

TEMPLE BETH-EL Board Meeting, June 18, 2009

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark Steinborn, Paul Feil, Terri Sugarman, Mike Lieberman, Mike Mandel, Alison Mann, Marianne Panzini-Rosenthal, Bill Stein, Rabbi Paul Citrin

ABSENT: Arthur Berkson, Marty Poel, Joshua Rosenberg, Jay Speltalnick

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mark Steinborn called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.
2. TEACHING AND RABBI'S REPORT:
 - a. Rabbi Paul Citrin discussed the significance of the Magen David as being more of a national symbol.
 - b. The rabbi stated that there will be a Gay Pride Event on Saturday and that Temple Beth-El would have a table. July 3 will be our next Family Service. We will commemorate Tish'ah b'Av on July 29 and there will be a narrated slide show of the recent trip made by congregants to Israel. The rabbi will be moving July 8-9.
3. MINUTES & CORRESPONDENCE: The minutes were approved with corrections. The minutes will be sent to the TBE Administrator for posting. Mark acknowledged a letter of thanks for use of our playground from Wendy Travis, Sonoma Springs Presbyterian Church. Mark read a letter of thanks from Betty Tomei, El Caldito Kitchen, for our donation of \$285.
4. OFFSITE: This will be August 16, 9:30-3:30, at the Steinborn house.
5. VISITOR TOPIC: Corry McKissack asked the board if there was a way to involve the Rabbi Emeritus, Jerry Kane, with more temple activities. As an example, when Rabbi Citrin is away, instead of lay-leadership conducting services, Rabbi Kane could be asked. Mark stated that Rabbi Citrin has a meeting scheduled with Rabbi Kane and that this would be a topic of discussion. Paul Feil stated he would like to see Rabbi Kane participate in services and Paul liked the idea of reaching out. It was stated that, according to CCAR ethics, the rabbi emeritus may lead services at the invitation of the rabbi.
6. TREASURER'S REPORT: Paul Feil said that Cantor Murray Simon's "From Shtetl to Stage Door" had a ticket count of more than 92 and contributed \$6,200 toward reducing the temple's deficit. Steve Halper is revising the fiscal 2010 budget (July 2009-June 2010) and will show expenses by committee. There was a discussion about this year's closing budget and the fiscal 2010 budget. Mike L. will talk with Steve to see about ways to save expenses for Building and Grounds. Paul Feil said he talked with URJ concerning W2s and they recommend that the temple should participate for non-rabbinic employees. Mike L. made a motion: "TBE will come into compliance with W2 with no change in current salaries". Passed unanimously.
7. ANOUNCEMENTS:
 - a. WEBSITE: We hope to have www.TBELC.org on line by the end of the month.
 - b. MARKETING: Harvey Hilbert is in charge. He is planning to place an ad in the Chamber of Commerce magazine.
 - c. At the next meeting, Paul F. will present the percentage of members paid in full and their percentage of income for TBE.

- d. TEMPLE GREETERS: Alison recommended that board members who attend services to read announcements should also wear a name tag and greet congregants as they enter the sanctuary.
 - e. FUNERALS & MEMORIAL SERVICES: Mark recommended that there should be TBE board representation at these events.
 - f. ADELANTE PUBLICATION: Defer discussion of reducing expenses until next meeting. Mike L. will bring a proposal.
8. NEW BUSINESS:
- a. DUES DISCUSSION: Mark talked about the categories of dues paying members. The first category includes those members who pay a slight increase from year to year. The second includes those who pay the same amount from year to year. The third includes those who only pay a fraction of their pledge and the fourth includes members who pay nothing (listed as zero). Mark will ask the Dues Committee to come up with recommendations for the second through fourth categories. Mark would like the pledge letter to be sent in July.
 - b. WAYS & MEANS: Mark talked about having co-chairs: Jay and Ford. The objectives of the Ways & Means Committee include determining fund raisers in advance. For the Gala, Mark says that Dee Cook is willing to help. However, we need a chair. We should aim for a spring Gala.
 - c. Mark plans to have a list of committee chairs by next meeting.
9. SISTERHOOD and MENSCH CLUB: Terri stated that Sisterhood is going through the same process of identifying fund raisers. They will be having a “Girls’ Night Out” and they are planning on four other programs throughout the year. This should help increase Sisterhood membership. Mark asked Terri to coordinate fund raiser dates with Ways & Means. Ford said that the Mensch Club is inactive during June and July. In August there will be a speaker and the movie “Defiance”.
10. EXECUTIVE SESSION:
- a. Alison asked who has the list of unaffiliated names. Rabbi Citrin does.
 - b. Paul Feil reviewed Rabbi Citrin’s Annual Assessment.
 - c. DAYS OFF: Mark presented a proposal on a change in days off for the rabbi. Currently, Rabbi Citrin is off on Sunday afternoons through Tuesday. The rabbi has offered to eliminate one day off so he can take two weeks off for “Academic Enhancement”. Bill asked if the contract should be modified. Allison recommended adding an Addendum. Mark made the following motion: “Consistent with the existing contract, replace one of the rabbi’s two weekly days off at his discretion in exchange for an annual two week Academic Enhancement for the duration of the existing contract”. Motion passed unanimously.
11. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 09:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bill Stein