

# Upper Valley Jewish Community

## Annual Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2014 at the Roth Center for Jewish Life

### 1. Call to Order: Deborah Kaplan

A quorum being present (> 25 members) the annual meeting of the Upper Valley Jewish Community (UVJC) was called to order by Deb Kaplan, President of the UVJC, at 6:00 pm.

### 2. Conduct of the Annual Meeting: Rachel Kleinbaum

Rachel Kleinbaum read the rules outlining the conduct of the annual meeting.

### 3. Remarks by the President: Deborah Kaplan

- The meeting will include approving the 5775 slate of officers, board members and budget.
- Susan Israel and Dan Rockmore were recognized and thanked for their contributions to the UVJC. They are both stepping down from the UVJC Board of Trustees after serving the maximum term of 6 years. Their commitment and accomplishments are appreciated.
- The president reports that the state of the community is stable and financially sound.
- Accomplishments of the previous year were outlined:
  - Website – a new and improved website (UVJC.org) was launched with Maggie Duford serving as the webmaster. Members can now pay dues, tuition, and make donations online. The weekly update is posted as are special events.
  - High Holidays – The Hillel Students were not on campus this year for the High Holidays leaving the UVJC with increased challenges both in financing and orchestrating the different services. The UVJC was able to continue to meet the diverse needs of its population with different High Holiday Service options which were well attended.
  - An online learning center was created to augment Hebrew education in the Religious School.
  - A pilot program, The High School of Jewish Studies, was launched this year. The madrichim spent one hour every Sunday with Rabbi Boraz in continuing Jewish studies. The program was well received and will be continuing.
  - A review of school policies and teacher training protocols was undertaken. Gaps were identified and all teachers underwent additional training to enhance student and teacher safety.
  - The Board of Trustees met for a one day retreat in April and formalized a UVJC mission statement. The Board continues to work on a vision statement and plans to re-energize the UVJC committee structure. The following Mission Statement was adopted:

*The Upper Valley Jewish Community (UVJC) is a welcoming, egalitarian congregation providing Jewish spiritual, educational, social and cultural opportunities to the Upper Connecticut River Valley.*
  - Gary and Rosemary Brown have created the “Heroes Seminar”, a series of talks by UVJC members who have made contributions to the larger community.
  - The UVJC History Project is ongoing.
- Membership fell from 205 families to 195 families. 22 Members left the UVJC and 12 new members joined. Religious school enrollment is down as well. A need to energize efforts in membership is recognized.

#### **4. Report of the nominating committee and voting on members of the UVJC Board of Trustees: Rich Able, Past President, and Chair, Nominating Committee**

Officers serving a one-year term from November 1, 2014 – October 31, 2015:

<u>Office</u>	<u>Nominee 5775</u>
President	Deborah Kaplan
Vice President	Lori Hirshfield
Vice President	Mitchell Stotland
Vice President	Rachel Kleinbaum
Secretary	Robyn Jacobs
Treasurer	Rusty Sachs

*Approved unanimously.*

Trustees serving a first full term (3 years) on the Board of Trustees from November 2, 2014 – October 31, 2017:

Sue Berg  
Jeff Lubell

*Approved unanimously.*

Trustees serving a second full term (3 years) on the Board of Trustees from November 2, 2014 – October 31, 2017:

Rachel Kleinbaum  
Robyn Jacobs

*Approved unanimously.*

#### **5. Remarks: Rabbi Edward Boraz**

The Rabbi acknowledged the leadership of the Board of Trustees. He offered thanks for the support of UVJC staff: Carole Clarke and Maggie Duford. Updates:

##### **Adult Education**

- The Torah study group which had been together for 10 years completed in September of 2013. There is a new group now in their second year of studies. An additional group has been studying Maimonides Guide for the Perplexed.
- New initiatives:
  - Book club using UVJC library resources – library has been maintained by Fred Lerner
  - Bet Midrash – open house learning center

##### **Religious School**

- A new on-line curriculum for Hebrew education has been developed.
- Special services led by Madrichim were initiated.
- High School of Jewish Studies:
  - Jewish studies should not stop at 7<sup>th</sup> grade. 17 students are currently enrolled. Studies have included Modern Hebrew, Psychology in the Bible, Being Jewish in America. Outside activities have included movies, theater, and end-of-year essays.

- Next year curriculum ideas include:
  - Fiddler on the Roof - Study the background, watch the play, focus on the themes in the music.
  - Modern Hebrew.
  - Project Preservation Experience - With Dartmouth students as teachers and counselors.

## **6. Treasurer's Report: Rust Sachs**

- A updated budget was distributed and details reviewed. By April we had received 90% of our annual income. It is projected that we will do slightly better than budget this year.
- Next Year's budget is very similar to that from 5774 with the one major difference being that the online learning center will no longer be grant supported. There is no projected increase in dues or tuition.
- Questions from the members were addressed.

*The budget was approved.*

## **7. History Project: Jill Schiffman**

- The history project is about the UVJC (i.e. not about Dartmouth College or Hillel).
- The project is focusing on documenting the history of the community up to the time of construction of the Roth Center.
- Committee members include: Shari Boraz, Barbara Brown, Gloria Finklestein, Dori Galton, Richard Neugass, Judy Oxman, Sharon Racusin, and Barry Scherr.
- To date 50 audio and/or video interviews have been recorded. One copy of the interview has been given to the project; a second copy has been given to the family of the interviewee.
- The next steps include interviewing children who grew up during the early days of the UVJC and are now in their 50s and 60s.
- Questions/thoughts for the membership:
  1. What do we want as a final project?
  2. How do we retain all of the gathered information?
  3. Should a committee meeting once or twice be convened to answer these questions?
  4. The project needs a Creative Director/Project Manager. Should we involve some Dartmouth students who may have technology ideas?
  5. Many photographs have been gathered, more are welcome.

## **8. Approval of Minutes**

*The minutes from the 2013 Annual Meeting were approved without modification*

## **9. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Robyn Jacobs, Secretary

*Approved at the 2015 UVJC Annual Meeting, May 31, 2015.*