



## Minutes of the April 9, 2018 Board of Trustees Meeting

**Present:** Debi Brenner, Seth Charatz, Rina Chessin, David Dworkin, Jack Finkelstein, Allison Fogel, Gerald Gamm, Abraham Glazer, Daniel Glowinsky, Howard Goldberg, Daniel Goldstein, Bruce Green, Scott Green, Marc Haas, Paulina Kovalsky, Jill Liberman, Lisa Maas-Vangellow, Adrienne Markus, Merle Markus, Marcia Nabut, Martin Presberg, Gerald Russ, Matthew Ryen, Aviva Schochat, Lisa Silverstein, Martin Spokony, Tammi Steinberg, Jeff Stolberg, Lisa Tellem

**Excused:** Eric Brandt, Leslie Crane, Jody Dietz, Debby Goldman, Linda Kingsley, Emily Krohn, Amy Libenson, Lisa Pelta, Brett Shulman,

**Staff:** Rabbi Leonardo Bitran, Deborah Zeger

Meeting called to order at 7:37 PM.

### **D'var Torah**

Rabbi Bitran led the board in individually sharing our Passover Seder experiences.

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2018 Board Meeting was made by Scott Green. Bruce Green seconded the motion.

Corrections: none

Motion passed.

### **Membership Update**

There was no membership report this month.

## **Hazzan Search Update**

Seth thanked everyone who participated in the Hazzan search and those who helped coordinate each visit of the candidates.

The search committee has made a recommendation to the officers and discussions are in place regarding the next steps. There will hopefully be more news to share in the coming days.

The Board thanked Martin Presberg and Shoshana Germanow for starting this process last year and Bruce Green and Bobbi Feldman and their committee for their leadership in getting us to this point. Bruce Green also thanked Debbie Zeger and the office staff for their assistance with logistics, coordination, and scheduling.

## **LGBTQ Committee Update**

Ellen Comisar gave an update on behalf of the LGBTQ Committee. The committee members are: Ellen Comisar, Gerald Gamm, Dan Glowinsky and Rabbi Bitran. Ellen distributed to the board for consideration a draft of the Same Gender Wedding Ceremony document the committee created. This draft is a building block for a ceremony. The Rabbi would enhance it with input from each individual couple. The Ritual Committee has, also, been provided with this draft.

Ellen explained the elements of the document and discussed the origination of the language used. Ellen asked the board's support to move forward.

There was a discussion about the language in the Ketubah. Rabbi explained he would like to standardize the Ketubah used for the ceremony and based on our discussion will continue to review other potential Ketubot.

Jack Finkelstein advised that no congregational vote is required to move forward with this document.

Martin Presberg made the following motion:

*In support of being an egalitarian, open, and inclusive community the Board unanimously affirms the work of the Rabbi and the LBGTQ committee and looks forward to welcoming same gender couples to get married at TBE in accordance with Conservative Jewish law."*

Bruce Green seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously passed.

## **Presidents Report**

USCJ will hold an Engagement Workshop for Upstate New York on April 10 at TBE beginning at 5:30 PM. All are encouraged to attend

There is a huge need for more congregants to become engaged and join committees. It was recommended an email go to the congregants to recruit committee members. In addition, it is critical that board members reach out to their network of friends in the congregation to encourage participation on committees.

## **Good and Welfare**

Rabbi has visited Lana and Gerry Russ. Meals have been sent by TBE and members of the congregation. The Board sends them well wishes.

There have been no funerals at TBE for 2 months.

Once the new Hazzan is announced there will be informal gatherings created to meet him.

Congratulations to Elyse Gilman on the engagement of her daughter Jordana to Jenna Lauren.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:54 PM.**

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Maas-Vangellow and Debi Brenner.