

UVJC Board of Trustees meeting Minutes
January 22, 2014
7:00 pm – Roth Center for Jewish Life Social Hall

Present: Richard Abel, Felix Eskey, Devora Gronauer, Susan Israel, Deb Kaplan, Rachel Kleinbaum, Mitchell Stotland, Robert Shumsky

Absent: Gloria Finkelstein, Lori Hirshfield, Robyn Jacobs, Dan Rockmore, Rusty Sachs, Michael Zegans

Guests: Rabbi Boraz

1. Call to order and welcome by Deb Kaplan at 7:10 PM.
2. Approval of minutes of November 4, 2013: Richard Abel moved to approve the minutes without correction and Mitchell Stotland seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
3. UVJC Finances
 - a. The treasurer, Rusty Sachs, was absent, so there was no treasurer's report.
 - b. Deb Kaplan reports that fund-raising is on-schedule. Earlier in 2013 High Holiday income appeared to be down, but many donations arrived during December and the dollar amount is comparable to previous years. The number of donations may be down slightly – Deb will check.
4. Board retreat
 - a. While the board retreat was tentatively scheduled for January, we will move it to the spring.
 - b. Deb Kaplan proposed that the board visit the school, as we did last year, and stay afterwards for the retreat.
 - c. Maggie Duford suggests April 6 as a date.
 - d. The purpose of the retreat is to allow time to talk deeply about a few items.
 - e. Mitch Stotland suggests that we distribute the output from the last retreat.
 - f. At the February or March board meetings we will discuss retreat topics.
5. Mishpacha Award (from the UVJC) and Shem Tov Award (from the Jewish Federation of NH)
 - a. Deb Kaplan stated that we need a committee to determine the recipients of these awards.
 - b. Rich Abel suggests that we call for nominations in February. Should we put it in the Update? On the website? Send a letter?
 - c. There were various suggestions for people to add to the committee, perhaps someone...
 - i. not on the board
 - ii. involved in the founding of the UVJC
 - iii. on the History Committee
 - iv. a former winner of one of the prizes

- d. The rabbi suggested that we initiate a separate 'history' prize; Deb Kaplan suggested that someone involved in the early years of the UVJC may be a good candidate for the Shem Tov award.
6. Upcoming events
 - a. Dance party on Feb 8. Some people may have misinterpreted the email advertisement, and it was emphasized that the event, (i) is for "adults" but is not x-rated and (ii) has a winter Olympics theme but this is *not* intended to imply support for Vladimir Putin's policies.
 - b. Mitzvah Day, March 9: Carol Gordon is arranging this event at the end of the school's Purim Art Day. There will be tables and booths staffed by UVJC members, representing around 10-12 organizations. Carol requested help in getting lunch out, setting up tables, etc. Susan Israel said that she will help if she is in town.
7. NH Jewish Film Festival
 - a. This will run from March 27 – April 7. Susan Israel explained that this is a joint production between the UVJC and the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire. Films in this area will be shown in Carpenter 13. There will be 4 films here. One was produced by a friend of Rob Gurwitt . On Sunday, March 30 that film will be screened and the producer will be on-hand to answer questions.
8. Passover Seder
 - a. The UVJC will host the Passover Seder on Tuesday, April 15.
 - b. Last year's caterer may not be available this year.
 - c. Last year the event was extremely popular - around 120 people attended. The board discussed how much to charge for the Seder this year. Free? Raise or lower the price? Have a suggested donation? Offer people the opportunity to donate additional funds to sponsor another family? Deb Kaplan said that she will look into the finances of last year's event; how much did it cost?
 - d. Rob Shumsky suggested that we change the seating from round 'family-style' tables to a few long tables, to increase the overall sense of community. It is not clear whether that will increase, or decrease, the number of people we can host.
9. High School of Jewish Studies
 - a. The rabbi reported on the school's progress. They have completed the first term, and the students have been extremely involved and dedicated to their studies; "their performance has been wonderful."
 - b. There are plans to add a 2nd elective, Modern Hebrew, as requested by the students. The school is also considering a class on Psychology and the Bible.
 - c. A long-term goal is to allow students to receive High School credit for their studies. The rabbi would also like to expand the student body beyond the Madrechim, and perhaps to non-Jewish students as well.
 - d. The rabbi has solicited advice from a former High School teacher, a Dartmouth Jewish Studies faculty, and Hillel students.
10. Executive Session.
11. Policy and Protocol

- a. The board examined the proposed “Policy and Protocol of the UVJC Hebrew School.”
 - b. Rachel Kleinbaum made a motion to approve the policies described in the document. The motion was seconded by Mitchell Stotland. There was no further discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.
12. Susan Israel moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM and the motion was seconded by Felixa Eskey.