

UVJC Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes for 9/1/2015
Roth Center for Jewish Life

Present: Sue Berg, Robyn Jacobs, Deb Kaplan, Rachel Kleinbaum, Jeff Lubell, Laura Rosenthal, Robert Shumsky.

Absent: Richard Abel, Felixa Eskey, Gloria Finkelstein, Lori Hirshfield, Devora Gronauer, Rusty Sachs, Stephen Woloshin.

Guests: Rabbi Boraz, Maggie Duford.

1. **Call to Order** and welcome by Deb Kaplan at 7:04 PM

2. **Yom Kippur Candle Lighting**

- a. Deb asked the BOT about doing a group candle lighting on Erev Yom Kippur. The board agreed and Rabbi approved.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. The minutes from the BOT meeting of 7 July 2015 had been emailed for review. Jeff moved to approve, Sue seconded and the minutes were passed without further discussion.

4. **Education Director Report**

- a. Open House. The religious school open house was successful. 6-7 families attended. 4 families indicated interest in joining the UVJC (3 with children, 1 young couple without children).
- b. Maggie anticipates 12-15 new students will enroll this year.
- c. Proposal
 - i. Maggie reports that some families experience conflict or did not want to attend Tuesday afternoon religious school. She proposes offering an alternative after-school day for supervised part-independent study. This would be limited to 6-8 students and supervised by Maggie and one Dartmouth student/instructor.
 - ii. After discussion, the board agreed to add an alternative day only after those students tried to attend at least 3 regular Tuesday sessions. Maggie will report to the BOT in December regarding this program.
- d. It was stressed that tuition for grades 3 to B'nai Mitzvah includes two days of study per week. This is the case even if students choose to attend only one day per week.

5. **Rabbi's Report**

- a. The Rabbi expressed gratitude for the work of the Ruach Committee.
- b. Plans for the High Holidays are in order and preparations are moving forward as anticipated.
- c. There will be an additional conservative egalitarian service without musical instruments for Erev Rosh Hashana and Minchah Yom Kippur. These services will be led by a student rabbi who is a Dartmouth College graduate and had a successful career in business prior to entering rabbinic school.
- d. The Rabbi recognizes positive systemic changes happening under the current leadership.

6. **UVJC Picnic**

- a. Date set: September 27, 2015, to follow religious school.

7. Financial Report

- a. Year-end report shows a deficit of \$1,093.63. This is smaller than anticipated.

8. Membership Update

- a. Rusty had been contacting new and potential members for the month of August. He will report to the BOT at the next meeting.

9. Ruach Committee

- a. August Havdallah services attracted 18-20 people. Another Havdallah is planned for January.
- b. Shabbat dinners are being planned for October 16. Families with children should know that they are welcome to participate in these dinners.

10. UVIP Micah Award

- a. The nominating committee has a their nominee. The board has approved the nomination. Alternates have been identified should the nominee decline this honor.

11. High Holiday

- a. Tzedakah Distribution. The social action committee has suggested local and global charities to support during the high holiday period. The food drive collection would go to the Mascoma Food Pantry and Claremont Soup Kitchen. The Kol Nidre tzedakah would be divided between SPARK (a local organization supporting adults with special needs) and Innovation Africa (an organization supporting the introduction of Israeli based technology to needy communities in Africa). The BOT approved these recommendations
- b. The Ruach committee will be promoting their scheduled events during the High Holidays
- c. High Holiday Appeal. BOT members will make appeals at each service
 - Reform Service: Sue Berg
 - Family Service: Jeff Lubell
 - Tot Service: Rachel Kleinbaum
 - Rollins: Rusty Sachs
- d. High Holiday Greeters. The schedule has been circulated for members to sign up. Ushers will distribute appeal cards without differentiation between member and non-members.

12. Communications Plan

- a. The BOT continues to address the need for current, relevant, and consistent messaging. Modernizing the website and possible purchase of a platform to integrate all electronic communications (website, e-mail, electronic newsletter) was discussed. Rachel and Laura will explore options including pricing of different packages. We will include staff in the selection process.
- b. Paul Etkind will continue to provide updates and articles to Federations' Jewish Reporter.
- c. Adequate signage for the UVJC within the Roth Center including mission, vision, contact information and up-coming events was discussed. This is seen as a significant short-coming and should be easily remedied.

13. Adjournment. The Meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robyn Jacobs, Secretary