

UPPER VALLEY JEWISH COMMUNITY

Annual Meeting Minutes

June 6, 2012

(To be adopted at the 2013 annual meeting)

Call to order: Richard Abel

A quorum being present (>25 members) the annual meeting of the Upper Valley Jewish Community (UVJC) was called to order by Richard Abel, President of the UVJC, at 7:00 pm.

Conduct of the annual meeting: Susan Israel

Susan Israel read the rules outlining how the annual meeting is to be conducted.

Remarks by President: Richard Abel

A quorum is present and 24 absentee ballots were received and counted. Tonight we will vote on the 5773 (2012-2013) slate of officers, board members, and budget.

These are important things to take care of but equal importance is what we just accomplished, being together, eating, socializing, and coming together as a community. Richard articulated the many smaller communities that comprise our larger community. All of these smaller groups work to build community. All of this leads to building a sacred community. Richard articulated more specifically what a sacred community means. He shared some information from the book Sacred Strategies Transforming Synagogues from Functional to Visionary a book that the community leadership has read and continues to discuss.

There have been some real positives this year.

Membership has remained stable despite the economic climate. We started with 207 member units and are ending with 208. School enrollment is solid. We started the year with 76 students and ended 84 students. These numbers signify that members are finding meaning and value in their participation in the UVJC School.

Some of the things we have accomplished as a community:

- We hired a new school Director Maggie Duford who with Rabbi Boraz began the school year with the premise that “there is a place here for everyone”.
- We’ve had a vibrant group of b’nai’ mitzvot including several adults.
- We have had many life cycle events
- Services for Shabbat and other holidays
- Work with the Federation of NH on the Jewish Film Festival and other projects allow us a presence in the larger Jewish Community outside of the Upper Valley.
- Richard articulated the many classes provided that were held throughout the year, including Torah Study, the study of Maimonides great work, lunch and learns,
- We have re-energized our Youth Group thanks to 2 Dartmouth students.
- Annual Dinner and Silent Auction the Mispacha Award to Sharon and Bob Racusin
- The Jewish Choir
- Social Action and the many organizations benefitted near and far were mentioned.
- Budget stabilization
- Launching of the Chai Campaign to assure our future

- Replacement the sanctuary and social hall chairs

Richard also shared some of the work behind the scenes that members may not be so aware of. He talked about working with the Federation and local law enforcement regarding security for the building. He will be working on a plan with the Hanover Fire Department for an evacuation/safety plan aimed specifically towards the school.

He shared that the Board of Trustees has begun to do some strategic planning and shared some specific things recently being discussed/planned including High Holiday services, a weekend of Klezmer musicians in September, and discussing/assessing the idea of high school program. In closing, Richard thanked several people who are going off the board, Rob Gurwitt, Lisa Silbert, Jeff Silverstein and David Sobel for their many contributions. He concluded with: “As President I am struck by the vitality and generosity of members who volunteer and the establishment of a sacred community is both promising and hopeful”

Report of nominating committee and voting on members of the UVJC Board of Trustees: Susan Israel, Past President, Chair, Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee was comprised on board members Susan Israel, Lisa Silbert and community members Adam Kleinbaum and Ellen Rockmore.

For a first full term on the Board of Trustee

Devora Gronauer	2015
Rusty Sachs	2015
Robert Shumsky	2015
Michael Zegans	2015

For a second, full term on the Board of Trustees:

<u>NOMINEE</u>	<u>Term ends</u>
Deborah Kaplan	2015

For officers serving a one-year term commencing on November 1, 2012

<u>Office</u>	<u>Nominee 5772</u>	<u>Term ends</u>
President	Richard Abel	2013
Vice-president	Lori Hirshfield	2013
Vice-president	Karen Manning	2013
Vice-president	Mitchell Stotland	2013
Secretary	Deborah Kaplan	2013
Treasurer	To be nominated	2013

John Schiffman moved to accept the ballot as presented. Aaron Kaplan seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Twenty-four absentee ballots were consistent with accepting the ballot as presented.

Remarks: Rabbi Edward Boraz

I'd like to go back to August to our search for the Education Director. It is clear that the year has been very successful. Susan, then President, Deb Kaplan and I were committed to making sure the school opened on time. We were fortunate to have Maggie return to us from Tzfat, Israel and she arrived just as school was starting. We began the year with the philosophy that "there is a place here for everyone" It allows us to not fit into a slot. As a community we do not fit into a slot of conservative, orthodox, reform. Richard spoke earlier about the book Sacred Strategies that has served Tonight I was asked what I think we need to work on as a community. I think there are 2 things we should work on:

1. Constantly work on trying to connect to one another we need to feel responsible for one another. When we have the need for a minyan, we often have more people than on Shabbat; this is valued as an important thing and a good example of how we can look after one another. Connecting to each other requires an ongoing effort.
2. Solid leadership, specifically how do we continue to have good solid leadership how do we create an environment that attracts leaders. How can these board positions be made meaningful and rewarding .We are trying to establish a practice to have teachers who want to be here and are moving to make our teachers more professional. We don't just want to fill a position; we want our teachers to want to be here in a meaningful way.

These are two of the challenges that we will be working on as we continue to strive towards being a community that is visionary.

Presentation of the Budget: Jeff Silverstein, Treasurer

Jeff introduced the budget. He reviewed a few of the rationale behind the budget last year. The attempt was to break even with a dues increase for this year after a number of years when we operated at a deficit. Jeff reminded us that the budget is a projection. This year we are projected to have a surplus of ~\$37,000. This year a great deal of effort has been put on collecting dues. There were a couple of questions about the current budget and next year's budget.

Rachel Kleinbaum made a motion to accept the budget as presented. Ellis Rollet seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of minutes of annual meeting – June 6, 2011

Move to accept the minutes of the annual meeting June 6, 2011 was made by Ginny Rollet, second by Rusty Sachs. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:00 pm made by Sergei Khan, second by Lisa Silbert. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Kaplan
Secretary

