is, so that we know going forward.

The board will be handing out candy to everyone as they leave on Rosh Hashana. We will also be providing handouts that need to be collated. We will have something from Mazon, JWW, etc.

Rabbi Lutz's report:

He first shared the status of his broken hand. It is out of the cast but still swollen and painful. He is challenged as he greets people who want to shake his hand, not wanting to give the wrong impression. It was suggested that he might wear a sling, so that it is still obvious that he cannot shake.

Israel trip was great...small and intimate, but a great trip and it was a positive community-building experience. He and Debbie are already planning for Israel 2012 and he is meeting with a travel agent to plan an Eastern European trip, including a trip to Kolin (the original home of one of our Torahs).

He has met with the chairs of the Worship Committee Fran Krimston and Judy Alban who are planning to integrate some of the LRP recommendations.

Melton Adult Mini-School will begin here. And, our own Adult Education program will be quite full this coming year. Marcy asked about marketing Melton and/or our Adult Ed program. Melton will be marketing to the outside community, and we are to market Melton within our community.

Sisterhood By-Law Issue:

Board members did not get a chance to comment on this issue last month. Lisa was pleased with the reaction to and calm and reasonableness of that meeting, but realized in retrospect that it would have been best after the Sisterhood guests spoke to the Board, to go into Executive Session for discussion.

At the July Board meeting, a motion was made to create a Task Force to look into the issue of non-TAS members and their involvement at TAS on a global level i.e. in the auxiliaries, ECEC, Havurot, etc. Jerry Hilecher will head the task force, which has been asked to report its findings to the EC at the November meeting. Debby Lieber asked what will happen if the task force recommends against allowing non-TAS members to be in Sisterhood and there are women who are now members of Sisterhood who are not members of TAS? It is a problem and troubling. Bice Recht's concern is that if we are putting together a task force, why would we accept non-

TAS members into Sisterhood now? She feels the order should be to let the task force do its work first and wait for the recommendation to the Board and then let the Board decide. Esther Saritzky knows that Sisterhood is anxious to do this right away and will gain members right away, as they launch their membership campaign, but if they would postpone that action, she believes that makes more sense. Non-TAS members could still participate in all Sisterhood activities while waiting for the Board's decision. Bice went on to question what are the privileges of membership? They need to be determined and articulated. Robyn Blachman asked if the task force will have answers to all the issues by November. Some of the issues will be easier to determine than others. There was some discussion about the temple by-laws not speaking at all to the issue of Temple membership being a requirement for Sisterhood membership. Debby indicated that by-laws are amended and evolve as issues are raised. Bruce Hatkoff thinks they should go with what is best for Sisterhood, acknowledging that their board is looking at what they think is best for the Temple, as well as for Sisterhood. This whole issue has far-reaching implications. Esther shared that a long-term member of the Temple who has resigned, but who was in the choir for many years, would like to still be in the choir. The Temple baseball team has non-Temple members.

Another issue that surrounded the Sisterhood special meeting to discuss this by-law amendment was that not all members of Sisterhood were notified. Because there are members who do not have computers and the notice of the meeting was made only via email, those non-computer members did not know about the meeting. Esther said that she will be the guardian of those members who are not computer literate and will make sure they receive written notification of all Temple matters by mail.

Robyn quoted from something Rabbi Lutz recently said about inclusiveness and its importance to us at TAS. Rabbi asked, "What does it mean to be a member and what are the privileges?" He said that in this case, he does not see this as an inclusive vs. exclusive matter. He said that if we were saying that you can only be a member of TAS if you pay full dues and everyone else was turned away, that would be exclusive. That is not the case here. The issue is much larger than Sisterhood.

Howard Schnee referred to a recent article about the synagogue model. Survival of synagogues is the issue. It isn't easy, but what is the right model for our synagogue? We need money to survive. How are we doing our outreach to the community?

Robin Mandel thinks we need boundaries. She thinks the task force is a good decision.

Robyn Blachman clarified that our Sisterhood is not recruiting from Ramat Zion. Rather, our Sisterhood has been approached by some women at TRZ whose grandchildren are at TAS, and they feel that joining our Sisterhood is their way of supporting the institution that is serving their grandchildren. Robyn does not expect this category of women to be active members here.

Lisa invited us to make suggestions during a meeting; i.e. let's move to go into executive session.

She also said that what is most important to her is that relationships and unrest get resolved and healed.

Beautification – Marc Zev

Marc and his committee have tackled the signage recommendation of the LRPC. Marc showed us sample signs, the background of which is called Jerusalem Stone. The goal is to have the signs up by the High Holy Days. Plan B is signage for specific events on specific nights when people arrive out of the parking lot and want to know where their meeting will be. Marc has created a software program, purchased a monitor, investigated the placement and access to electricity and will continue working on this project, as well.

Low Hanging Fruit: Robin Mandel was assigned to be a Bimah Buddy and when she called the family, they said somebody else would be serving as the Bimah Buddy. Nobody let Robin know. So, as fellow Board members, we ask that if you are specifically asked to be a Bimah Buddy and you agree to do so, you must notify the person who had been assigned, immediately.

Bruce Hatkoff indicated that lots of changes have taken place at our synagogue and there have been a lot of people disenfranchised and feeling disconnected, particularly since both of our prior clergy have resigned. He is concerned about this. Bice and the membership committee get notified of membership status on a weekly basis by Sue Miller, as do the Sisterhood President and Men's Club President. Calls are being made to these families by Rabbi, Lisa, the Membership Committee, Cantor Linsky, etc. There have been a total of 20 resignations as of Friday. Bice made us all aware that historically, we lose about 40 families and gain 40 – 50 families.

There was some discussion about the supermarkets, i.e. Ralphs and Vons, which require online sign ups and renewal every year. It was suggested that information be disseminated to the congregation about how to successfully register and renew each year, so that the Temple benefits from our congregants' shopping at these markets.

Sheila Reback reported about the "Let's Read Together" program in our newly updated library. In the 10:30 to 11:30 hour on Wednesdays, there is a need for volunteers to read to our pre-schoolers.

Marla Lorsch motioned to adjourn at 9:30 by and Jill Cullen seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Krowne
Recording Secretary