

Congregational Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2014

Dina Gumins opened the meeting at 7:45 pm saying that TBC has many new and existing initiatives and challenges. We need to focus on what our future will be.

Rabbi Bearman did the opening prayer.

Dina continued by noting that we welcomed our new Rabbi, Rabbi Bearman in May. We have a transition team in place and they will continue to reach out to congregants who have not yet met the Rabbi. Jamie Kapel is coordinating this phase of the transition.

The summer proved to be very active and busy. Among other things, we worked on changes in the school, bringing the High Holy Days back to TBC. HHDs at TBC was a success, there was a pretty even split between the services and parking was not an issue. Dina acknowledged David Abraham for believing we could bring HHDs home.

Our most significant issue is membership. Lower membership has resulted in a budget gap, which can be closed if we take advantage of opportunities to step up with additional contributions to TBC. Dina expressed her gratitude to the Finance Committee for their diligence and for keeping everyone informed.

Every congregant can help us get new members and help us connect with existing members.

Going forward, we need to do things more strategically, that represent who we are and avoid segmenting our congregational population. Some examples are Stop Hunger Now, building the sukkah and the sisterhood dinner.

Our Security Task Force has been reviewing our facility and working on recommendations for the long and short term.

Our Communications Committee has been expanding the outlets we use, including social media.

Brad Marcus provided a Financial Report, including a recap of this year and a snapshot of this fiscal year to date. Last year ended with just under a \$20K deficit due in most part to the decline in membership. We conducted an audit this year, spearheaded by Moses. Anyone interested can get a copy from Brad. For this fiscal year, we are projecting a \$45K shortfall. The Finance Committee is looking at ways to close the gap and control costs. We are exploring a new dues system. Brad added that abatements were lower than expected. We are also negotiating with the URJ to negotiate lower dues. Brad asked people to step up with additional contributions. We can also apply for Grants.

Alice Czuczka provided an Education Committee update, including Jen's change in title, regular emissary visits, working with the students, skyping with a school in Israel. The sukkah had a lot of visits and family services and open houses were well attended and fun. Teens took a trip with the Rabbi and had a great time. The confirmation class has started. The school collaborated with Stop Hunger Now. The school is also starting an online Hebrew program that includes educational games, prayers and lets students catch up on missed classes. Diagnostic Hebrew tests will be administered to 5th and 6th graders and will re-administer again at year end to assess progress. The Rabbi met with 7th graders to assess B'nai Mitzvah preparedness. Teachers have benchmark progress sheets for the 4 to 6 grades. Also looking into a tots program and teacher evaluation standardization.

Tom Dubin provided an overview of the upcoming installation weekend. Invitations have been sent. The main event is Friday 12/5. Dignitaries from our community have been invited, including Wilton HS principal, the First Selectmen of the towns we draw from, interfaith clergy and other Rabbis. Rabbi Bearman's family and childhood Rabbi will also attend. There will be an upscale oneg, and a champagne toast. On Saturday, there will be a brunch and a Havdallah service Saturday night. The school children will have a session after Hebrew on Sunday on what it means to have a new Rabbi.

Dayna Arnowitz will be chairing the Caring Committee. She thanked Bonnie Heft, who has been managing the committee single-handedly. Dayna urged everyone who can to participate.

Peggy Zamore made a motion to approve the minutes from the May congregational meeting; Kim Yonkers seconded the motion. We did not have a quorum present, so the motion was left open.

TBC will host the Thanksgiving Interfaith service. We need to make some building repairs, for which we have the money. Parking lot lights will be fixed. We are working on the fundraising event around Jon's 25th anniversary.

Respectfully submitted,

June Mara

Congregational Meeting Sign In

Date: November 13, 2014

Please sign in (once per family).

1	Susan Winters	31
2	Sue Froese	32
3	Barbara Pichin	33
4	Phyllis Mula	34
5	Isaac Marcus	35
6	Robert Olson	36
7	Vern Tonkers	37
8	Andrew Nevas	38
9	Deborah Licht	39
10	Cindy Bauls	40
11	Alice Gusta	41
12	Kiki Cahn	42
13	Dina Gurnins	43
14	Stephen Davis	44
15	Peggy Zanne	45
16	Sue Indson ^{Maria} Scruton	46
17	Michael Wolfman	47
18	Dayna Arnowitz	48
19	Tom Dubin	49
20	Melinda Weber	50
21	Sue Hasan	51
22	Mr. & Mrs. Aboumiller	52
23	Ross Tartell	53
24	Janet Falt	54
25	Margaret Ly	55
26	Alice Leberman	56
27		57
28		58
29		59
30		60