

UVJC Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
3 May 2017
7:00 pm – Roth Center for Jewish Life

Present: Sue Berg, Bill Brown, Debbe Callaghan, Felixa Eskey, Gloria Finkelstein, Matthew Henken, Robyn Jacobs, Deb Kaplan, Rachel Kleinbaum, Jeff Lubell, Laura Rosenthal, Rusty Sachs, Robert Shumsky
Regrets: Thomas Cochran, Lynn Schwartz, Stephen Woloshin **Guest: Ex-Officio:** Rabbi Boraz

1. **Call to Order & Welcome:**

2. **Approval of Minutes:** BOT meeting 1 March 2017 minutes approved as written.

3. **Reports:**

a. **JFNH Film Festival (Debbe):** Close to 40 people attended each film. Plan to explore partnering with WRJ film festival next year as this could attract a larger audience including non-Jews. Cost to the UVJC after fundraising was \$353.00.

b. **Education Committee (Felixa):**

- Maddie was out for 3 weeks with a medical issue. Thanks to all BOT members who helped to cover the school in her absence.
- Successful trip to the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst. 6 registered, 4 attended. Additional events are being considered.
- Committee is looking for a new Chair, as Felixa would like to step down.

c. **Security Status (Debbe):**

- Sam Zucker, and Rusty plan to attend FBI briefing in Manchester on May 10 re: threats to schools and places of worship
- Security Committee met with Dartmouth Safety & Security. They will be providing recommendations for day-to-day safety as well as crisis management.

d. **Ruach:**

- Opera Schmopera. Great success – 100 tickets sold
- May 19- Family friendly short Shabbat service at 5:30 followed by potluck at 6:00.
- Shavuot – Natasha is planning a musical service
- Sunday after Shavuot – planning to carry a Torah up Balch Hill, to commemorate the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai, followed by a picnic.
- June 24 – Contemplative service with meditation planned.
- Discussion group about spirituality, led by Amos Kornfeld, is being planned.

e. **Carole succession (Rusty & Laura):** 29 applicants, interviewed 7. Three offered and two accepted a second round interview. Ready to make an offer once references, background and credit checks are complete. Re-examining whether to offer health benefits. Thanks to the interview committee and to those who worked on updating the job description: Deb, Laura, Bill, Amanda Silver, Robyn, Carole, and Claudia.

f. **Annual Dinner (Rusty):** May 7. 72 registered plus sponsors. \$5,300.00 raised compared to over \$10,000 in previous years. Will have round tables with assigned seating. Suggestion to rename so not confused with the Annual Meeting and clearer that it is a fundraiser.

4. **Old Business**

a. **Hebrew Name (Laura):** 138 responses to online survey (out of a possible 330 adult members plus teens). Kol Ha'Emek received a clear majority of votes. Agreed this will not be a legal name change with the State. Discussion that some may feel this should be brought to the annual meeting for a vote before being finalized. Given that there has been a vote with far greater community representation than will attend the annual meeting, it was decided that another vote is not required. Rabbi Boraz offered to speak with the small passionate minority against adding a Hebrew name. Matt offered to design a T-shirt with our new name to be distributed at Sunday school and made available to others.

Motion: Adoption of the Hebrew name Kol Ha'Emek as an addition to our current name the Upper Valley Jewish Community. (Passed with 2 abstentions)

Motion: The Hebrew name Kol Ha'Emek will be announced at the Annual Meeting. A full rollout including a new logo will be celebrated at the Fall Picnic in September. (Passed with 1 abstention)

5. New Business:

a. Officer/Trustee Slate 5778 (Deb):

- Nominating committee included Deb, Robyn, and Lisa Silbert.
- Current officers agreed to continue serving (President: Rusty; VP: Laura, Rob, Jeff; Treasurer: Bill; Secretary: Sue)
- Sue, Jeff, Laura, and Steve have agreed to serve a 2nd 3-year term.
- Rachel and Robyn are completing their 2nd terms and will be stepping off the BOT.
- Alice Berliner and Paul Etkind have agreed to join the BOT.
- The slate will be presented for a vote at the Annual Meeting on June 4.
- Suggestion that in the future we continue our efforts to recruit those who can represent young families on the BOT.

b. Torah covers: Yoni Neirman has volunteered to explore the cost of purchasing new Torah Covers and will work with Rabbi and the Ruach Committee. Some of our covers are shabby.

c. JFNH:

- JFNH representatives want to set up a meeting with BOT members to discuss how we can partner.
- Udi Goren, photographer sponsored by JFNH will be speaking at the Howe Library on May 22 about the Israel Trail. Will explore and additional event at the UVJC on May 21.

d. Budget 5778 (Bill)

- The current year projected a \$10,000 deficit but it looks like we will break-even.
- Proposed budget for 5778 is a break-even budget. Discussion about offering health benefits, or a stipend to help cover the cost of health benefits, for the new Community Coordinator (other UVJC employees are not in need of coverage). Part of this can be covered from the budgeted amount for this position, may need an additional \$5,000 leading to a proposed budget with a \$5,000 deficit.
- Discussed increasing dues to match inflation (~2%).
- Discussed increasing fundraising expectations. Consensus was that we should pursue fundraising opportunities but not add this to the projected budget.
- Bill will explore high yield checking account possibilities.

Motion: Increase dues by 2%. (Failed: 5 against, 4 in favor, 4 abstentions)

Motion: Forward for a vote at the annual meeting, the proposed 5778 budget with the addition of \$5,000 in the employment line. (Passed with one member opposed)

e. Rabbi Contract: Deferred due to time constraints.

f. High Holiday planning: Need to address space issues. Discussion deferred.

6. Next Meeting & Events: June 4 – Annual Meeting. June 7 – BOT Executive Committee

Adjourned 8:55 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Berg, Secretary