

EMANUEL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
10-17-23

In attendance: Andrea Goldenberg, Lori Gottlieb, Tamar Margolis, Sheila Silverman, Melvin Simon, Ken Malley, Mark Jacobson, Deborah Zuckerman, Barbara Fink, Howard Smith, Lou Blumenfeld, Marc Resnick, Tammi Kraushaar, Jackie Isaacson, Rona Gollob, Carolyn Topol, Rachel Arnett, Emily Lebovitz-Miller, Cantor Daniella Risman, Rabbi David Small, Reesa Olins, Ken Simon, Ray Weinstein, Gail Weinstein, Gail Adler, Michalee Merritt, Jeremy Rubock, Rick Lasker, Alan Goodman, Don Miller, Michael Kamins, Jeff Adler

meeting called to order at 7:30pm

Reesa commenting on world events of last two weeks. We should be patient with each other, listen to each other, and work together. Reesa then read a Prayer for Israel by Rabbi Naomi Levy.

Motion to accept President's Report and Adult Ed Report (made by Rick Lasker/seconded by Jackie Isaacson) passes unanimously.

Motion to accept September minutes, with corrections (made by Lou Blumenfeld/seconded by Tammi Kraushaar) passes unanimously.

House Report: Questions about how contracted jobs are put out for bid; always try to get three bids. Many projects funded by FEMA grants. Water issue at edge of walkway meeting parking lot will not be addressed until the spring. Motion to accept House Report (Motion made by Lou Blumenfeld/seconded by Tamar Margolis) passes unanimously.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATE Barbara Fink

Resources provided to teachers and parents about what to say to the children concerning the events in Israel. There are currently 61 students in the religious school. Barbara disseminated a detailed report on school events in September and October.

CANTOR'S REPORT Hazzan Risman

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur this year felt more intimate, even though there were more people there. Brought in some of "our" melodies to the service. Cantor would be glad to meet with any congregant who is "missing" a melody. Enumerated several other programs she participated in., and duties involving religious school students. Simchat Torah was an amazing evening, despite the events of earlier in the day, and thanked Tamar Margolis, Deb Zuckerman, Jenn Madan Cohen, Randie Fierberg, Gail Weinstein, and Bonnie Lasker. Invited congregants to join her at USCJ Shabbaton in Baltimore the first weekend in December. Closed report with a rendition of Lu Yehi.

VOICES OF HOPE SPONSORSHIP Reesa Olins

Rabbi Lazowski is being honored with Voices of Hope Lifetime Achievement Award on 11/2 at 6pm, and Synagogue looking to sponsor an \$1800 page in tribute book, which will also come with six tickets to the event. \$900 will come from Rabbi Small's discretionary fund.

MOTION: (Made by Michael Kamins/seconded by Don Miller) **Pay remaining \$900 from reserve contingency fund for tribute sponsorship for Rabbi Lazowski**
motion passes unanimously

PURCHASE OF IPAD FOR RABBI SMALL FOR BIMAH Reesa Olins

Before Kobi left for Israel, he purchased an ipad for bimah for Rabbi Small for \$1527. Purchase was necessary and “approved”, but funding sources must now be identified. It is an on podium device that permits one large cumbersome TV screen that had been on the bimah near the Rabbi’s podium to be removed. It will also be able to be used at outside events. The Ritual Committee will look into whether a second device should also be purchased.

MOTION: (Made by Mel Simon/seconded by Deb Zuckerman) **Authorize \$1527 to come from Mitnick Fund for purchase of iPad for bimah**

YES 25 NO 0 ABSTENTIONS 3

motion passes

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER Reesa Olins (Michalee Merritt recuses herself)

We have applied for a JCF grant for a social media manager. The grant requires that the position continue for at least two more years. The grant committee is not meeting until January, but there is an immediate need for the position as the Synagogue does not have a social media presence. Reesa wants to hire someone now using funds from the synagogue’s budget. Hannah Merritt, daughter of Michalee Merritt, who works in social media, has been identified to do the work, 4-5 hours/wk, at \$25/hr.

MOTION: (Made by Jeff Adler/seconded by Carolyn Topol) **Proceed to employ Social Media Manager as soon as possible with funding to come from operating budget**

motion passes unanimously

Michalee Merritt returns to meeting

TORAH RESTORATION PROJECT Tamar Margolis, Sheila Silverman, Ray Weinstein

Up close and personal with the torah has been very meaningful for families. This is our major fundraiser, and is intended to repair our torahs to make them all kosher. There will be opportunities for personal moments with Sofer Rabbi Hale. Donation levels of participation at six other synagogues were studied. Looking for 100% participation from BOT, and have a fundraising goal of \$150,000.

SPONSORSHIPS: Torah - \$10,000; Book - \$7500; Special Verse - \$5000

Sponsorships at the top three levels include a 20-30 minute session with Rabbi Hale at his studio in Northampton, MA

Parsha - \$2500; Chapter - \$1000; Paragraph - \$500;

Sentence - \$250; Word - \$100; Letter - \$50

Each of these sponsors will have a session with the Sofer at The Emanuel at a day and time to be arranged

EMPLOYEE RETENTION CREDIT Mel Simon

Accounting Doctor had applied for ERC funds, sending in 5 amended returns, for quarters three and four for 2020 and quarters one, two, and three for 2021. Tax Attorney Dana Fried at CohnReznick reviewed the returns. He found that the Accounting Doctor did NOT factor in PPP monies that were received. He found that many of their numbers were inaccurate, but that we did qualify for two quarters for 2021. Attorney Fried said the two checks for those two quarters, quarters 1 and 2 of 2021 (\$99,038.93 and \$102,692.25) can be cashed, and that amended returns should be filed and the checks for quarters 3 and 4 of 2020 and quarter 3 of 2021 (\$89,148, \$24,899, and \$94,784) should NOT be cashed.

There was also a question of what we should pay the Accounting Doctor. They did incomplete work, but did prepare some returns. Committee suggested to pay them 12 1/2% of the two checks we are keeping; they were wrong, but we are eligible.

MOTION: (Made by Mel Simon/seconded by Rick Lasker) **Cash two refund checks for quarters one and two of 2021 in the amounts of \$99,038.93 and \$102,692.25.**

motion passes unanimously

MOTION: (Made by Mel Simon/seconded by Jeff Adler) **Offer 12 1/2% of two checks we will cash (\$25,217) to The Accounting Doctor as full and final satisfaction of all claims**

motion passes unanimously

The BOT will decide what to do with the funds. Kudos to Mel Simon, Amy Dembo, Brian Newman, and Dana Fried for all of their time and pro bono efforts.

LIFE CYCLE Michalee Merritt
NEW MEMBERS

Klim & Alla Shved, with Brayden, Fallyn and Marianna

Kathie-Jo Arnoff

Motion to accept new members passes unanimously (Motion made by Michalee Merritt/seconded by Jeff Adler)

MAZAL TOV TO

Rona Gollob, on the marriage of her son Marc Gollob to Lindsay Jaworski

NEHAMAS

El Malei Rachamim: God, full of compassion, grant perfect peace in the shelter of your Divine Presence to the souls of our dear departed Emanuel Family members who have gone to their Eternal Home during the past month:

Sylvia Rosenfeld—mother of Linda (Martin) Stein

Dorothy Berman—former longtime Emanuel member

Dr. Laurence Goldstein—husband of Rae Goldstein

Marjorie Krems—sister of Dan (Joni) Fine

Marvin Smith—brother of Howard (Elaine) Smith

Elaine Feldman, mother of Stuart Feldman, Garry Feldman and Renah Feldman

Jay Smith

Master of Mercy, gather their souls into the bond of eternal life. We cherish their memories and appreciate the years we shared together with them in our beloved Emanuel Synagogue. We will

remember them, their good deeds and good ways. Grant them eternal rest in Your Presence. Bring comfort to their mourners. May they rest in peace and may their memory be a blessing.

And let us say, Amen.

LIFE & LEGACY Mel Simon

Legacy for tomorrow, after we are gone. Letter of intent to sign indicating what you want to do with your funds. Can designate left over IRA funds, and can support specific programs of your choice. Can make a commitment to the Emanuel, or to other Jewish organizations. 18 legacy donations were made last year; seeking to reach the same commitment this year (already have 5), which will qualify the synagogue for a \$5000 grant from the Foundation.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rabbi Small is planning on holding a prayer vigil Tuesday evening, October 24th. Ken Malley will be assisting the Rabbi. Should the BOT make a donation to Israel/Israeli charity as a group? Rabbi Small recommends donations to Leket Israel, that supplies food to needy Israelis. It was mentioned that many people have or will be making donations on their own. Ken Malley will discuss this at the November meeting.

SMART TRAINING Rabbi Small

Stress Management and Resiliency Training. Rabbi Small was approached about this program, which is from Harvard Medical School, and sponsored by a philanthropist. The program, which is free, is nine classes on Zoom as well as a manual that is provided to all participants. There are 17 seats left for the classes.

Rabbi Small is headed to Chicago this weekend for his niece's wedding.

adjourn to Executive Session at 9:30pm