

TEMPLE BETH-EL Board Meeting, December 17, 2009

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark Steinborn, Paul Feil, Arthur Berkson, Mike Lieberman, Mike Mandel, Marianne Panzini-Rosenthal, Ford Parkes-Perret, Marty Poel, Bill Stein, Rabbi Paul Citrin

ABSENT: Buzzie Lieberman, Jay Spetalnick, Alison Mann, Josh Rosenberg

VISITORS: Jeff Marquez, Elissa Poel

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mark Steinborn called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.
2. MINUTES & CORRESPONDENCE: The minutes were approved with corrections. In correspondence, we received a letter from El Caldito thanking us for a donation of kosher hot dogs. Mark made the board aware of a bequest of \$10,000 from the estate of the late Barbara Friedman. Mark suggested that we create an Israel Fund. The rabbi recommended that we need to investigate how to establish it and what the minimum should be.
3. RABBI'S TEACHING & REPORT: Rabbi Citrin thanked Ford for the wonderful talk on Hellenistic Influences on Judaism. The rabbi discussed the Greek origin of certain words in the Talmud. In the rabbi's report, he mentioned that he will be taking leave from December 23 through January 3. There was a good turn-out for the rabbi's Workshop on Shabbat Services last week. This coming Saturday will be the second half. During the last Family Education Day, parents expressed interest in carrying on these discussions and opening it up to other temple members. The rabbi expressed his fantasy that it would be nice for Sukkot to be a festival of art, music, dance and theater. Tu B'Shevat falls on Saturday, January 30 and we will have a Tu B'Shevat Seder after services that day. On January 22, there will be a Sisterhood Shabbat and the rabbi encourages board members to attend. There will be a Memorial Service for Bernie Lieberman on Sunday, January 17. The NAACP will be holding an annual breakfast on Monday, January 18 for Martin Luther King Day. The rabbi will attend and stated that it is important for the Jewish Community to support the MLK message.
4. TREASURER'S REPORT: Paul Feil reviewed the Financial Statement for October 2009. Paul said there were some issues regarding payment of dues with credit cards. Marty stated that we should enforce rules or policies regarding credit card usage. There was a discussion concerning how does one donate to special funds. Mark stated that all policy papers should be archived and should reside with the administrative assistant.
5. OLD BUSINESS:
 - a. Shabbat Announcements: Mark went over the list of board members volunteering for announcements for January.
 - b. Ways & Means: Elissa Poel and Ford reviewed the fund raising activities. The review included a list of past and future fund raisers and an enumeration of the amount of funds that have been raised to date. The rabbi recommended that the committee be sure to coordinate events with the temple's master calendar.

6. NEW BUSINESS:
 - a. Budget Planning: Paul Feil stated that he and Steve Halper are examining how the monies are being spent and how this matches the budget numbers.
 - b. January Board Meeting: Mark recommended that the next board meeting be moved to 28 January 2010 at 7:00 PM. The Executive Board meeting will be January 14 at 5:00 PM.
 - c. Future Planning: Mark requested that the board members read through chapter 7 of The Self-Renewing Congregation book. Jay will have a meeting of the Future Planning Committee on January 10.
 - d. Adelante Name Change: Mark stated that he has received six suggestions for name changes.
7. CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS COMMITTEE: Marianne discussed what topics the committee was addressing. Mark reminded the board that we are required to publish constitution and by-laws changes fifteen days prior to the annual congregational meeting. The board will review specific committee recommendations at the January board meeting. Marianne said that the changes were based on the philosophy that the constitution is more conceptual and that the by-laws are more specific. Mark recommended that committee reports to the board should occur only when there is a reason.
8. COMMITTEE REPORTS: Paul Feil stated that he is recruiting members for the Members Benefits Committee. There were no reports from the Sisterhood and Mensch Club.
9. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 08:41 PM. The next TBE Board meeting will be January 28, 2010.

Respectfully submitted, Bill Stein