

EMANUEL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
9-20-22

Attendance: Ken Simon, Kobi Benita, Tom Mastronarde, Ben Engel, Jeff Adler, Gail Adler, Barbara Fink, Michalee Merritt, Alan Parker, Michele Parker, Ken Malley, Bill Glucksman, Susan Goldberg, Meredith Smith, Charlotte Bower, Tamar Margolis, Hannah Zwiebel, Reesa Olins, Gail Weinstein, Ray Weinstein, Fred Spaeth, Lara Bomzer, Mickey Libbin, Jackie Isaacson, Melvin Simon, Ken Simon, Rabbi Small, Emily Lebovitz-Miller, Judy Fox, Don Miller, Joanne Pasternak, Rick Lasker, Chazzan Risman, Andrea Goldenberg, Deb Zuckerman, Hilda Slivka, Lou Blumenfeld

meeting called to order at 7:37pm

Minutes of August 2022 meeting accepted with two name spelling corrections and two abstentions.

High Holidays will have several layers of security: security guards, office personnel (Lisa T., Kathy, Wendy(?)) checking tickets, BOT greeters. 100 seats will be set aside in Silverman for masked congregants, with more spacing. Zoom link provided for honorees if not in person; rest of non attendees should use streaming. Kudos to House Chairs (Howard Smith, Rick Lasker) for prompt attention and remediation actions in dealing with flood in school wing bathroom. Second contract with the Children's Museum executed, and payments coming in. Wonderful to hear voices of children in schoolyard during the day.

COURTYARD IMPROVEMENT Tom Mastronarde

Vulnerability presented by overgrown shrubbery too close to building as well as along path to back entrance. Impedes visibility of guards. Black fenced in area around playground for CM children use. Reesa Olins to chair committee examining future uses of courtyard and improvements to be made to the area. Work with landscape architect? Want to have an event space outside that is not in the parking lot. Looking into canopies for shade. Examining practicality and affordability.

MOTION: Spend monies from Security Fund, not to exceed \$4000, for removal/trimming of overgrown shrubs by parking lot and Hazzan's window subject to further consultation with security experts

Hedge along handicap parking spots shield playground; should it be removed? probably not.

Take out overgrown hedge by walkway. Get price for installing low shrubs under Cantor's window. Leave part of green fence up that was going to be taken out so as to provide a safer area for small children, as no plans to immediately replace. Should we be pricing it out in its entirety before we start doing piecemeal work? Weather getting colder as we head into fall and winter; take out overgrown shrubs and table the rest? or just wait until we have a budget?

motion withdrawn

HIGH HOLIDAYS: RABBI'S REPORT Rabbi David Small

Adults will be davening together; no separate service in the chapel. There will be a special seating section designated for mask wearers with greater seat spacing. Microphone sound currently being renovated. Rabbi Lazowski will deliver sermon the second day as well as distribute copies of his newest book. For Yom Kippur, encouraging Neilah participation and attendance at concluding service as well as break fast following sponsored by Rabbi's Discretionary Fund and other donors. The Sukkah is already up. Plan to have a special aliyah

during Simchat Torah for all those bar/bat mitzvah students whose celebrated their events during Covid and missed a synagogue service.

MEMBERSHIP INITIATIVE Michalee Merritt

Will be reaching out to all new members by phone during Holidays, as well as providing them with swag bags. There are several non pulpit clergy in the area who regularly attend our services and would like to extend complimentary membership to them, as well as a reduced fee membership to college/graduate students in the area.

MOTION: Offer complimentary membership to non pulpit area clergy

motion passes unanimously

MOTION: Offer membership to university students up to age 25 at a cost of \$18/yr., with a copy of their student ID

motion passes unanimously

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT Kobi Benita

Life Cycle

MAZEL TOV to Beth Goldberg and Gerry & Karen Goldberg, on the birth of their great-grandson and grandson, Benjamin Ross Gelb, son of Rachel and Abe Gelb

NEW MEMBERS

Ron and Lisa Talit, with Lilliana, Benjamin, Joseph and Ella—former members who are rejoining for Religious School

Rabbi Jonathan (Yoni) and Laura Berger, with Talya, Adina, Rami and Benjamin—head of SSDS; complimentary membership

Claudia Jacobson—former longtime member of Beth El

Dr. Jennifer Wilner & Dr. Liran Blum, with Lila and Elliot

Matt & Debbie Eddinger, with Nathan and Rachel

Gayle Carr

Elaine & Thomas Manno with Luca and Michael

Shira Stein & Scott Schwartz

Erik Schulwolf & Alexandra Abed

Lisa and Jack Edwards, with Nina, Dagney and Elijah

motion to accept new members passes unanimously

RESIGNATIONS

Phyllis & Sheldon Nova- We have been members of the Emanuel Synagogue for the past 45 — It was our spiritual home. We enjoyed our affiliation with The Emanuel Synagogue — it was there for us during celebratory times as well as sad times. In 2020 we moved away from West Hartford to Westport CT to be closer to our children. We regret with a heavy heart that we will no longer be members of the synagogue.

motion to accept resignation passes unanimously

NEHAMAS

Norman Cohen—longtime member of former Beth Hillel Synagogue

Noreen Geoghegan—sister of Joe (Jennifer) Geoghegan

Michael Shnyder—husband of Bronya Shnyder; father of Bella Medvedovski; grandfather of Daniella, Matthew and David Medvedovski

Herbert Kaplan—longtime member of former Beth Hillel

Roslyn Schneider—mother of Lisa (Michael) Lenkiewicz; grandmother of Rebecca and Zachary Lenkiewicz

Norman Hanenbaum—father of Barry (Helaine) Hanenbaum

Leon Carr—longtime member of former Beth Hillel Synagogue

Kobi will be head of security during the High Holidays. New outdoor Sukkot furniture has been purchased; thank you to Gail Weinstein. Mazhor pickup tomorrow and Thursday, in the parking lot, from 4-6pm. Will also be distributing calendar, Book of Gratitude, and Yizkor Book.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION ISSUES Michele Parker

Thank you to all the committee members, and to committee chairperson Elysa Graber-Lipperman. There were 120 participants in the Scholar in Residence weekend, and 72 participants in the focus groups with Rabbi Warmflash.

MOTION ONE: The Board of Trustees following the recommendation by the Diversity and Inclusion Committee and the Executive Committee move: That the Emanuel Synagogue will formally acknowledge Life Cycle events of intermarried families.

Rabbi Small is already on his own personally acknowledging such events. Want to bring this into alignment with the sharing concepts in the Jewish tradition. Will make a distinction between an aufruf and a premarital blessing, but wants to acknowledge the love we have for all our children.

motion passes unanimously

The following three motions will be referred to the Governance Committee as stated therein to draft proposed amendments to the Emanuel Synagogue's Constitution or by-laws for consideration by the Board of Trustees and if Constitutional changes are required, to a vote of the membership.

MOTION TWO: The Board of Trustees following the recommendation the Diversity and Inclusion Committee and the Executive Committee directs that the Governance Committee prepare such amendments to the congregation's governing documents as are necessary to enable families in which one spouse or partner is of another faith or cultural background and the other spouse or partner is Jewish with a full family membership.

If non Jewish spouse/partner does not want to join, they are not obligated to.

The Governance Committee will have to make recommendations, and then the topic is brought back to the BOT, and then if necessary, to the full congregation. Should we be providing education to those of another faith/cultural background who choose to join the synagogue? *The greater question is should we be providing the opportunity for greater Jewish education to ALL of our members.* Offer refresher courses to all, and educate new members about what we are doing. Lower the barriers for entry and increase the opportunities for learning. Available programs should be recommended but NOT mandated. Should we provide weekly "crash courses" once a quarter? We want to increase the engagement of all of our members. Also working on a document to delineate halachically what rituals a non Jewish person can perform; but does this present a potential discrimination issue?

motion passes unanimously

MOTION THREE: The Board of Trustee following the recommendation of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee and the Executive Committee directs that the Governance Committee prepare such amendments to the congregation's governing documents that will if adopted enable members of The Emanuel that are of a different faith or cultural background to vote on all matters that Jewish members are permitted to vote on and serve on committees.

Not talking about being part of Board of Trustees, nor chairing Committees. Should there be a provision that membership of committees if non-Jewish should represent less than 1/2 of a quorum?

YES 17 NO 10 ABSTENTION 1

motion passes

MOTION FOUR: The Board of Trustees following the recommendation by the Diversity and Inclusion Committee and the Executive Committee directs that the Governance Committee prepare such amendments to the congregation's governing documents that will expand the definition of spousal members to include partners in a civil relationship.

motion passes unanimously

meeting adjourned at 9:30pm

