

Emanuel Board of Trustees Minutes
March 21, 2023

Call to Order: by President Ken Simon at 7:37 PM

Attendees: Don Miller, Hilda Slivka, Jackie Isaacson, Faith Helene, Marc Resnick, Hannah Zwiebel, Meredith Smith, Jeffrey Cohen, Lisa Levy, Lou Blumenfeld, Robert Teitelman, Reesa Olins, Charlotte Bower, Emily Lebovitz-Miller, Gail Adler, Jeff Adler, Tamar Margolis, Fern Cohen, Tammi Kraushaar, Lara Bomzer, Mickey Libbin, Sheila Silverman, Ken Simon, Kobi Benita, Rabbi David Small, Howard Smith, Deb Zuckerman

Good and Welfare: Ken Simon

Kobi, Rabbi Small and Ken Simon went to Florida to meet with our Emanuel members. It was a great experience seeing our members in their winter location.

Approval Of Minutes, February 21, 2023 Minutes

Motion made and approved unanimously.

FEMA Grants and Generator Project: Howard Smith

Our third FEMA application, which first goes to the state, must be in by end of April. We have had FEMA grants for last 2 years. We are now completing those projects. We advance money for projects and FEMA reimburses us after completion.

Generators can be funded. John Coangelo endorses acquisition of generator to secure our security systems.

We now have > \$150,000 in security funds and we will get money back from FEMA 1 and 2, so there should be enough money to use for generator project. The money for generator will be needed 1 year from now, so with money coming back, there should be adequate money.

For FEMA 1 we have done the lighting for \$26,000 and we have an intercom system pending which will cost \$24,000. After completion we will get reimbursed, probably in the fall.

Motion by Reesa Olins and seconded by Jeff Cohen: **The Emanuel Synagogue apply to NSGP/FEMA for funding of the design and complete installation of a backup/emergency generator for our building at 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford, and if approved by NSGP/FEMA, the Synagogue agrees to fund the installation until completion, final approval, and reimbursement by FEMA, at a maximum amount of \$150,000 or as allowed by NSGP/FEMA**

Motion passes unanimously.

Rabbi's Report

The Rabbi sent out his report of his activities to the board. It is included at end of minutes.

The Rabbi said 160 people have donated in memory of his mother, Sara Small. He thanks our congregation for our support. This raised almost \$9000 in contributions to The Emanuel

Conflict of Interest Policy- Lou Blumenfeld and Robert Teitelman

There has not been a review by board members of this policy, so the board is in violation of its obligation. Document is an attempt to show we are not benefitting members monetarily. Every member is supposed to sign on to this policy. The committee started its review 2 years ago and the final revision is presented tonight.

Motion made by Jeff Adler and seconded by Emily Lebovitz-Miller **to adopt the Conflict of Interest Policy as submitted.**

The Board reviewed and discussed the document which is posted on The Board section of our website

Proposed revisions:

- Add the word “discussions and “to Article 1.Trustees, Synagogue decision-makers and Employees disclose to the Board of Trustees (the Board) financial or other personal interests and recuse themselves for participating in discussions and decisions regarding transactions.....
- Add “domestic partner” to Article II, Section 6.....Family Member include spouse, domestic partner, children, parents, siblings,

Motion to amend motion with above revisions, was accepted

Passed 22 Yes 2 Nays

Executive Director’s Report –Kobi Benita

LIFECYCLE

NEW MEMBERS

Brook “Bud” & Charlotte Jason—dual members with Beth El Temple; purchased plots in The Emanuel Cemetery

Allie Wiener—BBYO adviser who was offered one-year free membership.

Michelle & David Smith with Leora and Ari—came to Emanuel for Kibbitz & Nosh

Esther Newman—moving to WH from Maryland; going to nursing school

Motion to accept new members passed unanimously.

RESIGNATIONS

Jason & Corey Glider

Estelle & Sheldon Kafer—relocated to Florida. Kobi had a discussion with Estelle, but she declined to remain a member.

Motion to accept the above 2 resignations passed unanimously.

The following requested resignations will be put on hold until we speak to them.

Michael & Daniela Brown—wish to take two years off until their daughter is ready for Religious School. Asked to resign. WILL OFFER THEM FREE MEMBERSHIP FOR NOW WITH UNDERSTANDING THEY WILL JOIN WHEN THEIR CHILD IS IN SCHOOL

Jonathan & Eleanor Goldman -- ON HOLD UNTIL WE CAN TALK WITH THEM

NEHAMAS

Miriam Elfenbaum, mother of Michael (Anna) Elfenbaum, grandmother of Harry, Abie, Sophie Elfenbaum

Barbara Finkel, mother of Amy (Steven) Dembo, grandmother of Rachel, Lauren and Jacob Dembo; sister of Nancy Swilling

Elan Ganeles, son of Drs. Andrew & Carolyn Ganeles of West Hartford. He was murdered in a terror attack in Israel

Muriel Hoff, mother of David (Nina) Hoff; grandmother of Esther Hoff

Ira Levin, father of Nancy, Jane and Jackie Levin; father-in-law of Jeffrey Renert

Question about total member numbers was asked. Kobi will present numbers at next BOT meeting.

Israel 75 Report—Sheila Silverman

Flyers have been sent out.

Sheila is asking each board member to sign on to help with an event.

Please support effort with generous contribution. It is our only fundraiser for the year.

Adjourned at: 8:50 PM

Respectfully submitted by:

Hilda Slivka

Rabbi David Small's Report to the Emanuel Board of Trustees

March 21, 2023 28 Adar 5783

Recent Projects I am supporting/supported:

Torah Renewal Project: Coach Lay leaders on rolling Torah Scrolls, Work with Committee on path forward for evaluating Torah Scrolls and determining their future disposition. Start to lay groundwork for education in the Fall

Immigrant Shabbat: Work with lay chairs of Byadeynu, Janet Wallans and Ken Malley and with Hilda Slivka, and with Rev. Susan Gibson of First Church of Farmington to plan order of the Shabbat Service, speakers and on-bimah "Dialogue" about the experience of helping refugee families resettle in CT and insights we have gained.

Emanuel Purim Celebration: Convene and support outstanding efforts of Clergy, Staff and Lay Leaders and Volunteers to create a superb Emanuel Purim Palooza Experience.

Israel@ 75: Support efforts of Staff and Committee members to shape the themes and events of our Celebration; draft copy for key communications; Meet with Alan Lazwoski as part of Emanuel delegation to seek guidance and support for our efforts.

Emanuel in Florida: Planned and participated in a visit to Emanuel "Snowbird" Members in Florida. Hosted "Fundraising" kosher catered reception for Emanuelites at B'nai Torah in Boca Raton. Event was attended by 25 participants. Emanuel President Ken Simon and Executive Director brought appreciation and updates of doings at Emanuel to the group.

Passover 5783:

Develop new Everything Emanuel Passover Guide intended to explain and make Passover preparation, observance and Seder celebration more meaningful and more do-able. Work with Lisa Lenkiewicz and Jeff Mills to refine The design and layout. This Guide will be sent to every Emanuel home.

Create Emanuel Communal Seder with Hazzan Daniella Risman for the upcoming Second Seder. Work with Kobi Benita, Steve Shuman, Lisa Lenkiewicz, Joseph Ward and Bonnie Lasker on details to make it a big success. 62 people are registered as of 3/21/23.

Taking Hold of Torah: Partnered with Hazzan Daniella Risman and Barbara Fink to plan a new Family Seminar for students approaching b'nai mitzvah and their parents. A “hands-on” experience featuring specific teaching on the Torah Scroll and its features. Students made their own Torah Yads and used them on a “treasure hunt” to find “their” portion and other features in ten open Torah Scrolls, with help from our Emanuel Gabbayim: Barry Feigenbaum, Henry Kudisch, Emily Lebovitz-Miller, Sandra Myers,, Judy Silver and Dr. Regina Miller.

JT Connect: Began teaching four-part series for teens, **“Facing Life’s Challenges, ”** using sacred Jewish text and modern psychology to help teens equip themselves to handle family, relationships, school/work pressures and facing the future.